Syllabus

Masters of the "Silk Road" - The Rise and Fall of the Sogdian Culture - 38476

Last update 01-09-2015

HU Credits: 4

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

Responsible Department: Islamic & Middle East Stud.

Academic year: 0

Semester: Yearly

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Dr. Michael Shenkar

Coordinator Email: michael.shenkar@gmail.com

Coordinator Office Hours: Sunday 14:00-15:00.

Teaching Staff:
Dr. Shenkar Michael
Course/Module description:
The seminar will focus on the unique Sogdian culture that existed in Central Asia (modern Uzbekistan and Tajikistan) between the fourth century CE and the Muslim conquest of the area in the eighth century. We shall discuss the written and material sources for the Sogdian civilization and treat important milestones of Sogdian history. Special emphasis will be placed on the wall paintings, which are the primary source for the Sogdian culture and religion. We shall deal with the Sogdian trading network, with the complex relations between the sedentary Sogdians and the nomadic Turkic tribes, with the Sogdian colonies in China and the phenomenon of Sino-Sogdian art.

Course/Module aims:
The goal of this class is to introduce students to the Sogdian civilization, its rise and decline in the eighth century following the Arab conquest.

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:
To be able to analyze the main features of the Sogdian culture, its principal sites and historical events.

Attendance requirements(%): 80

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: The Lecturer's exposition followed by discussion, plus, presentations of the participants.

Course/Module Content:
1) Sogdiana: the Geography and the name.

2) Historical background.

3) Written sources in Sogdian language.

4) Samarkand.

5) Panjikent.

6) Bukhara.

7) Bunjikat (Ustrushana)
8) The Sogdian religion.

9) Burial customs and ossuaries.

10) The Sogdian trade network.

11) The "symbiosis" with the Turks.

12) Sogdian colonies in China and the "Sino-Sogdian art".

13) The Arab conquest of Sogdiana.

**Required Reading:**


Naymark, A.I. (2003), "Returning to Varakhsha", The Silk Road, vol 1/2.


Additional Reading Material:


de La Vaissière, . (2005), Sogdian Traders, Leiden.


Course/Module evaluation:
End of year written/oral examination 0 %
Presentation 20 %
Participation in Tutorials 0 %
Project work 80 %
Assignments 0 %
Reports 0 %
Research project 0 %
Quizzes 0 %
Other 0 %

Additional information: