

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

Marcel Mauss's Contribution to the Analysis of Society and Culture - 54305

Last update 11-10-2020

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 2nd degree (Master)

Responsible Department: Cultural Studies-Individual Graduate Prog.

Academic year: 0

Semester: 1st Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Nicole Hochner

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Coordinator Office Hours: by email

Teaching Staff:

Dr. Nicole Hochner

Course/Module description:

Marcel Mauss (1872-1950) remains in the shadow of his uncle, Emile Durkheim, father of French Sociology, and of Claude Lévi-Strauss, father of French structuralism, in this course we will discover his work for its own merits. We will read and study his essay on the gift (1925), his general theory of magic (1904), his text on the category of the person and the notion of the self (1938) as well as the techniques of the body (1935), but also his text on the nature and function of sacrifice (1899) on prayer (1909) or on the notion of money (1914) and other insightful texts. The work of Mauss is characterized by a vast array of topics, such a rich and eclectic array is also the source of a unique methodology. Reading and studying Marcel Mauss is an invitation to reflect on fundamental theoretical, methodological and philosophical dilemmas in the study of society and culture.

Course/Module aims:

appraisal of Marcel Mauss's work

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

Marcel Mauss is a great source of inspiration, the learning outcomes of this course are multiple: to be able to use the concepts suggested by Marcel Mauss in his work and be more familiar with his methodological, theoretical and philosophical approach.

Attendance requirements(%):

100

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: lectures and dialogues. This course is based on exchanges. Because of Covid 19 the course will start by zoom. Assignments and activities are introduced in order to try to make our online meetings more interactive

Course/Module Content:

Changes may occur

Week 1: why Marcel Mauss?

Week 2: Biography including historical context

Week 3: presentation of the works of Marcel Mauss and his concept of 'social total

fact'

Week 4: *On Sacrifice*

Week 5-6: *On Magic*

Week 7: *On Prayer*

Week 8-9: *On the Gift*

Week 10: *techniques of the Body*

Week 11: *Categories of the Self*

Week 12: *Readers of Mauss from Claude Levi Strauss to Derrida*

Week 13-14: *conclusion*

Required Reading:

a detailed list of reading items and a full syllabus will be distributed in the first week of the course and will be posted on the website of the course

Additional Reading Material:

Course/Module evaluation:

End of year written/oral examination 65 %

Presentation 0 %

Participation in Tutorials 0 %

Project work 0 %

Assignments 35 %

Reports 0 %

Research project 0 %

Quizzes 0 %

Other 0 %

Additional information:

changes may occur

core course in cultural studies

there is an option to write a seminar paper in this course.