Syllabus

Places of scientific knowledge in early modern Europe - 39431

Last update 22-01-2016

HU Credits:  2

Responsible Department: history

Academic year: 0

Semester: 2nd Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Raz Chen-Morris

Coordinator Email: raz.chen-morris@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: Wednesday 12:30-14:00

Teaching Staff:
  Dr. Raz Chen-Morris

Course/Module description:
The course will examine certain relationships between social and intellectual places (academies, universities, princely courts, workshops, commercial navies and market-places, alchemical laboratories and private libraries) and evolving modes of research and knowledge in early modern Europe. Special emphasis will be given to the relationship between spatial organization and the organization of knowledge, and between local knowledge and the "new science" claims to universal applicability of scientific truth.

Course/Module aims:
To confront new approaches to the history of scientific knowledge.
To examine scientific knowledge not only from the aspect of content.

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:
To define the relationship between spatial organization and the organization of knowledge.
To describe the various localities in which knowledge was produced in early modern Europe.
To critically assess the importance of local knowledge.
To critically compare the various places of knowledge in early Modern Europe.
To critically assess the question of global knowledge and local knowledge.

Attendance requirements(%):
100%

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Pro-seminar

Course/Module Content:
Concepts of local knowledge
The University - Padua; Oxford and Cambridge; Leiden
The Princely Court
The Jesuit College
The Laboratory
The Observatory
The House
The City
The Botanical Garden
the anatomical Theatre
The room of Curiosities
Required Reading:
Geertz, Clifford. Local Knowledge
L. Stone, [The Educational Revolution in England 1500-1640], Past and Present, 28 (1964)

Randall, Jr. John Herman. The Development of Scientific Method in the School of Padua Journal of the History of Ideas, Vol. 1, No. 2 (1940), pp. 177-206
Steven J. Harris, "Confession-Building, Long-Distance Networks, and the Organization of Jesuit Science". Early Science and Medicine, Vol. 1, (1996), pp. 287-318
Owen Hannaway, "Laboratory Design and the Aim of Science: Andreas Libavius versus Tycho Brahe". Isis, Vol. 77 (1986), pp. 584-610
Cynthia Klestinec, " Civility, Comportment, and the Anatomy Theater: Girolamo Fabrici and His Medical Students in Renaissance Padua". Renaissance Quarterly, Vol. 60 (2007), pp. 434-463
Additional Reading Material:
TBA

Course/Module evaluation:
End of year written/oral examination 0 %
Presentation 15 %
Participation in Tutorials 15 %
Project work 50 %
Assignments 20 %
Reports 0 %
Research project 0 %
Quizzes 0 %
Other 0 %

Additional information:
  History Department
Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Mt. Scopus
Mt. Scopus