



# *The Hebrew University of Jerusalem*

## *Syllabus*

### *Jewish Education And Jewish Studies - 63002*

*Last update 01-08-2023*

*HU Credits: 1*

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

*Responsible Department: Program in Jewish Education*

*Academic year: 0*

*Semester: 1st and/or 2nd Semester*

*Teaching Languages: English*

*Campus: Mt. Scopus*

*Course/Module Coordinator: Dr. Michael Gillis*

*Coordinator Email: [michael.gillis@mail.huji.ac.il](mailto:michael.gillis@mail.huji.ac.il)*

*Coordinator Office Hours: Monday 11.00-12.00*

*Teaching Staff:*

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Dr. Noga Bing

Course/Module description:

*This is a prerequisite course for the Masters program in Jewish Education for those with a limited, or no, previous experience of Jewish Studies in an academic context. Academic Jewish Studies is generally characterized by a critical approach – that is to say one which tries to avoid assumptions about the material being studied and which asks questions about its history, meaning and reception using the methods of history, philology and literary analysis. Our course will look at three fields of Jewish Studies: Bible; Rabbinic Literature; Jewish Thought. Each of these fields can be further subdivided into a variety of subject matters, e.g. philosophy and mysticism in Jewish thought, and a variety of academic approaches e.g. literary analysis and the study of language. The course will provide a sample of academic writing in each field with the aim of providing a window on this variety of work.*

Course/Module aims:

*The aim of the course is to provide an initial acquaintance with academic Jewish Studies for those coming to the study of Jewish education with no prior experience of such studies.*

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

*Participants will:*

- Become familiar with some of the main streams of academic Jewish Studies.*
- Be able to read in a critical way academic writing in Jewish Studies.*
- Develop a sensitivity to the difference between the academic critical approach to reading texts and other kinds of reading.*
- Reflect upon the possible ways the academic study of Judaism might serve as a resource for Jewish Education.*

Attendance requirements(%):

*85%*

*Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: The course will be conducted through the course website where the course readings will be available. Participants will write regular reading reports, participate in discussion forums and write brief summary assignments at the conclusion of each section of the course.*

Course/Module Content:

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1. Bible
  2. Rabbinic Literature
  3. Jewish Thought

Required Reading:

Nechama Leibowitz "How to read a chapter of Bible", *Studies in Jewish Education* Vol. 5, Jerusalem 1990, pp. 35-47

James Kugel *How to Read the Bible*, New York 2007, pp/ 5-17, 36-46, 48-57, 662-689.

Uriel Simon, *Reading Prophetic Narratives*, Indiana University Press, 1997, pp.

Moshe Greenberg, "The Decalogue Tradition Critically Examined" in *Studies in the Bible and Jewish Thought* Philadelphia: Jewish Publication Society, 1995, pp. 279-305.

*The Cambridge Companion to the Talmud and Rabbinic Literature*, edited by Charlotte E. Fonrobert, Martin S. Jaffee, Cambridge 2014, "Introduction" pp. 1-14 and *Rabbinic Authorship as a Collective Enterprise* by Martin Jaffee pp. 17-37.

March Hirshman, "Aggadic Midrash" in *The Literature of the Sages*, edited Shmuel Safrai et al., Fortress Press, Amsterdam 2006, pp. 107-132.

Jeffrey Rubenstein, "Torah . Shame and 'The Oven of Akhnai" in *Talmudic Stories*, Baltimore 1999, pp 34-63

Joseph Tabory, "Jewish Festivals in Late Antiquity" in *The Cambridge History of Ancient Judaism IV*, edited Steven Katz, Cambridge 2006, pp. 556-571.

Moshe Halbertal, *Maimonides: Life and Thought*, Princeton, 2014, pp. 312-353

Joseph Dan -Heart and the Fountain, Oxford, 2002, "Introduction" pp. 1-48, "The Zohar" 139-147.

Ella Belfer, "The Land of Israel and Historical Dialectics in the Thought of Rav Kook: Zionism and Messianism", in *Rabbi Abraham Isaac Kook and Jewish Spirituality*, edited Lawrence Kaplan et al., New York 1995, pp. 257-271.

Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik "The Lonely Man of Faith", *Tradition* Vol 7, 1965, pp. 69-119.

Additional Reading Material:

Grading Scheme:

Essay / Project / Final Assignment / Home Exam / Referat 100 %

Active Participation / Team Assignment 50 %

Submission assignments during the semester: Exercises / Essays / Audits / Reports / Forum / Simulation / others 50 %

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*Attendance / Participation in Field Excursion 80 %*

*Additional information:*