

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

Conversion: between the self and the Church - 24422

Last update 18-03-2020

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: Yosi Yisraeli

Coordinator Email: yosiisra@gmail.com

Coordinator Office Hours:

Teaching Staff:

Dr.

Course/Module description:

What is Conversion, how did it become such a central ideal in the Christian thought, and why does the history of the Church is filled with so much dramatic conversion stories? This seminar seeks to provide students with a panoramic view on the History of this ideal, and how it came into play in central theological, social, and political junctures.

Course/Module aims:

The course will introduce students to the main theological, cultural and political aspects of conversion by reading several of the most famous conversion stories in Christian history. A special emphasis will be given to the inherent tensions it embodies between individualism and change to conformity and established authority.

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

Describe and explain different modern approaches to the phenomena of conversion.

Evaluate conversion as a literary genre, classifying different models it proposed.

Analyze the functionalist meaning of conversion for sustaining organized religion

Discuss the potential and dangers that such unmediated revelation posed to the Ecclesiastical establishment.

Describe main conversion stories in Christian history.

Write a paper .

Attendance requirements(%):

90%

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction:

Course/Module Content:

Conversion: Between the old and the new

Methodologies and approaches in conversion study

On the road to Damascus: Conversion as a Christian ideal

Augustine: Conversion and the writing of the self

Constantine the Great: Conversion and politics

Francis of Assisi: Conversion and (anti)establishment

Luther: Conversion and the reading of Scriptures
Teresa of Avila: Conversion, devotion and women visionaries

Required Reading:
To be announced

Additional Reading Material:

Course/Module evaluation:

End of year written/oral examination 90 %

Presentation 0 %

Participation in Tutorials 10 %

Project work 0 %

Assignments 0 %

Reports 0 %

Research project 0 %

Quizzes 0 %

Other 0 %

Additional information: