



The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

LAND AND AGRICULTURE IN JEWISH LAW - 71075

Last update 04-11-2015

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

Responsible Department: plant science in agriculture

Academic year: 0

Semester: 1st Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Rehovot

Course/Module Coordinator: Joshua Klein

Coordinator Email: vcjosh2000@yahoo.com

Coordinator Office Hours: By appointment

Teaching Staff:

Dr. Joshua Klein

Course/Module description:

The land of Israel and its holiness: Borders of the land according to olei Mitzrayim and olei Bavel. Land ownership by non-jews and the controversy of heter mechira. Kilayim (mixing of species): Theoretical background, mixing of seeds, mixed crops in a vineyard, interspecies grafting, identification and categorization of plant types, halachic implications for genetic engineering and biotechnology. The etrog (citron): identification and grafting. Orla (fruit of young tress): Halachic definition of "tree", counting years of orla, planting in a boll of earth, laws relating to orla fruit, Tu B'Shvat and Tu B'Av. Cycle of trumot and maasrot (tithes), laws of untithed produce (tevel/demai), tithing in modern times, separation of "challa". Laws of gleaning (leket, shichecha, peah). Shmita (sabbatical year): idealogical and historical background, primary and secondary agricultural tasks (avot and toladot), crop/tree management during shmita, shmita in modern times, produce with the "holiness of shmita/shv'it" – ownerless produce (hefker), prohibition of commercial activity, otzar bet din, nullification of shvi'it (biu

Course/Module aims:

To know how, where and when to apply laws dependent on the year of Shmita

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

Describe laws of Shmita
Describe the contributions and tithing cycle
Recognize seeds vineyard interbreeds
Define types of plants related to Shmita

Attendance requirements(%):

100

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: lectures

Course/Module Content:

Sanctity of the holly land
Borders of the Land of Israel
foreigner properties in Israel
allowence of marketing on Shmita year
How, where and when to apply jewish laws which are country dependent
shmita - Idea, Policy and forbidden jobs

Consuming during shmita - Treasure Court, the sanctity of fruit
Hybrids (seeds / Vineyard / composition, genetic engineering)
Foreskin - What is a tree? What is a vegetable?
Tithes
Debut
Four species

Required Reading:
lectures

Additional Reading Material:
biblical sources

Course/Module evaluation:

End of year written/oral examination 90 %
Presentation 0 %
Participation in Tutorials 0 %
Project work 0 %
Assignments 10 %
Reports 0 %
Research project 0 %
Quizzes 0 %
Other 0 %

Additional information:

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