



The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

2nd Temple Period: Jewish Art and Architecture - 43523

Last update 05-02-2025

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

Responsible Department: Archaeology & Ancient near East

Academic year: 0

Semester: 2nd Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Prof. Zeev Weiss

Coordinator Email: zeev.weiss@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: Monday, 12:00-13:00

Teaching Staff:

Prof. Zeev Weiss

Course/Module description:

The course will focus on a range of topics pertaining to Jewish art and architecture from the late Second Temple period through late antiquity, examining the changes that occurred over time. We will explore key research questions, discuss various approaches in current scholarship, and assess how these findings have influenced cultural life, society, and religion of Jewish society, both in Israel and in the diaspora

Course/Module aims:

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

At the end of this course, the students will be able to define the developments in Jewish art and architecture from the Second Temple Period and until the end of the Byzantine era. They will be able to explain how historical and religious changes influenced the, and are reflected in, the art and architecture. They will be able to identify major finds and sites and will be able to describe the major interpretive trends of Jewish art in modern scholarship

Attendance requirements(%):

80

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Lecture

Course/Module Content:

1. Introduction - Jewish art in Second Temple period
2. Herod's Temple
3. Burial and Burial practices in the second Temple Period
4. Synagogues of the Second Temple Period
5. Miqva'ot and Ritual Purity
6. Synagogues in the Roman Period and through Late Antiquity - Debates in Current Research

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7. Figural Art - Synagogue in the Galilee and Golan
 8. Mosaic Art - Symbols and their Interpretation
 9. Innovations in Current Research - Sepphoris, Kh. Hammam and Huqoq
 10. Jewish Burial in Late Antique Palestine - Architecture and Art
 11. Diaspora Synagogues
 12. Dura Europos
 13. Jewish Art and Architecture - Conclusions

Required Reading:

Detailed Syllabus will be given in class in the first meeting

Additional Reading Material:

Grading Scheme:

Written Exam % 100

Additional information:

Includes one day tour in the Galilee