

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

EROS & SOCIAL CRITICISM IN BOCCACCIO'S DECAMERON - 45207

Last update 20-01-2014

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

Responsible Department: Romance and Latin American Studies

Academic year: 1

Semester: 2nd Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Ariel Rathaus

Coordinator Email: rathaus@netvision.net.il

Coordinator Office Hours: Mon. 12-13

Teaching Staff:

Dr. Ariel Rathaus

Course/Module description:

An introduction to Boccaccio's masterpiece, *Decameron*. The starting point will be the peculiar double character of this book, as a work rooted in the medieval tradition and at the same time anticipating the new Renaissance culture. The course will deal with the relations between Boccaccio and the other two great Italian authors of the 14th century, Dante and Petrarca. The analysis will be focused on the major themes of *Decameron*: love, anticlerical satire and humanistic appreciation of man's talents.

Course/Module aims:

To provide students with a panoramic overview of one of the most interesting and influential book of Italian literature.

To develop analytic tools for understanding the transition process from medieval culture to the world of Renaissance's ideals, values and way of life.

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

To master the partial corpus of Boccaccio's short stories that will be analyzed.

To describe the content of such texts, discovering the relations between the stories.

To analyze the texts as products of social, historical, and political contexts.

To outline the meaning and peculiarities of each story.

To develop critical thinking, questioning the scientific articles dealing with Boccaccio's literary work.

Attendance requirements(%):

100%

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Frontal lecture

Course/Module Content:

Required Reading:

A. Scaglione, *Nature and Love in the late Middle Ages*, 101 – 125.

E. Auerbach: *Mimesis: the representation of reality in Western Literature*, Princeton 1953, ch. 9.

C. Caporello-Szykman, *The Bocaccian Novella, creation and waning of a genre*, New York 1990, 29- 80.

Additional Reading Material:

P. Bondanella – J. Conaway Bondanella, *The Macmillan Dictionary of Italian Literature*, London 1979.

Course/Module evaluation:

End of year written/oral examination 50 %

Presentation 0 %

Participation in Tutorials 50 %

Project work 0 %

Assignments 0 %

Reports 0 %

Research project 0 %

Quizzes 0 %

Other 0 %

Additional information:
