

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

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

Degree/Cycle: 2nd degree (Master)

Responsible Department: German Language & Literature

Academic year: 2020

Semester: 2nd Semester

Teaching Languages: English

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Prof MICHAEL FISCH

Coordinator Email: michaelfisch@gmail.com

Coordinator Office Hours: thursday from 14.30 to 16.00

Teaching Staff:

Prof MICHAEL FISCH

Course/Module description:

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: 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).