

## *The Hebrew University of Jerusalem*

### *Syllabus*

## **CHRIS.HEBRAISM IN MEDIEVAL & EARLY MODERN EUROPE - 39064**

*Last update 08-08-2020*

*HU Credits:* 2

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

*Responsible Department:* History

*Academic year:* 0

*Semester:* 1st Semester

*Teaching Languages:* Hebrew

*Campus:* Mt. Scopus

*Course/Module Coordinator:* Aya Elyada

*Coordinator Email:* [aya.elyada@mail.huji.ac.il](mailto:aya.elyada@mail.huji.ac.il)

*Coordinator Office Hours:* Thursday 12:00-13:00

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Teaching Staff:

Dr. Aya Elyada

Course/Module description:

The course will explore the cultural and intellectual phenomenon of Christian Hebraism – the engagement of Christian scholars with the Hebrew language, as well as with other fields within “Jewish Studies”, such as Aramaic, rabbinical literature, Kabbalah, Yiddish, and Jewish history. After discussing its important medieval predecessors, we will examine this phenomenon during the Renaissance and Reformation, and into the 17th century. We will examine the various currents of Christian Hebraism; the identity of the Hebraists and their motivations to get involved with Jewish languages and texts; their attitudes toward the Jewish religion and culture; and the implication of this genre for the development of Christian scholarship, Christian-Jewish relations in medieval and early modern Europe, and the emergence of Jewish Studies in a later period.

Course/Module aims:

The course aims to introduce the students to the phenomenon of Christian Hebraism from the late Middle Ages and up to the beginning of the 17th century. It seeks to explore Christian Hebraism against the backdrop of various historical and cultural backgrounds, and to point out continuity and change in its development throughout the centuries.

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

- Explain the changes in Christian-Jewish polemic with the rise of the Mendicant orders
- Describe the accusations raised against the Talmud in the 13th-14th centuries
- Explain Christian Kabbalah against the backdrop of renaissance culture
- Explain the main arguments in the Reuchlin-Pfefferkorn Affair and the historical significance of this episode
- Assess and explain the impact of the Protestant Reformation on the evolution of Christian Hebraism
- Assess and explain the impact of the Catholic Reformation on the evolution of Christian Hebraism
- Analyze the reasons behind the rise of Christian ethnographic writing on Jews and Judaism and the genre's ideological framework
- Analyze the reasons behind the rise of Christian Yiddishism and the genre's ideological framework
- Critically assess and analyze the relations between Christian Hebraism and Philosemitism in the early modern period

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Attendance requirements(%):

100%

*Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: This seminar includes the reading and analysis of primary sources and secondary literature, and is dedicated mainly to students' discussions in class. In addition, students will present papers from the secondary literature to the class.*

Course/Module Content:

1. Christian-Jewish relations in medieval Europe; 12th-century Christian Hebraism; the rise of the Mendicant orders and the turning point of the 13th century
2. Anti-Jewish polemic and the war against the Talmud
3. Renaissance and Humanism; Christian Humanism
4. Christian Kabbalah
5. Christian Humanism and Old Testament interpretation; the Reuchlin-Pfefferkorn Affair
6. The Protestant Reformation
7. Protestant Hebraism in 16th-century Germany
8. The Council of Trent and 16th-century Catholic Hebraism
9. Christian Ethnographies
10. Christian Yiddishism
11. Christian Hebraism and Philosemitism in the early modern period

Required Reading:

- Selected primary sources

- Secondary literature (selected items):

Jerome Friedman, *The Most Ancient Testimony: Sixteenth-Century Christian-Hebraica in the Age of Renaissance Nostalgia*, Athens, OH 1983

Frank E. Manuel, *The Broken Staff: Judaism through Christian Eyes*, Cambridge, Mass. 1992

Michael A. Signer, "Polemic and Exegesis: The Varieties of Twelfth-Century Hebraism", in Allison P. Coudert and Jeffrey S. Shoulson (eds.), *Hebraica veritas? Christian Hebraists and the Study of Judaism in Early Modern Europe*, Philadelphia 2004, 21-32

עמוס פונקנשטיין, "התמורות בווכוח הדת שבין יהודים לנוצרים במאה הי"ב, ציון לג (תשכ"ח), 125-144

Jeremy Cohen, "Scholarship and Intolerance in the Medieval Academy: The Study and Evaluation of Judaism in European Christendom", *AHR*, 91 (1986), 592-613

Robert Chazan, "Defining and Defaming Israelites and Judeans/Jews in the "Pugio Fidei"", *Ibérica Judaica* 2 (2010) 105-119

Allison P. Coudert, "Christian Kabbalah", in Frederick E. Greenspahn (ed.), *Jewish Mysticism and Kabbalah: New Insights and Scholarship*, NY 2011, 159-172

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David H. Price, *Johannes Reuchlin and the Campaign to Destroy Jewish Books*, Oxford 2011, Ch. 1, 4

Deena Aranoff, "Elijah Levita: A Jewish Hebraist", *Jewish History* 23 (2009), 17-40

Stephen G. Burnett, *Christian Hebraism in the Reformation Era (1500-1660): Authors, Books, and the Transmission of Jewish Learning*, Leiden 2012

Adam Sutcliffe, "Hebrew Texts and Protestant Readers: Christian Hebraism and Denominational Self-Definition", *Jewish Studies Quarterly* 7,4 (2000) 319-337

Salo Baron, "The Council of Trent and Rabbinic Literature", in *Ancient and Medieval Jewish History: Essays by Salo Wittmayer Baron*, edited by Leon A. Feldman, New Brunswick, NJ 1972, 353-364

Amnon Raz-Krakotzkin, "Censorship, Editing, and the Reshaping of Jewish Identity: the Catholic Church and Hebrew Literature in the Sixteenth Century", in Allison P. Coudert and Jeffrey S. Shoulson (eds.), *Hebraica veritas? Christian Hebraists and the Study of Judaism in Early Modern Europe*, Philadelphia 2004, 125-155

Yaacov Deutsch, *Judaism in Christian Eyes: Early Modern Description of Jews and Judaism*, New York 2012

Aya Elyada, *A Goy Who Speaks Yiddish: Christians and the Jewish Language in Early Modern Germany*, Stanford, CA 2012

Allison P. Coudert, "Seventeenth-century Christian Hebraists: Philosemites or Antisemites?" in Allison P. Coudert [et al.] (eds.), *Judaeo-Christian Intellectual Culture in the Seventeenth Century*, Dordrecht 1999, 43-69

Abraham Melamed, "The Revival of Christian Hebraism in Early Modern Europe", in Jonathan Karp and Adam Sutcliffe (eds.), *Philosemitism in History*, NY 2011, 49-66

#### Additional Reading Material:

Pinchas Lapide, *Hebrew in the Church: The Foundations of Jewish-Christian Dialogue*, Ann Arbor 1984

Beryl Smalley, *The Study of the Bible in the Middle Ages*, 3rd. rev. ed., Oxford 1983

חן מרחביה, התלמוד בראי הנצרות : היחס לספרות ישראל שלאחר המקרא בעולם הנוצרי בימי הביניים 500-1248, ירושלים 1970

Deeana Copeland Klepper, *The Insight of Unbelievers: Nicholas of Lyra and Christian Reading of Jewish Text in the Later Middle Ages*, Philadelphia 2007

Robert Chazan, *Daggers of Faith: Thirteenth-Century Christian Missionizing and Jewish Response*, Berkeley 1989

Erika Rummel, *The Case Against Johann Reuchlin: Religious and Social Controversy in Sixteenth-Century Germany*, Toronto 2002

Stephen G. Burnett, *Christian Hebraism in the Reformation Era (1500-1660): Authors, Books, and the Transmission of Jewish Learning*, Leiden 2012

אמנון רז-קרקוצקין, הצנזור, העורך והטקסט: הצנזורה הקתולית והדפוס העברי במאה השש עשרה, ירושלים 2005

#### Course/Module evaluation:

End of year written/oral examination 0 %

Presentation 20 %

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*Participation in Tutorials 10 %*

*Project work 70 %*

*Assignments 0 %*

*Reports 0 %*

*Research project 0 %*

*Quizzes 0 %*

*Other 0 %*

*Additional information:*

*A final paper or a seminar paper*