

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

Early Halakhic Literature: The Damascus Document - 7856

Last update 19-08-2019

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 2nd degree (Master)

Responsible Department: Talmud & Halacha

Academic year: 0

Semester: 1st Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Dr. Yair Furstenberg

Coordinator Email: yair.furstenberg@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: Tuesday 12-13

Teaching Staff:

Dr. Yair Furstenberg

Course/Module description:

The seminar will examine the features of early halakhic literature through a close reading of some legal units from the Damascus Document. We will address the unique literary characteristics of the text (combination of admonition and law), and we will locate its legal discourse within the literary tradition and the history of Halakhah. In particular, the seminar seeks to uncover the sectarian context of the laws.

Course/Module aims:

Joint study of legal units concerning purity, marriage, oaths and procedure, through which we will (1) Characterize the exegetical and legal approach of the text (2) examine the editorial considerations, in the creation of the handbook of law (3) Trace the halakhic roots of sectarian practices.

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

- [1] interpret sectarian legal sources and identify their unique traits.
- [2] Utilize scholarship on the Damascus Document and Sectarian law
- [3] Compare the approach of sectarian law to rabbinic law, both on the ideological level and on scholarly practice.

Attendance requirements(%):

100

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: reading together and discussing the sources and scholarship

Course/Module Content:

- [1] Introduction
 - * Textual transmission from Qumran to Cairo
 - * Structure of text
 - * Early recensions
- [2] Laws of Damascus Document
 - * approaches to early halakha
 - * exegetical approach

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- * editing of halakhic units
 - * comparison to other halakhic texts
 - [3] Law and communal organization
 - * Testimony and rebuke
 - * structure and officials

Required Reading:

א' קימרון, מגילות מדבר יהודה, כרך א, ירושלים תשע"א
י' שיפמן, הלכה הליכה ומשיחיות בכת מדבר יהודה, ירושלים תשנ"ג
כ' ורמן וא' שמש, לגלות נסתרות: פרשנות והלכה במגילות קומראן, ירושלים תשע"א
מ' קיסטר, 'לחקר ההתהוות המהדורות הקדומות של ברית דמשק', באר שבע יח (תשס"ו), עמ'
209-223
ש' נאה וא' שמש, 'עדים וזוממים: לתולדותיה של פרשנות הלכתית קדומה', מגילות יא (תשע"ו), עמ'
293-315
C. Rabin, *The Zadokite Document: I. The Admonition, II. The Laws*, Oxford 1954
P. R. Davies, *The Damascus Document: An Interpretation of the "Damascus Document"*, Sheffield 1983
J. Baumgarten, *The Damascus Document, 4Q266-273, Qumran Cave 4.18, DJD 18*,
Oxford 1996
J. Baumgarten and E. Chazon, *The Damascus Document: A Centennial of Discovery*,
Leiden Boston 2000
C. Hempel, *The Damascus Texts*, Sheffield 2000
S. Hultgren, *From the Damascus Covenant to the Covenant of the Community:
Literary Historical and Theological Studies*, Leiden Boston 2007

Additional Reading Material:

Orion Bibliography on the Damascus Document

Course/Module evaluation:

End of year written/oral examination 0 %
Presentation 0 %
Participation in Tutorials 0 %
Project work 100 %
Assignments 0 %
Reports 0 %
Research project 0 %
Quizzes 0 %
Other 0 %

Additional information:

