

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

Eurasian Nomads and their Culture in the Pre-Islamic Period - 38874

Last update 19-08-2018

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 2nd degree (Master)

Responsible Department: Islamic & Middle East Stud.

Academic year: 0

Semester: 2nd Semester

Teaching Languages: English

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Dr. Michael Shenkar

Coordinator Email: michael.shenkar@gmail.com

Coordinator Office Hours:

Teaching Staff:

Dr. Shenkar Michael

Course/Module description:

We shall learn about the unique way of life of nomadic pastoralists in Eurasia in antiquity. We shall get acquainted with diverse cultures of Iranian and Turkic nomads that existed in the Eurasian steppes in the pre-Islamic period.

Course/Module aims:

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

To be acquainted with the various cultures of the ancient Eurasian nomads and their way of life. Ability to deal with primary sources for the period.

Attendance requirements(%):

80

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: The Lecturer's exposition of the subject followed by a discussion.

Course/Module Content:

1. Geographical and historical settings.
2. The origins of the Eurasian pastoral nomadism.
3. The genesis of the Scythian culture.
4. Scythians – Masters of the Eurasian steppes.
5. Xiongnu – the first Steppe Empire.
6. Yuezhi, Saka and the first “Migration period”.
7. Sarmatians in the West.
8. The Huns and the Great Migrations.

9. *The Rise of the Turks.*

10. *The Steppes become Turkic.*

Required Reading:

Khazanov, A.M. (1994), *Nomads and the Outside World*, Madison.

Sinor, D. (ed.), (1990), *The Cambridge History of Early Inner Asia*, Cambridge.

Golden, P.B. (1992), *An Introduction to the History of the Turkic Peoples*, Wiesbaden.

Christian, D. (1998), *A History of Russia, Central Asia and Mongolia, Vol. 1: Inner Eurasia from Prehistory to the Mongol Empire*, Oxford.

Simpson, St. J. and Pankova, S. (2017), *Scythians: Warriors of Ancient Siberia*, London.

Additional Reading Material:

See syllabus on Moodle.

Course/Module evaluation:

End of year written/oral examination 0 %

Presentation 0 %

Participation in Tutorials 10 %

Project work 70 %

Assignments 20 %

Reports 0 %

Research project 0 %

Quizzes 0 %

Other 0 %

Additional information: