The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

Palaeoraphic and Codicological Aspects of Talmud Manuscripts - 7149

Last update 16-09-2020

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

Responsible Department: Talmud & Halacha

Academic year: 0

Semester: 1st Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Ms. Tamar Leiter

Coordinator Email: tamar.leiter@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: by email

Teaching Staff:
  Ms. Tamar Leiter

Course/Module description:
  Palaeographic and codicological aspects of medieval handwritten books – from the tenth to the sixteenth century focusing on Talmud mss examples.

Course/Module aims:
  Familiarizing the student with handwritten books in the various cultural environments – Types and shapes of script, parchment and paper techniques, features of textual designs and other characteristics that re connected to the making of the handwritten book. Teaching the use of ms. In online and printed catalogues.

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:
  1. The student will realise the mss' place in the fields of research.
2. The student will learn to distinguish the area and the era of the hand copied book and will get to know the milieu of the scribe and his associaltes in the making of the copy.
3. the student will become familiar with mss catalogues and online resources.

Attendance requirements(%):
  85%

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Frontal lectures accompanied by sample folios from various mss. integrating workshop exercises.

Course/Module Content:
  1. Hebrew hand written book production before the age of print – scribe, materials and scripts. Geo-cultural areas.
2. The fields of codicology and palaeography.
3.The importance of mss, to research.
4. The colophon: content, form and contribution
5. Mss catalogues and online resources.
6. The craft of copying: form and content
7. Composition of the codex: quire, bifolium, folio
8. Writing support – techniques of parchment and paper preparation

9. Preparation for writing: pricking, ruling and text design
10. Types and modes of scripts (such as: Oriental, Sefardic, Ashkenazic` square, semi-cursive, cursive)
11. Multi scribal copies: uniting and separating copies.
12. Tools for determining date and place of production.
13. Getting to know SfarData – The Hebrew codicological database.
14. Using SfarData.

Required Reading:

מלאכי בית-אריה, קודיקולוגיה עברית, באתר ספרדתא, פרק המבוא:
https://web.nli.org.il/sites/NLI/Hebrew/collections/manuscripts/hebrewcodicology/Documents/Hebrew-Codicology-continuously-updated-online-version.pdf
באנגלית:
https://web.nli.org.il/sites/NLI/English/collections/manuscripts/hebrewcodicology/Documents/Hebrew-Codicology-continuously-updated-online-version-ENG.pdf

יעקב זוסמן, 'כתבי-יד תלמודיים', באתר הספריה הלאומית:
https://web.nli.org.il/sites/NLI/Hebrew/collections/jewish-collection/Talmud/Articles/Pages/Talmud-MSS-Zusman.aspx
קולט סיראט, מן הכתב אל הספר, ירושלים תשנ"ב, עמ' 8-19.
דוד רוזנטל, 'תרומתם של כתבי היד לחקר התלמוד', באתר הספריה הלאומית:
https://web.nli.org.il/sites/NLI/Hebrew/collections/jewish-collection/Talmud/Articles/Pages/Talmud-MSS-Rosenthal.aspx
'אודות ספרדתא', באתר ספרדתא:
http://sfardata.nli.org.il/about_He
'תיאור כתב יד קאופמן של המשנה', באתר הספריה הלאומית:
https://web.nli.org.il/sites/nli/hebrew/collections/jewish-collection/talmud/articles/pages/kaufman-mishnah-ms.aspx

Additional Reading Material:

גלצר, מרדכי, 'מלאכת הספר של כתר ארם צובה והשלכותיה', ספונות, ד, יט (1989), עמ'
167–276 JSTOR, www.jstor.org/stable/23414875. Accessed 15 Sept. 2020.
אשל, אסתר, אשל, חנן, וירדני, עדה, 'שטר מ"שנת ארבע לחורבן בית ישראל": עדות נדירה לגזרות
הדת אחרי מרד בר כוכבא?', קתדרה 132 (2009), עמ' 5-24JSTOR,
www.jstor.org/stable/23408144. Accessed 15 Sept. 2020.

Course/Module evaluation:
End of year written/oral examination 0 %
Presentation 0 %
Participation in Tutorials 0 %

Project work 0 %
Assignments 20 %
Reports 0 %
Research project 0 %
Quizzes 20 %
Other 60 %
Home Test/ Paper

Additional information:

Due to the Corona pandemic, the course will be taught using the Zoom platform. If possible, we will visit the National Library.