

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

Lovesickness in late-medieval and early modern Spain - 29865

Last update 05-09-2018

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 2nd degree (Master)

Responsible Department: Romance Studies

Academic year: 0

Semester: 2nd Semester

Teaching Languages: English

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Or Hasson

Coordinator Email: or.hasson@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: Mon 13:30-14:30

Teaching Staff:

Dr. Or Hasson

Course/Module description:

Since antiquity, the experience of being in love was described and thought of in terms of illness, wound, or internal burning. In premodern times, however, these associations were not limited to the literary or metaphorical realm, but constituted a clinical category that could be diagnosed and required medical intervention. In the course we will examine key representations of lovesickness, including Islamic and Christian medical approaches to passionate love, lyrical and narrative representations of lovesickness, and medieval and early modern readings of biblical and classical tales of love.

Course/Module aims:

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

Analyze critically medical elements in literary texts; identify and reflect on the significance of literary elements in medical writing; consciously select and use different theoretical approaches to love; conduct a small-scale independent research using a primary text, literary or medical.

Attendance requirements(%):

100

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Seminar

Course/Module Content:

- What do we talk about when we talk about love? Theoretical, literary, and historical approaches lovesickness
- Sickly lovers of Antiquity (Song of Songs, Sappho, Amnon and Tamar)
- The Islamic heritage of Ishq (Ibn al-Jazzar, Ibn Sina)
- Vernacularizing lovesickness: From eros to hereos (Bernard de Gordon; Arnald de Vilanova, Francisco López de Villalobos)
- Calisto's ailment: Diagnostic and parodic readings of La Celestina
- The lovesick prince: The tale of Antiochus and Stratonice from Antiquity to the Renaissance (Ancient sources, Petrarca, Italian novellieri, Spanish ballads)

-Medical appropriation of literary topics (Alfonso de Santa Cruz)
-Between exegesis and dramatization: Early modern takes on the story of Amnon and Tamar (Book of Samuel, Isaac Abravanel, Tirso de Molina)

Required Reading:

To be updated

Additional Reading Material:

Course/Module evaluation:

End of year written/oral examination 0 %

Presentation 0 %

Participation in Tutorials 15 %

Project work 70 %

Assignments 15 %

Reports 0 %

Research project 0 %

Quizzes 0 %

Other 0 %

Additional information:

While the focus of the course will be Iberian, we will also look at Italian, Arabic, and Latin texts. Classes will be held in English, and readings will be provided in their original languages (mostly Spanish) as well as in an English translation. Knowledge of Iberian languages is an advantage but not a prerequisite. Students from other departments and programs are highly encouraged to enroll or ask the instructor for more details.