



The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

Ancient Jewish Exegesis - 21350

Last update 18-08-2023

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: Dr. Hila Dayfani

Coordinator Email: hila.dayfani@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: Wednesday, 10:30 - 12:00

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:

Grading Scheme:

Written / Oral / Practical Exam 80 %

Active Participation / Team Assignment 10 %

Attendance / Participation in Field Excursion 10 %

Additional information: