

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

Introduction to World Religions: The Ancient World - 24224

Last update 16-09-2024

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: Racheli Shalomi Hen

Coordinator Email: msrhen@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: By appointment

Teaching Staff:

Dr. Racheli Shalomi-Hen

Course/Module description:

The founding myths of the polytheistic cultures in the Ancient Near East that is Egypt, Mesopotamia and the Levant stand at the core of this course. We will learn about the creation of the world, about the creation of man, about gods, about kings and heroes. We will discuss beliefs concerning the world of the dead, and those concerning fertility, resurrection and renewal. As part of the course, we will read sources in translation, look at objects of religious significance and discuss cultural contact in the fertile crescent.

Course/Module aims:

To introduce the students to the main religious beliefs and ideas that emerged in the Ancient Near East through their literary, artistic and architectural expressions.

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

To enumerate the founding myths of the polytheistic cultures in the Ancient Near East.

To be acquainted with the geographical space of the Ancient Near East.

To point out similarities and differences between the religious ideas of the civilizations that evolved in the Ancient Near East.

To recognize expressions of myths and religious ideas in art objects.

To identify the chronology of religious ideas in the ancient Near East.

Attendance requirements(%):

100

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Lecture and reading

Course/Module Content:

Introduction

Egypt:

The Ennead and the creation of the world

The Myth of Kingship

The destruction of Mankind

The Judgement of the Dead

Mesopotamia:

Enuma Elish

Atrahasis

Descent into the Underworld

Gilgamesh

Ugarit:

Baal Cycle

The Legend of Keret

The Tale of Aqhat

Summary

**Museum trip*

**If technically possible.*

Required Reading:

שראלי, שלומית. המיתולוגיה המצרית. תל-אביב: מפה, 2005.

גבאי, אורי ווייס תמר, המיתולוגיה הבבלית. תל-אביב: מפה, 2003.

איילי-דרשן, נגה, וגיא דרשן. המיתולוגיה הכנענית. תל אביב: מפה, 2009.

**The list is partial and subject to changes and additions.*

Additional Reading Material:

Will be given during the course.

Grading Scheme:

Written / Oral / Practical Exam 80 %

Active Participation / Team Assignment 10 %

Submission assignments during the semester: Exercises / Essays / Audits / Reports / Forum / Simulation / others 10 %

Additional information: