Syllabus

MENDICANT FRIARS AND SOCIETY IN THE MIDDLE AGES - 39247

Last update 30-09-2013

HU Credits: 4

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

Responsible Department: History

Academic year: 2

Semester: Yearly

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Prof. Esther Cohen

Coordinator Email: msecohen@huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: Tuesday, 13.00 - 14.00

Teaching Staff:
Prof Esther Cohen
Course/Module description:
The course will deal concurrently with the foundation, evolution, and internal conflicts of the two mendicant orders, Franciscans and Dominicans. We shall examine the self-formation of each order through changing rules and memory construction, the considerable social role they assumed and their alienation from centers of power as heretics (Franciscans) and persecutors (Dominicans). We shall also analyze their great influence upon lay religiosity, vernacular sermons and the spread of religious enthusiasm. Special attention will be devoted to the secondary (women) and tertiary (lay men and women attached to the order) orders, especially the women who confronted the institutionalized orders with their own ideals.

Course/Module aims:
To teach a very important chapter in the history of Christianity that does not fall into the standard Papal versus imperial history.
To impart knowledge of non-institutional Christianity in the later Middle Ages.
To examine the process of institutionalization of originally enthusiastic and charismatic religious movements.
To break down the misconceived dichotomy of religion and lay in the middle ages.

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:
To confront unconventional reading materials, e.g. mystical poetry.
To connect mass psychology, mysticism, and political developments.
To rid themselves of rigid definitions of heresy and orthodoxy.
To research independently a determined subject.
To write a research seminar paper on such a subject.

Attendance requirements(%):
Minimum 75% attendance. Three consecutive absences without explanation will be considered as dropping to the course.

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: The course will be interactive, with the teacher providing leading questions and the students providing most of the argumentation.

Course/Module Content:
Foundation and institutionalization - rules
Women's orders
Mendicant mystics
Mythography of founders
The mission to the Christians: preaching
Heresy and the fight against it
Escathology
Inquisition and resistance

Required Reading:
Aviad Kleinberg, Brother Ginepro's pork leg (Tel Aviv, 2000, Hebrew) 256-286.
WEAVER, Mark "The rule of Saint Francis: what was really lost?" Franciscan Studies 69 (2011) 31-52
Franciscan rules
http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/stfran-rule.html
http://www.bspenance.org/The_Rule_of_1221.shtml
Roest, Bert "Female preaching in the late medieval Franciscan tradition," Franciscan Studies 62, (2004), 119-154


Kleinberg, Brother Ginepro, 287-320


Polecritti, Cynthia L. “In the shop of the lord: Bernardino of Siena and popular devotion,” Beyond Florence (2003), 147-159, 267-270


Exiit qui seminat,

Exivi de paradiso,


Bernard Gui, Manuale inquisitorum
http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/gui-cathars.html
http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/bernardgui-inq.html
Angelo Clareno
www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/clareno-inq.html

Additional Reading Material:

Course/Module evaluation:
End of year written/oral examination 0 %
Presentation 0 %
Participation in Tutorials 30 %
Project work 60 %
Assignments 0 %
Reports 0 %
Research project 0 %
Quizzes 0 %
Other 10 %

Additional information:
10% of the grade is for attendance.