



The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

Introduction to the History of Christianity: The Early Church - 24159

Last update 12-09-2025

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

Responsible Department: Comparative Religion

Academic year: 0

Semester: 1st Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Dr. Yonatan Moss

Coordinator Email: yonsmoss@gmail.com

Coordinator Office Hours: By email coordination

Teaching Staff:

Dr. Yonatan Moss

Course/Module description:

Survey of central issues in the history of early Christianity and in the development of Christian thought, worship and institutions, from the times of Jesus and Paul through the rise of Islam. Among the subjects to be discussed: central articles of faith (Trinity, Incarnation, Sin, Grace, Redemption); Sacraments and Liturgy; Monasticism; Church-State relations; attitudes toward the Other (heretics, Jews, women).

Course/Module aims:

Transmission of broad knowledge of the essentials of early Christian history and critical understanding of central issues in its development.

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

Fundamental knowledge of the roots of Christianity

Attendance requirements(%):

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction:

Course/Module Content:

- 1) Introduction: Between Unity and Diversity; between Religion and History; between Belief and Ritual
- 2) Jesus 1
- 3) Jesus 2
- 4) Paul: Father of Christian Theology
- 5) John, Hebrews and Revelation: Christian Communities towards the End of the First Century
- 6) The Second Century: Gnosticism, Heresiology, and Institutionalization
- 7) The Third Century: Expansion, Persecution, and Elaboration
- 8) The Fourth Century: The Constantinian Turn
- 9) Towards the End of the Fourth Century: From Religion of the Emperor to Religion of the Empire
- 10) The Fifth Century: The Christological Controversies
- 11) Guest Lecture

12) The Sixth and Seventh Century until the Rise of Islam and Conclusion

Required Reading:

Selections from the New Testament (including Matthew and Romans in their entirety); Selections from Irenaeus, the Gnostic Writings, Origen, John Chrysostom, Ambrose, and Augustine.

א. קליינברג, הנצרות מראשיתה ועד הרפורמציה

א. קופסקי וס. רוזר, האמונה הנוצרית הקדומה

י. כהנא, גנוסטיקה

H. Chadwick, *The Early Church*

B. Ehrman and A. Jacobs, *Christianity in Late Antiquity*

P. Rousseau, *The Early Christian Centuries*

B. Ehrman, *The New Testament: A Historical Introduction to the Early Christian Writings*

Additional Reading Material:

Grading Scheme:

Computerized Exam - At the cluster % 85

Submission assignments during the semester: Exercises / Essays / Audits / Reports / Forum / Simulation / others 15 %

Additional information:

Computerized final exam