



The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

The Seven Sins in Christianity: East and West - 24520

Last update 25-08-2017

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: brouria Bitton-Ashkelony

Coordinator Email: ashkelon@mscc.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: by appointment

Teaching Staff:

Prof Brouria Bitton-Ashkelony

Course/Module description:

dedicated to reading and discussing the sources in translation and modern literature on Evagrius Ponticus' and Cassian' texts dealing with the notion of seven sins; Evagrius' his demonology and religious anthropology.

Course/Module aims:

Enriching the analytical and philological tools required for understanding the development and formation of the notion of seven sins, mainly in the monastic context and early Judaism .

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

learning outcomes: understanding the complexity of the formation of the notion of seven sins, deciphering the substance and the psychological context of each sin, and the wide cultural effect of the concept of seven sins

Attendance requirements(%):
100

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: discussion based on readings the sources and secondary literature

Course/Module Content:

- 1. Evagrius' Religious Anthropology*
- 2. the monastic context*
- 3. the notion of seven sins in early Jewish and Christian literature*
- 4. the self in late antiquity*
- 5. the eight sins of Evagrius*
- 6. His terminology*
- 7. Evagrius' demonology and therapeutic aspect.*
- 8. cultural expressions.*

Required Reading:

a selection from this list:

Robert E. Sinkewicz, *Evagrius of Pontus: The Greek Ascetic Corpus: Translation, Introduction, and Commentary* (Oxford: OUP, 2003).
Evagrius, *Praktikos*, 6-33, trans., Sinkewicz, pp. 97-103.
Evagrius, *On the Eight Thoughts*, Sinkewicz, pp. 66-90.
Evagrius, *Chapters on Prayer*, Sinkewicz, pp. 183-210.
Athanasius, *The Life of Antony*.
Cassian, *The Institutions*, chapters V-XII (*octo principalium uitiorum*)
Cassian, *Conferences*, book V.
Gregory the Great, *Moralia* (instead of *Acedia* he inserted *Envy* (*invidia*), and omitted *pride* (*superbiae*)
Evagrius, *Talking back: Antirrhêtikos: A Monastic Handbook for Combating Demons*, translated by D. Brakke (Collegeville, 2009).
Secondary Sources

Columba Stewart, "Evagrius Ponticus and the Eights Generic Logismoi," in R. Newhauser (ed.), in: *The Garden of Evil: The Vices and Culture in the Middle Ages* (Toronto, 2005), pp. 3-34.

Columba Stewart, *Cassian the Monk* (Oxford, 1998).

D. Brakke, M. Satlow, and S. Weitzman (eds.), *Religion and the Self in Antiquity* (Indiana University Press: Bloomington, 2005), pp. 1-11.

P. Cox Miller, "Shifting Selves in Late Antiquity," in *Religion and the Self*, pp. 15-32.

Charles Taylor, *Sources of the Self: The Making of the Modern Identity* (Cambridge, 1989).

Rebecca Krawiec, "Asceticism" in: *The Oxford Handbook of Early Christian Studies*, ed. Susan Ashbrook Harvey and David G. Hunter (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008), 764-785.

P. Brown, *The Body and Society* (New York, 1987).

M. Foucault, "Technologies of the Self," in Luther Martin et al., eds. *Technologies of the Self* (Amherst: 1991).

P. Hadot, *Philosophy as a Way of Life* (ed. Arnold Davidson; trans., Michael Chase; Cambridge, 1995).

Kevin Corrigan, *Evagrius and Gregory: Mind, Soul and Body in the 4th Century* (Ashgate: Burlington, 2009), chapters 3, 4, 5, pp. 37-101.

Luke Dysinger, *Psalmody and Prayer in the Writings of Evagrius Ponticus* (Oxford, 2005), pp. 1-17, 27-47,

B. Bitton-Ashkelony, "Demons and Prayers: Spiritual Exercises in the Monastic Community of Gaza in the Fifth and Sixth Centuries," *Vigiliae Christianae* 57 (2003), pp. 200-221.

D. Brakke, *Demons and the Making of Monk: Spiritual Combat in Early Christianity* (Cambridge, 2006).

Additional Reading Material:

no

Course/Module evaluation:

End of year written/oral examination 0 %

Presentation 0 %

Participation in Tutorials 30 %

Project work 70 %

Assignments 0 %

Reports 0 %

Research project 0 %

Quizzes 0 %

Other 0 %

Additional information:

the reading list includes materials for writing the final paper.