

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

Sexual Renunciation in Christianity - 24232

Last update 28-03-2025

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

Responsible Department: Comparative Religion

Academic year: 0

Semester: 2nd Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Dr. Yonatan Moss

Coordinator Email: yonni.moss1@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: By coordination

Teaching Staff:

Dr. Yonatan Moss

Course/Module description:

הסמינר יעסוק בנושא ההתנזרות המינית בנצרות לדורותיה. המוקד יהיה משולש: היסטורי, רעיוני ומעשי: ברמה ההיסטורית, נבחן התפתחויות באידיאל, ביישום ובמשמעויות הפרקטיות של הפרישות המינית בנצרות על פני זמן. מי פורש ממין? באיזו מידה? אלו התנגדויות יש לאידיאל הזה? ברמה הרעיונית, ננסה להבין את תפקידו של האידיאל הזה במערך ההגות הנוצרית. מדוע הוא חשוב? מה מקורותיו? כיצד יסודותיו, צידוקיו והסבריו הרעיוניים משתנים על פני זמן? אלו הבדלים יש בעניין זה בין הזרמים השונים בנצרות? לבסוף ננסה להבין כיצד האידיאל הזה פוגש את המציאות. באיזו מידה נשמר נדר הפרישות ובאיזו מידה הוא מופר או מבוטל? אלו השלכות חברתיות יש לדרישת הפרישות? האם היא מובילה לדיכוי ולניצול? האם היא עצמה עשויה להשתנות?

Course/Module aims:

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

See Syllabus

Attendance requirements(%):

100

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction:

Course/Module Content:

שיעור 1 (26.3.25): הקדמה: הבנת הבעיה. התארגנות.
Bonnie MacLachlan, "Introduction," in Bonnie MacLachlan and Judith Fletcher, eds., *Virginity Revisited: Configurations of the Unpossessed Body* (Toronto 2007), 3-11.
Sara Moslener, "Sexual Renunciation in Christian History and Theology," in Lisa Isherwood and Dirk von der Horst, eds., *Contemporary Theological Approaches to Sexuality* (London and New York 2018), 90-100 [101].
Carl Olson, "Celibacy and the Human Body: An Introduction," in idem, ed., *Celibacy and Religious Traditions* (Oxford 2007), 3-19 [20].

שיעור 2 (2.4.25): יסודות קדם-נוצריים ביהדות בית שני
פילון, היפותטיקה, 11
פילון, על חיי העיין 1-39, 64-90.
Paul Heger, "Celibacy in Qumran: Hellenistic Fiction or Reality? Qumran's Attitude toward Sex," *Revue de Qumrân* 26 (2013), 53-90.
Eliezer Diamond, "'And Jacob Remained Alone:' The Jewish Struggle with Celibacy,"

in Carl Olson, ed., *Celibacy and Religious Traditions* (Oxford 2007), 41-64.

שיעור 3 (9.4.25): יסודות קדם-נוצריים בתרבות היוונית-רומית

Aulus Gellius, *Attic Nights* 1.12

Aulus Gellius, *Attic Nights*, BOOK I, XII

Mary Beard, "The Sexual Status of the Vestal Virgins," *Journal of Roman Studies* 70 (1980), 12-27.

Willi Braun, "Celibacy in the Greco-Roman World," in Carl Olson, ed., *Celibacy and Religious Traditions* (Oxford 2007), 21-40.

שיעור 4 (23.4.25): נצרות המאה הראשונה

האגרת הראשונה אל הקורינתיים 5-7

מרקוס 3 ו-12

מתי 19

האגרת הראשונה אל טימותאוס 2 ו-4

Will Deming, *Paul on Marriage and Celibacy: The Hellenistic Background of 1 Corinthians 7* (2nd ed.; Grand Rapids 2004), 1-28; 207-219.

B. Diane Lipsett, "Celibacy and Virginity," in Benjamin H. Dunning, ed., *The Oxford Handbook of New Testament, Gender and Sexuality* (Oxford 2019), 557-570 [572].

שיעור 5 (7.5.25): אין שיעור

שיעור 5 (14.5.25): התקופה הקדם-קונסטנטינית

The Shepherd of Hermas, as reviewed in Peter Brown, *The Body and Society: Men, Women, and Sexual Renunciation in Early Christianity* (New York 1988), 69-72.

Tertullian, *Exhortation to Chastity*

<https://www.newadvent.org/fathers/0405.htm>

Ross S. Kraemer, "Thecla," in Benjamin H. Dunning, ed., *The Oxford Handbook of New Testament, Gender and Sexuality* (Oxford 2019), 485-499 [502].

שיעור 6 (21.5.25): שלהי העת-העתיקה: התנזרות אישית

Augustine, *Confessions* 10.28-43/39-70

Didascalia Apostolorum, chap. 23

<https://www.earlychristianwritings.com/text/didascalia.html>

Elizabeth Clark, "Asceticism in Late Ancient Christianity," in eadem, *Reading Renunciation: Asceticism and Scripture in Early Christianity* (Princeton 1999), 14-42.

Glenn Holland, "Celibacy in the Early Church," in Carl Olson, ed., *Celibacy and Religious Traditions* (Oxford 2007), 65-81 [84].

שיעור 7 (28.5.25): שלהי העת-העתיקה: התנזרות ממוסדת

Shenoute of Atripe, *Canons*, Books 1-3, in Bentley Layton, 'The Canons of Our Fathers: Monastic Rules of Shenoute' (Oxford 2014).

Susanna Elm, 'Virgins of God': *The Making of Asceticism in Late Antiquity* (Oxford 1994), 1-22; 373-385.

Caroline T. Schroeder, "The Ritualization of the Monastic Body: Shenoute's Rules," in eadem, *Monastic Bodies: Discipline and Salvation in Shenoute of Atripe* (Philadelphia 2007), 54-89.

שיעור 8 (4.6.25): ימי הביניים: מזרח לעומת מערב

Hrotsvitha of Gandersheim, *Abraham*

Abraham, a play; : Hrotsvitha, ca. 935-ca. 975 : Free Download, Borrow, and Streaming : Internet Archive

Thomas Aquinas, *Summa Theologica* 2.2.152, "Virginity."

ST.II-II.Q151.A4.Rep2 - Aquinas

Uta-Renate Blumenfeld, "The Prohibition of Clerical Marriage in the Eleventh Century," in Nancy van Deusen, ed., *Chastity: A Study in Perception, Ideals, Opposition* (Leiden and Boston 2008), 61-75.

Karen Cheatham, "'Let Anyone Accept This Who Can'": Medieval Christian Virginity, Chastity, and Celibacy in the Latin West," in Carl Olson, ed., *Celibacy and Religious Traditions* (Oxford 2007), 85-101 [108].

Gary Macy, "Hrotsvit's Theology of Virginity and Continence," in Phyllis Rugg Brown and Stephen L. Wailes, eds., *A Companion to Hrotsvit of Gandersheim* (fl. 960): Contextual and Interpretive Approaches (Leiden and Boston 2013), 63-82.

Thérèse-Anne Druart, "An Arab Christian Philosophical Defense of Religious Celibacy against its Islamic Condemnation: Yahyā ibn Adī," in Nancy van Deusen, ed., *Chastity: A Study in Perception, Ideals, Opposition* (Leiden and Boston 2008), 77-85.

שיעור 9 (11.6.25): הרפורמציה והקונטרה-רפורמציה

מקורות ראשוניים:

Martin Luther, *Address to the Nobility of the German Nation* (1520)

Luther-ChristianNobility.pdf

Ignatius of Loyola, *Letter 46 to Emerio de Bonis*

To Emerio De Bonis | Georgetown University Library

Council of Trent, 1545-1563, Session 24, 1-12 (in Norman P. Tanner, ed., *Decrees of the Ecumenical Councils: Volume Two: Trent to Vatican II*, London 1990, 754-755).

מחקרים (מקורות משניים):

M. Darrol Bryant, "Celibacy and the Protestant Traditions: From Celibacy to the Freedom of the Christian," in Carl Olson, ed., *Celibacy and Religious Traditions* (Oxford 2007), 109-128 [132].

James A. Brundage, "Sexual Issues in the Age of the Reformation: Ninety-Five Theses to Tametsi, 1517-1563," in idem, *Law, Sex, and Christian Society in Medieval Europe* (Chicago 1990), 551-575.

שיעור 10 (18.6.25): פרישות מינית בכנסייה הקתולית כיום

מקורות ראשוניים:

Raniero Cantalamessa, *Virginity, A Positive Approach to Celibacy for the Sake of the Kingdom of Heaven* (trans. Charles Serignat; New York 1995), ix-xii; 5-18.

"Chastity in the Society of Jesus: General Congregation 34, Decree 8" (1995).

Chastity in the Society of Jesus - Jesuits

James Martin, *The Jesuit Guide to (Almost) Everything: A Spirituality for Real Life* (New York 2010), 213-230.

מחקרים (מקורות משניים):

Vincent J. Genovesi, "Book Review of: A. W. Richard Sipe, *A Secret World: Sexuality and the Search for Celibacy* (New York 1990); Uta Ranke-Heinemann, *Eunuchs for the Kingdom of Heaven: Women, Sexuality and the Catholic Church* (New York 1990)," *Theological Studies* 52 (1991), 770-773.

Maya Mayblin, "A Brilliant Jewel: Sex, Celibacy, and the Roman Catholic Church," *Religion* 49 (2019), 517-538.

שיעור 11 (25.6.25): בעיות, שאלות וזוויות מיוחדות א'

Kate Cooper, *The Virgin and the Bride: Idealized Womanhood in Late Antiquity* (Cambridge, Mass. 1999), ix-xii; 1-19; 144-147.

Kate Cooper, "Only Virgins Can Give Birth to Christ: The Virgin Mary and the Problem of Female Authority in Late Antiquity," in Bonnie MacLachlan and Judith Fletcher, eds., *Virginity Revisited: Configurations of the Unpossessed Body* (Toronto 2007), 100-113 [115].

Susan L'Engle, "Depictions of Chastity: Virtue Made Visible," in Nancy van Deusen, ed., *Chastity: A Study in Perception, Ideals, Opposition* (Leiden and Boston 2008), 87-124 [126].

Shaun F. Tougher, "Byzantine Eunuchs: An Overview, with Special Reference to the Creation and Origin," in Liz James, ed., *Women, Men, and Eunuchs: Gender in Byzantium* (London and New York 1997), 168-180 [184].

Claudia Rapp, *Brother-making in Late Antiquity and Byzantium: Monks, Laymen, and Christian Ritual* (Oxford 2016), 40-53.

שיעור 12 (2.7.25): בעיות, שאלות וזוויות מיוחדות ב'

Richard W. McCarty, "Christianity's Sexless Heaven," in idem, *Under the Bed of Heaven: Christian Eschatology and Sexual Ethics* (Albany 2021), 57-79.

Gina Messina-Dysert, "Rape Culture and the Politics of Sainthood," in Lisa Isherwood and Dirk von der Horst, eds., *Contemporary Theological Approaches to Sexuality* (London and New York 2018), 176-186 [188].

Jane Anderson, "The Contest of Moralities: Negotiating Compulsory Celibacy and Sexual Intimacy in the Roman Catholic Priesthood," *The Australian Journal of Anthropology* 18 (2007), 1-14 [17].

Yonatan Moss, "Why Do Monastic Rules Tend Not to Talk about Chastity? A Proposal from the Perspective of Comparative Religion," forthcoming.

שיעור 13, שיעור השלמה (במקום השיעור ב-7.5), יתואם: סיכום והצגת נושאי עבודות

Required Reading:

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Additional Reading Material:

Peter Brown, *The Body and Society: Men, Women, and Sexual Renunciation in Early Christianity* (New York 1988).
Jeremy Cohen, 'Be Fertile and Increase, Fill the Earth and Master It:' *The Ancient and Medieval Career of a Biblical Text* (Ithaca 1989).
Thomas Heffernan, *Sacred Biography: Saints and their Biographers in the Middle Ages* (New York and Oxford 1988), 231-299.
Stefan Heid, *Celibacy in the Early Church: The Beginnings of a Discipline of Obligatory Continence for Clerics in East and West* (German original 1997; San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 2000).
Hannah Hunt, *Clothed in the Body. Asceticism, the Body and the Spiritual in the Late Antique Era* (New York 2012).
David G. Hunter, *Marriage, Celibacy, and Heresy in Ancient Christianity: The Jovinianist Controversy* (Oxford 2007).
H. C. Lea, *Sacerdotal Celibacy in the Latin Church* (3rd ed., 2 vols.; London, 1907).
Julie Kelto Lillis, *Virgin Territory: Configuring Female Virginity in Early Christianity* (Berkeley 2023).
Francesco Lubian and Nina Van der Syke, eds., *The Exceptional Body in Late Antiquity* (London, forthcoming).
Helen Parish, *Clerical Celibacy in the West: c. 1100-1700* (London and New York 2010).
Arthur Vööbus, *Celibacy: A Requirement for Admission to Baptism in the Early Syrian Church* (Stockholm 1951).

Vincent L. Wimbush and Richard Valantasis, eds., *Asceticism* (Oxford 2002).

Grading Scheme:

Essay / Project / Final Assignment / Home Exam / Referat 48 %
Active Participation / Team Assignment 26 %
Submission assignments during the semester: Exercises / Essays / Audits / Reports
/ Forum / Simulation / others 26 %

Additional information: