

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

Analytical Categories in the Study of Religion - 24862

Last update 02-08-2018

HU Credits: 4

Degree/Cycle: 2nd degree (Master)

Responsible Department: Comparative Religion

Academic year: 0

Semester: 2nd Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Dr. Yonatan Moss

Coordinator Email: yonsmoss@gmail.com

Coordinator Office Hours: By email coordination

Teaching Staff:

Dr. Yonatan Moss

Course/Module description:

An analysis of the theoretical foundations of about a dozen critical terms employed in the academic study of religion. What is the meaning of such terms as 'belief', 'religion', 'experience', 'secularism', 'gender', 'recursivity', 'tradition', 'community' and 'ritual' and how do these categories serve us (or not) in the study of religion? Each week will be dedicated to a different term, which we will read about in scholarship from the past twenty years--some older, some more recent--which deals with the term, its use and meaning. The first class of each week will be dedicated to the theoretical underpinnings of that week's category, and the second class will discuss the application of that category to the study of a specific phenomenon or question in a particular religion. The seminar is geared towards advanced students (MA and PhD) in all religious traditions, east and west. Prior knowledge in "Theories and Methods in the Study of Religion" is required. Appropriate for advanced 3rd year BA students, pending instructor's permission.

Course/Module aims:

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

1. Develop tools for analysis of the key terms used in religious studies.
2. Understand the theoretical foundations of the discipline of religious studies, within their social and academic contexts.
3. Evaluate and critique approaches to the study of religion, on the basis of their philosophical and cultural positions.
4. Apply the theoretical methods to the study of specific religions.

Attendance requirements(%):

100 (unless with instructor's permission)

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction:

Course/Module Content:

1. Categorization
2. Religion
3. Secularism
4. Belief
5. Ritual

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6. Experience
 7. Culture/Tradition
 8. Gender
 9. Society/Community
 10. Recursivity

Required Reading:

CTRS &eq; Mark C. Taylor, ed., *Critical Terms for Religious Studies* (1998).
GSR &eq; Willi Braun and Russell T. McCutcheon, eds., *Guide to the Study of Religion* (2000)
MTSR &eq; *Method and Theory in the Study of Religion* (Brill, 1989-)
And more!

Additional Reading Material:

Course/Module evaluation:

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

Additional information: