



## *The Hebrew University of Jerusalem*

### *Syllabus*

## *Commentary in the Judaic and Indic Intellectual History - 24803*

*Last update 17-08-2022*

*HU Credits: 2*

*Degree/Cycle: 2nd degree (Master)*

*Responsible Department: Comparative Religion*

*Academic year: 0*

*Semester: 2nd Semester*

*Teaching Languages: Hebrew*

*Campus: Mt. Scopus*

*Course/Module Coordinator: Yigal Bronner*

*Coordinator Email: [yigal.bronner@mail.huji.ac.il](mailto:yigal.bronner@mail.huji.ac.il)*

*Coordinator Office Hours: By appointment*

---

Teaching Staff:

Dr. Naphtali Meshel,  
Prof Yigal Bronner

Course/Module description:

*What is a commentary? Is its role to reveal and explain the intention of the author of the root text, or perhaps it is to set it aside and use the text for its own purposes? Does a sequence of commentary upon commentary create continuity or rupture? And is it a universal genre, or does it differ from region to region and culture to culture? These are some of the questions that we will be discussing in our seminar while focusing on two intellectual traditions that evolved largely in independence of one another: India and Judaism.*

Course/Module aims:

*The goals of the course are to become acquainted with the rich variety of commentarial literatures that developed in the classical Indian and classical Jewish traditions; to characterize the forms, techniques, and goals of commentary; and to develop philological tools for answering general theoretical questions such as: to what extent does the term "commentary" refer to a discrete, unified category over time and space? What possible hierarchies and relationships are found between the commentary and what is being commented upon?*

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

*Students will be capable of writing a research paper on the topics relevant to the course.*

Attendance requirements(%):

*According to the division's regulations*

*Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Seminar*

Course/Module Content:

*Commentary as pedagogy  
Commentary as scholastic literature  
Commentary on Scriptures  
"Faithful" commentary vs. "faithful" root text  
Commentaries on literature, commentaries as literature  
Explicit and implicit commentary*

---

*Paraphrase and commentary*  
*Shedding light and obfuscating commentaries*  
*Allegory*  
*Tension between anchor text and hermeneutic voyage*  
*Supercommentary vs. subcommentary*

*Required Reading:*

*See the syllabus on the course's moodle site.*

*Additional Reading Material:*

*Course/Module evaluation:*

*End of year written/oral examination 0 %*  
*Presentation 0 %*  
*Participation in Tutorials 10 %*  
*Project work 70 %*  
*Assignments 20 %*  
*Reports 0 %*  
*Research project 0 %*  
*Quizzes 0 %*  
*Other 0 %*

*Additional information:*

*The grade will be determined by five "citation-responses" (10%) two written papers (70%), and active participation (20%). Citation responses and the written papers cannot be submitted on the same week. All submission must be made during the semester. For more information on these assignments, consult the course's Moodle site.*