



# *The Hebrew University of Jerusalem*

## *Syllabus*

### *The Sasanian Empire in Light of its Material Culture - 38825*

*Last update 15-09-2024*

*HU Credits:* 2

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

*Responsible Department:* Islamic & Middle East Stud.

*Academic year:* 0

*Semester:* 1st 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:* By appointment

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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:

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

Basic acquaintance with the history and culture of the Sasanian Empire. Ability to deal with primary sources.

Attendance requirements(%):

85

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction:

Course/Module Content:

- 1) The Iranian plateau on the eve of the Sasanian era.
- 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) Society and Ideology.

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8) Coinage.

9) Silver vessels.

10) Seals.

11) The Sasanians in the East.

12) The Sasanian Empire and its legacy.

Required Reading:

See syllabus in moodle.

Additional Reading Material:

Grading Scheme:

Essay / Project / Final Assignment / Home Exam / Referat 60 %

Active Participation / Team Assignment 10 %

Submission assignments during the semester: Exercises / Essays / Audits / Reports  
/ Forum / Simulation / others 30 %

Additional information: