



# *The Hebrew University of Jerusalem*

## *Syllabus*

### *The Mahabharata: Deep Acquaintance With the Indian Epic - 35131*

*Last update 21-09-2024*

*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](mailto:yigal.bronner@mail.huji.ac.il)

*Coordinator Office Hours:* By appointment

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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:

Grading Scheme:

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*Essay / Project / Final Assignment / Home Exam / Referat 80 %*  
*Active Participation / Team Assignment 10 %*  
*Other 10 %*

*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.*