



The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

Historical Trials - 39071

Last update 01-09-2023

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

Responsible Department: History

Academic year: 2024

Semester: 2nd Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Yehudit Dori Deston

Coordinator Email: yehudit.dori@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours:

Teaching Staff:

Dr. Yehudit Dori Deston

Course/Module description:

The course will deal with legal proceedings in Israel and around the world that have become entrenched in the public opinion as exceptional or as ones that contributed to the construction of a national narrative, both in the manner in which they were conducted, in their legal outcome or in the extent to which they succeeded in achieving pedagogical goals. Through interdisciplinary doctrines and critical theories, the course will analyze the legal, political, and cultural aspects of these legal proceedings, and discuss their effects on shaping the collective memory of the historical events at the center of the proceedings.

Course/Module aims:

Provide students with the knowledge and tools required to provide legal, historical, social and political interpretation of historical trials

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

At the end of the course, students will be able to critically analyze historical affairs centered on a legal debate of social, public or political importance

Attendance requirements(%):

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction:

Course/Module Content:

1. What is a historical trial?
 2. Traditional goals alongside educational, documental, and political objectives for the conduct of historical trial
 3. Discussion of historical trials from the perspective of a national narrative: the Tobianski affair, the Nuremberg trials, the Kol Ha'am affair, the Kastner trial, the Kafr Qasim affair, the Eichmann trial, the Demjanjuk trial, the Yemenite Children Affair, the Bus 300 affair, and others.
 4. Declaring of a legal proceedings as a "historical trial": in "real time" or in historical perspective?
- *The detailed list of topics will be included in the syllabus that will be uploaded to the course website

Required Reading:

A detailed list of reading materials can be found on the course website

Additional Reading Material:

A detailed list of additional reading materials can be found on the course website

Grading Scheme:

Essay / Project / Final Assignment / Home Exam / Referat 75 %

Active Participation / Team Assignment 10 %

Presentation / Poster Presentation / Lecture 15 %

Additional information: