Syllabus

TEACHING BIBLE ACCORDING TO ROSENZWEIG - 63975

Last update 10-09-2013

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor) and 2nd degree (Master)

Responsible Department: Education, Jewish Education

Academic year: 0

Semester: 2nd Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Prof. Jonathan Cohen

Coordinator Email: yonathan.cohen@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: Tuesday, 16:00-17:00

Teaching Staff:
Prof Yonathan Cohen
Course/Module description:
Franz Rosenzweig was not only a great Jewish thinker - he was also one of the most profound Jewish educators of the 20th century. His diagnosis and recommended "treatment" for the ills of modern Jewish education remain relevant to this day. The course will center on the connections between Franz Rosenzweig's theology, his aesthetics and his educational thought. The focus will be on his theology of revelation, his aesthetics of literature - and of the Bible as literature - and the internal pedagogy of the Bible. Many positions taken by Rosenzweig were crystallized during his cooperation with Buber on the translation of the Bible into German, and Buber's influence, as well as Rosenzweig's differences with Buber, will be noted. Emphasis will be placed on the "translation" of Rosenzweig's explicit and implicit ideas into a coherent educational policy and pedagogy.

Course/Module aims:
First and foremost, the course aims to illustrate what a high-level, comprehensive and coherent Jewish educational philosophy can look like. Rosenzweig will be treated as an example of a thinker whose theology, aesthetics of Bible interpretation and Jewish educational thought represent a coherent and considered whole.

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:
A student who finishes this course successfully will have been exposed to systematic Jewish educational discourse at its highest, and will hopefully develop a "taste" for this kind of coherent discourse, running from theory to practice, in his/her own reflection and activity as an educator.

Attendance requirements(%):
90%

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: The course will be based on the close reading of Franz Rosenzweig's original writings on revelation, on aesthetics, on Bible interpretation and Bible education. We will also examine selected Biblical passages interpreted by Rosenzweig, or that could be profitable interpreted in a "Rosenzweigian" spirit.

Course/Module Content:
1) Rosenzweig's theology - creation, revelation and redemption (emphasis on revelation).
2) Aesthetics - the epic, lyric and dramatic dimensions in works of art, the epic and anecdotal dimensions in literature.

3) The particular aesthetics of Biblical narrative.

4) The "subterranean didactic" embedded in the Biblical story.

5) Rosenzweigian interpretations of selected Biblical passages.

6) Educational implications for the actual teaching of the Bible.

Required Reading:

From THE STAR OF REDEMPTION


"The Unity of the Bible,"
(pp. 22-26)

"Scripture and Word"
(pp. 40-46)

"Scripture and Luther"
(pp. 47-72)

"The Eternal: Mendelssohn and the Name of God"
(pp. 99-113)

"The Secret of Biblical Narrative Form" (pp. 129-142)

Additional Reading Material:


Cohen, J. "Is the Bible a Jewish Book? The Literary Character of Biblical Narrative in
the Thought of Franz Rosenzweig and Leo Strauss" in THE JOURNAL OF RELIGION 87:4, PP. 592-632.


Course/Module evaluation:
End of year written/oral examination 70 %
Presentation 0 %
Participation in Tutorials 30 %
Project work 0 %
Assignments 0 %
Reports 0 %
Research project 0 %
Quizzes 0 %
Other 0 %

Additional information:
It is recommended that the student also take the course given during the first semester "Teaching the Bible According to Martin Buber" - although this is not required.