

## *The Hebrew University of Jerusalem*

### *Syllabus*

## *The Bible in Jewish-German Modernism - 32889*

*Last update 05-09-2019*

*HU Credits:* 2

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

*Responsible Department:* German Language & Literature

*Academic year:* 0

*Semester:* 2nd Semester

*Teaching Languages:* English

*Campus:* Mt. Scopus

*Course/Module Coordinator:* Prof. Vivian Liska

*Coordinator Email:* [vivian.liska@uantwerpen.be](mailto:vivian.liska@uantwerpen.be)

*Coordinator Office Hours:*

*Teaching Staff:*

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Prof Vivian Liska

Course/Module description:

*Biblical references in modernist literary works illustrate literature's potential to transform ancient forms and conceptions into driving forces of renewal. This renewal concerns both literature and the Bible. Their encounter in modernist texts rarely occurs in a straightforward fashion. While the modernist literary reception of Biblical material occasionally does appear as pious affirmation or outright rejection, more characteristically, it alters, displaces, or distorts the original Scriptures. Not only do these transformations enact modernism's basic injunction to "make it new," but they also illuminate its complex relationship to tradition as such. This dynamic is. The course will explore this dynamic in the work of major German-Jewish modernists such as Franz Kafka, Else Lasker-Schüler and Paul Celan.*

Course/Module aims:

*Knowledge and understanding of the dynamic between tradition and modernity, particularly the Bible and German literature of the 20th century.*

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

*Reflect upon and interpret important German-Jewish literary texts in light of the Biblical tradition.*

Attendance requirements(%):

95%

*Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Interactive seminar form*

Course/Module Content:

16 March: Introduction

23 March: Kafka

„Eine kaiserliche Botschaft“/ „An Imperial Message“

30 March: Kafka

Ein anderer Abraham/ An Other Abraham

8 April: Else Lasker-Schüler

Hebrew Ballads/Hebräische Balladen

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*20 April: Else Lasker-Schüler  
The Prophetic Voice*

*27 April: No class*

*4 May: The Song of Songs in German Literature*

*11 May: The Book of Job in German Literature*

*18 May: Paul Celan: Selected Poetry*

*25 May: Paul Celan: Selected Poetry*

*1 June: Else Lasker-Schüler Lecture: Evening Lecture at the Leo Baeck Institute*

*8 June: Jonathan Sheehan and Ilana Pardes  
Bible and Human Rights Conference*

*15 June: Student presentations*

*22 June: Student presentations and Closing Discussion*

*Required Reading:*

*A reader will be provided before the beginning of the course.*

*Additional Reading Material:*

*A bibliographical list of secondary literature will be provided before the beginning of the course.*

*Course/Module evaluation:*

*End of year written/oral examination 0 %*

*Presentation 20 %*

*Participation in Tutorials 20 %*

*Project work 60 %*

*Assignments 0 %*

*Reports 0 %*

*Research project 0 %*

*Quizzes 0 %*

*Other 0 %*

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*Additional information:*