



The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

The Mahabharata - 35131

Last update 16-08-2022

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

Responsible Department: Asian Studies

Academic year: 0

Semester: 1st Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Yigal Bronner

Coordinator Email: yigal.bronner@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: By appointment

Teaching Staff:

Prof Yigal Bronner

Course/Module description:

In many ways, the Mahabharata is one of India's formative texts, and certainly one of its two main epics alongside the Ramayana. What is dharma? How is one to act in the world? Can one overcome one's fate? Is life worth living? These are some of the questions that this massive text keeps returning to, and that will concern us in this course.

Course/Module aims:

The course has a simple goal: to read as much as we reasonably can in a semester in order to get ourselves acquainted with the Mahabharata. We will also consult secondary literature, but the main goal is reading widely in the epic itself.

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

Deep familiarity with the Mahabharata epic, its main characters, narrative, motifs, and central questions.

Attendance requirements(%):

According to divisional regulations.

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Reading at home and discussing the texts in class.

Course/Module Content:

See the course's Moodle website for details.

Required Reading:

See the course's Moodle website for details.

Additional Reading Material:

Course/Module evaluation:

End of year written/oral examination 0 %

Presentation 0 %

Participation in Tutorials 20 %
Project work 70 %
Assignments 10 %
Reports 0 %
Research project 0 %
Quizzes 0 %
Other 0 %

Additional information:

Course requirements include two short papers that will be submitted during the semester. In addition, students will be required to submit 5 short responses to the readings (on weeks when no other paper is submitted). These short responses will not be graded, and merely submitting them ensures 10% of the grade.