



## *Syllabus*

### *The angel of history. Walter Benjamin as a Jewish intellectual part two. His text "On the Concept - 32868*

*Last update 18-09-2019*

*HU Credits: 2*

*Responsible Department: German Language & Literature*

*Academic year: 0*

*Semester: 2nd Semester*

*Teaching Languages: English*

*Campus: Mt. Scopus*

*Course/Module Coordinator: Prof MICHAEL FISCH*

*Coordinator Email: [michaelfisch@ymail.com](mailto:michaelfisch@ymail.com)*

*Coordinator Office Hours: thursday from 14.30 to 16.00*

*Teaching Staff:  
Prof MICHAEL FISCH*

*Course/Module description:*

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*Lecture about Walter Benjamin II.*

*Walter Benjamin's (1892-1940) last notes titled "On the Concept of History" contain his well-known philosophical theses. The author had expressly not determined his theses for printing. When they were finally published three years later (1943) from the estate, they began a career that reached its peak in the epoch of the great marxist theory of the 1960s and 1970s. The historical-philosophical theses are at the same time enigmatic oracle speeches on theology and angels as well as a promise for the historical power of historical materialism. They were considered the last words of a great thinker with whom the old philosophy of history came to an end and at the same time a new beginning was promised. The text "On the concept of history" is thus a posthumously published, historical-philosophical essay by Walter Benjamin from 1940, in which this under the impression of the rise of fascism in Europe and the Hitler-Stalin Pact, the historicizing conception, especially of social democracy criticized and at the same time takes a messianic position.*

*Course/Module aims:*

*Overview of life and work of Walter Benjamin based on selected texts.*

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

*Understanding the theoretical texts of this author, checking his theory in practice, discussing and interpreting his texts (reading course)*

*Attendance requirements(%):*

*Open to all students (Language skills in German desired)*

*Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Communicative method, discussion of topics and texts, application of theory to practice*

*Course/Module Content:*

*This seminar aims to improve knowledge in language and literature with the help of accurate text reading.*

*Required Reading:*

*The texts are posted on the Moodle platform. Each week, extensive academic texts (in German) have to be read and understood.*

*Additional Reading Material:*

*Walter Benjamin: Zur Kritik der Gewalt und andere Aufsätze. Frankfurt am Main:*

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Suhrkamp 1999.

*Course/Module evaluation:*

*End of year written/oral examination 0 %*

*Presentation 0 %*

*Participation in Tutorials 0 %*

*Project work 0 %*

*Assignments 0 %*

*Reports 0 %*

*Research project 100 %*

*Quizzes 0 %*

*Other 0 %*

*Additional information:*

*The lecture is especially aimed at students in the new German Master-Program of the HUJI (Faculty of Humanities).*