



# *The Hebrew University of Jerusalem*

## *Syllabus*

### *Teleological Modality - 36849*

*Last update 31-08-2017*

*HU Credits:* 2

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

*Responsible Department:* linguistics

*Academic year:* 0

*Semester:* 2nd Semester

*Teaching Languages:* Hebrew

*Campus:* Mt. Scopus

*Course/Module Coordinator:* Dr. Aynat Rubinstein

*Coordinator Email:* [aynat.rubinstein@mail.huji.ac.il](mailto:aynat.rubinstein@mail.huji.ac.il)

*Coordinator Office Hours:* By appointment

*Teaching Staff:*

---

Dr. Aynat Rubinstein

Course/Module description:

*Within the field of modality, a major emphasis has been placed on distinguishing between knowledge-oriented (epistemic) modality and a bag of "other", non-epistemic modalities. Further subdivisions among non-epistemic modals are mainly based on conceptual grounds. This course takes a close look at the subclass of non-epistemic modals that have goal-oriented (teleological) interpretations (like 'have to' in 'I'm late, I have to take a cab'). We will investigate the philosophical foundations of teleological modality and its grammatical properties from a semantic-syntactic point of view.*

Course/Module aims:

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

- *Identify instances of various modality types in texts*
- *Access and read relevant scholarly research in semantics*
- *Describe, compare, and evaluate semantic analyses*
- *Construct clear linguistic arguments*
- *Report on the design, findings, and conclusions of their research*

Attendance requirements(%):

100

*Teaching arrangement and method of instruction:*

Course/Module Content:

*See course description*

Required Reading:

*BRENNAN, V. 1993. Root and epistemic modal auxiliary verbs in English. PhD Dissertation, University of Massachusetts Amherst.*

*VAN DER AUWERA, J. AND V. A. PLUNGIAN. 1998. Modality's semantic map. Linguistic Typology 2: 79-124.*

*PORTNER, P. 2009. Modality. Oxford: Oxford University Press.*

*\* A list of papers for in-class presentations will be distributed in the beginning of the*

---

semester.

Additional Reading Material:

Course/Module evaluation:

End of year written/oral examination 0 %  
Presentation 30 %  
Participation in Tutorials 0 %  
Project work 50 %  
Assignments 0 %  
Reports 0 %  
Research project 0 %  
Quizzes 0 %  
Other 20 %  
Text analysis

Additional information: