



# *The Hebrew University of Jerusalem*

## *Syllabus*

### *The Sasanian Empire in Light of its Material Culture - Pathways to Research - 38609*

*Last update 09-10-2022*

*HU Credits:* 2

*Degree/Cycle:* 1st degree (Bachelor)

*Responsible Department:* Islamic & Middle East Stud.

*Academic year:* 0

*Semester:* 2nd Semester

*Teaching Languages:* Hebrew

*Campus:* Mt. Scopus

*Course/Module Coordinator:* Prof. Michael Shenkar

*Coordinator Email:* [Michael.Shenkar@mail.huji.ac.il](mailto:Michael.Shenkar@mail.huji.ac.il)

*Coordinator Office Hours:*

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Teaching Staff:

Prof Shenkar Michael

Course/Module description:

The course will focus on selected topics in social, religious and cultural history of Iran in the Sasanian period (third-seventh centuries CE). The Sasanian Empire was the summit of the pre-Islamic Iranian civilization and a place of special importance is reserved for its legacy in Iranian history and culture even today. We shall focus mostly on the primary sources and the material culture. We shall discuss the urban planning, the architecture, the Sasanian royal inscriptions and rock reliefs, iconography of coins and seals

Course/Module aims:

The course will introduce the students to the basics of academic writing, understanding how historical writing works, giving basic tools for historical research.

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

*Reading skills:*

How to read an academic article.

Finding the article's structure and argument.

Analysing primary sources of various types.

Location secondary source for academic assignments.

*Writing skills:*

Writing a clear and well-structured paragraph.

Properly writing references and bibliography.

Building an argument and structuring the assignment according to the argument.

Summarizing and paraphrasing article without plagiarism.

Attendance requirements(%):

100

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction:

Course/Module Content:

1) The Iranian plateau on the eve of the Sasanian era.

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- 2) *The written sources.*
  - 3) *The inscriptions.*
  - 4) *Urban layout and architecture.*
  - 5) *Rock Reliefs.*
  - 6) *Religious architecture and the Zoroastrian religion in the Sasanian period.*
  - 7) *Religious iconography.*
  - 8) *Coinage.*
  - 9) *Society and Ideology.*
  - 10) *Silver vessels.*
  - 12) *The Sasanians in the East.*
  - 13) *Conclusion: The Sasanian Empire and its legacy.*

*Required Reading:*

*See syllabus in moodle*

*Additional Reading Material:*

*Course/Module evaluation:*

*End of year written/oral examination 0 %*

*Presentation 0 %*

*Participation in Tutorials 0 %*

*Project work 40 %*

*Assignments 60 %*

*Reports 0 %*

*Research project 0 %*

*Quizzes 0 %*

*Other 0 %*

*Additional information:*