

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

Persian Martyr Acts in Syriac - 7923

Last update 20-10-2024

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 2nd degree (Master)

Responsible Department: Talmud & Halacha

Academic year: 0

Semester: 2nd Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Dr. Yakir Paz

Coordinator Email: yakir.paz@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours:

Teaching Staff:

Dr. Yakir Paz

Course/Module description:

The Persian Martyr Acts are martyrological works composed in Syriac during the Sasanian Empire, between the 4th and 7th centuries CE. These texts focus on the persecutions of Christians by the Sasanian kings and Zoroastrian priests. Many of the Acts recount the martyrdoms of various Christians, prominently featuring Simeon bar Sabae, the bishop of Seleucia-Ctesiphon, during the "Great Persecution" under Shapur II in the 4th century. The Persian Martyr Acts serve as vital documents for understanding the Church of the East, offering rich literary and theological insights alongside historical and social information. In this course, we will read selected Acts in Syriac and explore their historical, religious, and social backgrounds. Additionally, we will learn how to use these works as comparanda for the Babylonian Talmud. This course is considered a partial fulfillment of Advanced Syriac.

Course/Module aims:

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

On successful completion of this module, students should improve their reading skill of Syriac Prose, know how to use lexicographic tools, be acquainted with the genre of the Persian Martyr Acts and the relevant scholarship and will be able to use the Acts as comparanda to the Babylonian Talmud

Attendance requirements(%):

100

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction:

Course/Module Content:

The History of Simeon Bar Sabae
The Acts of Pusai
The Acts of Marta
The Legend of Mar Qardagh

Required Reading:

The reading material will be given at the beginning of the course

Additional Reading Material:

Grading Scheme:

Essay / Project / Final Assignment / Home Exam / Referat 70 %

Active Participation / Team Assignment 20 %

Attendance / Participation in Field Excursion 10 %

Additional information: