



The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

Ancient Jewish Exegesis - 21350

Last update 05-03-2025

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

Responsible Department: Bible

Academic year: 0

Semester: 2nd Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Prof. Michael Segal

Coordinator Email: Michael.Segal@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: Tuesday, 13:00 - 14:00

Teaching Staff:

Prof. Michael Segal

Course/Module description:

This course engages with the dynamics of the development of early biblical interpretation. It introduces central Jewish compositions from the Second Temple period and examines how they dealt with difficulties and gaps in the biblical text. We will learn about the exegetical tools available to the ancient interpreters and identify exegetical traditions and worldviews revealed in the discussed compositions. The course includes a close reading of ancient exegetical sources that refer to different genres of biblical literature, from the latest biblical books until the end of the Second Temple period.

Course/Module aims:

(1) Acquaintance with ancient Jewish interpretation of the Bible in its various types; (2) Acquiring conceptual tools for identification of exegetical motifs and understanding the development of exegetical traditions; (3) To sharpen the sensitivity to reading early biblical interpretation and to reveal the historical, cultural, and ideological causes that influenced its development.

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

On successful completion of this course, students should be able to: (1) Analyze the text of early Jewish exegetes in their cultural and historical context; (2) Discuss comprehensively the biblical text and the exegetical issues that arise when reading it; (3) Identify the exegetical price of specific exegetical tradition and evaluate its advantages and disadvantages.

Attendance requirements(%):

Full attendance

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Targil - interactive classroom discussions.

Course/Module Content:

See the course website via Moodle system.

Required Reading:

See the course website via Moodle system.

Additional Reading Material:

- יוסף הינמן, אגדות ותולדותיהן: עיונים בהשתלשלותן של מסורות (ירושלים, 1974).
- יצחק הינמן, דרכי האגדה (ירושלים, 1954).
- י"א זליגמן, "ניצני מדרש בספר דברי הימים", תרביץ מט (תש"ם), עמ' 14-32 [מודפס שנית באוסף מאמריו: י"א זליגמן, מחקרים בספרות המקרא (עורכים א' הורביץ, ע' טוב וש' יפת, ירושלים, תשנ"ב), עמ' 454-474.
- י' זקוביץ, מבוא לפרשנות פנים מקראית (אבן יהודה, תשנ"ב).
- ע' טוב, ביקורת נוסח המקרא: פרקי מבוא (ירושלים, תש"ן).
- ח' מאק, הפרשנות הקדומה למקרא (תל-אביב, תשנ"ג).
- מ' סיגל, ספר היובלים: שכתוב המקרא, עריכה, אמונות ודעות (ירושלים, 2007).
- י' פרנקל, דרכי האגדה והמדרש (שני כרכים; גבעתיים, 1991).
- מ' קיסטר (עורך), מגילות קומראן: מבואות ומחקרים (שני כרכים; ירושלים: יד יצחק בן-צבי, תשס"ט).
- Carson, D.A. and H.G.M. Williamson (eds.), *It is Written: Scripture Citing Scripture, Essays in Honor of Barnabas Lindars, SSF* (Cambridge, 1988).
- Fishbane, M., *Biblical Interpretation in Ancient Israel* (Oxford: Clarendon, 1985).
- Ginzberg, L., *The Legends of the Jews* (Philadelphia: JPS, 1909-1938).
- Holladay, C. R. *Fragments from Hellenistic Jewish Authors* (4 vols.; Atlanta: Scholars, 1983-1995).
- Kraft, R.A. and G.W.E. Nickelsburg (eds.), *Early Judaism and its Modern Interpreters* (Atlanta, 1986).
- Kugel, J., *Traditions of the Bible* (Cambridge, Mass./London: Harvard University Press, 1998).
- Kugel, J. and R. Greer, *Early Biblical Interpretation* (Philadelphia, 1986).
- Kugel, James L., Lawrence H Schiffman, and Louis H Feldman. *Outside the Bible: Ancient Jewish Writings Related to Scripture* (3 vols.; Philadelphia: The Jewish Publication Society, 2013).
- Mulder, M.J. (ed.), *Mikra: Text, Translation, Reading and Interpretation of the Bible in Ancient Judaism and Early Christianity* (Philadelphia: Fortress, 1988).
- Nickelsburg, G.W.E., *Jewish Literature Between Bible and Mishnah* (Philadelphia, 1978).
- Saebø, M. (ed.), *Hebrew Bible/Old Testament: The History of its Interpretation. I: From the Beginnings to the Middle Ages* (Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 1996).
- Stone, M. (ed.), *Jewish Writings of the Second Temple Period* (Philadelphia: Fortress, 1984).
- Vermes, G., *Scripture and Tradition in Early Judaism: Haggadic Studies* (Leiden: Brill, 1973).

Grading Scheme:

Essay / Project / Final Assignment / Home Exam / Referat 100 %

Additional information: