



The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

Shia - Culture and History - 38346

Last update 19-08-2023

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

Responsible Department: Islamic & Middle East Stud.

Academic year: 0

Semester: 1st Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Dr. Ehud Most

Coordinator Email: ehud19190@gmail.com

Coordinator Office Hours: via email

Teaching Staff:

Dr. Ehud Most

Course/Module description:

In the course we will survey the twelver Shi'ite culture and its origins, focusing on formative events in Shi'ite history, key figures and holy sites, customs and expressions of material culture that reflect the contemporary Shi'ite faith.

Course/Module aims:

Familiarity with contemporary Shi'ite culture, its origins and characteristics

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

Become familiar with and understand the main cultural codes that characterize Shi'ite culture, its symbols and history.

Attendance requirements(%):

90

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: lectures

Course/Module Content:

- 1. A historical review of the development of Shi'ism.*
- 2. The Shah vs. Khomeini. Persian identity versus Shiite Islamic identity. The Formation of Shiite Identity in Iran – Thinkers, Intellectuals, and Revolutionaries.*
- 3. The First Imam-Ali ibn Abi Taleb – Stations in His Life and Legacy*
- 4. Ahl al-Bayt, Fatima al-Zahraa, Second Imam al-Hassan*
- 5. Karbala as a seminal event in Shi'ite history and the image of "Sayyid al-Shuhada" - Imam al-Hussein*
- 6. The Shi'ite cleric – training, promotion track, authority, and the world of religious seminaries (Hawzat ilmiya)*
- 7. The Ashuraa – "Celebrating the Mourning" – Shi'ite customs and symbolism*
- 8. Popular Shi'a, Taqiyya, and Sunni Shi'a differences*

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9. *Temporary Marriage, the sixth Imam and his influence, Istikharah.*
 10. *Mashhad and Qom – their importance and status, the Eighth Imam Al-Rida and his sister, traditions, and vows.*
 11. *Shi'ite pilgrimage and Shi'ite exemplary literature*
 12. *Rings as a Shia cultural code,
The Hidden Imam and eschatology.*
 13. *Supreme Leader, Israel through Shiite Eyes, Qassem Soleimani - His Image and Legacy*

Required Reading:

רועי וילוז'ני, האמאמיה. מאיר בר -אשר ומאיר חטינה, עורכים, האסלאם: היסטוריה, דת, תרבות. ירושלים: האוניברסיטה העברית, 2017, עמ' 334-352.

איתן קולברג, השיעה סיעתו של עלי. מרטין קרמר (עורך), מחאה ומהפכה באסלאם השיעי: הקיבוץ המאוחד, 1985, עמ' 7-30

ולי נסר, התחייה השיעית. תל-אביב: ידיעות ספרים, 2011, עמ' 93-114.

Kamran Scot Aghaie, *The Martyrs Of Karbala: Shi'i Symbols And Rituals In Modern Iran*, University Of Washington Press, 2004, pp 87-112

מאיר ליטבק, "שלטון חכם הדת באיראן: חזון ומציאות." *המזרח החדש*, מ"ב, (תשס"א) עמ' 167-184.

Ahmad Shekarchi, "The History In Procession: Shiite Identity Formation Through Frames Of Arba'iyin Pilgrimage Narrative"
In: Anthropology Of The Middle East, Vol 17, No.2 ,Winter 2022: 97-117

Ingvild Flakerud, "Oh, My Heart is Sad. It is Moharram, the Month of Zaynab :The Role of Aesthetics and the Women's Mourning Ceremonies in Shiraz". *In The Women of Karbala: Ritual Performance and Symbolic Discourses in Modern Shi'i Islam*, Kamran Scot Aghaie (Editor), Austin: University of Texas Press, 2005. pp. 92-65.

Moojan Momen, *An Introduction To Shi'i Islam: The History And Doctrine Of Twelver Shi'ism*, Moojan Momen, Yale University Press, 1985, pp. 245-233

Additional Reading Material:

בן יאיר, באזאר: סיור מודרך בתרבות האסלאם, ישראל: ניב, 2021, עמ' 68-75, 295-324

Augustus Richard Norton, "Ritual, Blood, And Shiite Identity: Ashura In Nabatiyya, Lebanon",

The Mit Press, TDR, Winter 2005, Vol 49, No.4. pp.140-155.

Grading Scheme:

Essay / Project / Final Assignment / Home Exam / Referat 80 %

Presentation / Poster Presentation / Lecture 10 %

Attendance / Participation in Field Excursion 10 %

Additional information: