

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

Martin Buber on Judaism Zionism & Critique of the Modern Nation-State - 56147

Last update 15-03-2020

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

Responsible Department: Political Science

Academic year: 0

Semester: 2nd Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: professor Dan Avnon

Coordinator Email: dan.avnon@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: Wednesdays 19:00 - 10:00

Teaching Staff:

Prof Dan Avnon

Course/Module description:

The course will analyze Buber's understanding (and critique) of modern states in general, and of the "return to Zion" in the form of a Jewish nation-state in particular.

The lectures will emphasize the relations between Buber's understanding of Judaism's "mission" in the world and the way to actualize this mission in actual historical circumstances.

Course/Module aims:

*To learn the historical background of Buber's thought.
To understand the impact of the Jewish heritage on Buber's thought
To understand Buber's distinction between revealed and hidden history
To understand Buber's relation to Zionism and to Jewish nationalism
To understand the logic of Buber's preference of non-State federative forms of political association*

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

*To learn the historical background of Buber's thought.
To understand the impact of the Jewish heritage on Buber's thought
To understand Buber's distinction between revealed and hidden history
To understand Buber's relation to Zionism and to Jewish nationalism
To understand the logic of Buber's preference of non-State federative forms of political association*

Attendance requirements(%):

100

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Frontal lectures and active class discussion. On esession will be a screening of a movie about Buber. "The Way of Man"/

Course/Module Content:

Biographical background, historical context

*Disintegration of Imperial order, the rise of Nationalism & the mission of Judaism
Colonialism and "The Arab Question"*

"I-Thou": Dialogue as the foundation of inter-personal regeneration

Dialogical leadership: Revealed and hidden history

Effecting Change in human consciousness: Jesus. Spinoza, The Baal-shem-tov

False Prophets, True prophets and the political hour

Between Zion and Zionism

A State? Bi-nationalism in a federative association.

Independence and self-determination in the service of Justice.

Critiques of Buber, from right and from left.

Required Reading:

Martin Buber, A Land for Two Peoples

Dan Avnon, Martin Buber: The Hidden Dialogue

Various essays by and about Buber. Most of them available in English translations.

Additional Reading Material:

Course/Module evaluation:

End of year written/oral examination 100 %

Presentation 0 %

Participation in Tutorials 0 %

Project work 0 %

Assignments 0 %

Reports 0 %

Research project 0 %

Quizzes 0 %

Other 0 %

Additional information: