Syllabus

Christian Hebraism in Medieval and Early Modern Europe - 39837

Last update 23-07-2016

**HU Credits:** 4

**Degree/Cycle:** 2nd degree (Master)

**Responsible Department:** history

**Academic year:** 0

**Semester:** Yearly

**Teaching Languages:** Hebrew

**Campus:** Mt. Scopus

**Course/Module Coordinator:** Dr. Aya Elyada

**Coordinator Email:** aya.elyada@mail.huji.ac.il

**Coordinator Office Hours:** Monday 14:00-15:00

**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
- 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 Yiddishism and the genre's ideological framework
- Critically assess and analyze the relations between Christian Hebraism and Philosemitism in the early modern period
- Analyze historical documents
- Discuss items of research literature and identify their main arguments
- Write an independent research paper in the field of Christian Hebraism

**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, as well as their own projects. The course includes guidance in writing the final papers.

**Course/Module Content:**
1. 12th-century Christian Hebraism
2. Anti-Jewish polemic and the war against the Talmud
4. Protestant Hebraism in 16th-century Germany
5. The Council of Trent and 16th-century Catholic Hebraism
6. Christian Yiddishism
7. Christian Hebraism and Philosemitism in the early modern period

**Required Reading:**
- Selected primary sources
- Secondary literature (selected items):
  - Aryeh Grabois, "The Hebraica Veritas and Jewish Christian Intellectual Relations in the 12th Century", Speculum 50 (1975) 613-634
  - עמוס פונקנשטיין, "התמורות בווכוח הדת שבין יהודים לנוצרים באוניברסיטת וינה", ציון (1968), 125-144
  - Erika Rummel, "Humanists, Jews, and Judaism", in Dean Phillip Bell and Stephen G. Burnett (eds.), Jews, Judaism, and the Reformation in Sixteenth-Century Germany,
Leiden 2006, 3-31
David H. Price, Johannes Reuchlin and the Campaign to Destroy Jewish Books, Oxford 2011, Ch. 1, 4
Jerome Friedman, ‘Sebastian Münster, the Jewish Mission, and Protestant Antisemitism’, Archiv für Reformationsgeschichte 70 (1979), 238-259
Aya Elyada, A Goy Who Speaks Yiddish: Christians and the Jewish Language in Early Modern Germany, Stanford, CA 2012, Introduction; Ch. 4
Adam Sutcliffe, Judaism and Enlightenment, NY 2003, Ch. 1

Additional Reading Material:
Deeana Copeland Klepper, The Insight of Unbelievers: Nicholas of Lyra and Christian Reading of Jewish Text in the Later Middle Ages, Philadelphia 2007
Aya Elyada, A Goy Who Speaks Yiddish: Christians and the Jewish Language in Early Modern Germany, Stanford, CA 2012, Introduction; Ch. 4
David H. Price, Johannes Reuchlin and the Campaign to Destroy Jewish Books, Oxford 2011
Erika Rummel, The Case Against Johann Reuchlin: Religious and Social Controversy in Sixteenth-Century Germany, Toronto 2002
אמנון רז-קרוקוצקין, הצנזור, העורך והטקסט: הצנזורה הקתולית והדפוס העברי במאה השש עשרה, ירושלים 2005

Course/Module evaluation:
End of year written/oral examination 0 %
Presentation 20 %
Participation in Tutorials 10 %
Project work 70 %
Assignments 0 %
Reports 0 %
Research project 0 %
Quizzes 0 %
Other 0 %

Additional information:
At the end of the course: submitting either a final paper or a seminar