

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

CULTURAL HERITAGES: CLASSICAL PERSIAN LITERATURE - 8202

Last update 01-09-2017

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

Responsible Department: "amirim" honors program

Academic year: 0

Semester: 1st Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Dr Julia Rubanovich

Coordinator Email: Rubanovich.Julia@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: Sunday 11:50-12:20 (by appointment)

Teaching Staff:

Dr. Rubanovich Julia

Course/Module description:

The course explores the diversity and main tendencies of classical Persian literature by looking at its origins and development from the 10th to the 14th centuries. The course is based on close reading and textual analysis of a variety of sources in translation focusing on their genre peculiarities and cultural-historical context.

Course/Module aims:

The students will gain acquaintance with some of the masterpieces of classical Persian literature which have been shaping Iranian collective cultural memory for generations.

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

Students should be able to describe the major developments in classical Persian literature; to identify principal literary genres and their characteristics; to closely analyze various literary texts within their cultural-historical milieu, using the methodological approach and tools of literary criticism adopted in these classes.

Attendance requirements(%):

100

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Close reading and discussion of primary sources (in translation) with the help of secondary scholarly literature. Three or four written assignments.

Course/Module Content:

*** Each topic can cover several classes.

Topic 1: Defining the "Iranian Areal". The Persian language and the stages of its development.

Topic 2: Classical Persian literature as a tradition and a system: its major characteristics.

Topic 3. Epic poetry. The "Shah-nama" of Firdausi. The themes of "fathers/sons" and

"kings/heroes".

Topic 4. Romantic poem: Nizami's reply to Firdausi.

Topic 5. Persian didactic literature in prose.

Topic 6. 'Umar-i Khayyam and the ruba'i genre: the problems of attribution and interpretation.

Topic 7. Persian mystical poetry.

Required Reading:

1) de Bruijn, J.T.P. "Classical Persian Literature as a Tradition." In *General Introduction to Persian Literature. History of Persian Literature. Vol. I.* Ed. J.T.P. de Bruijn. London and New York: I.B. Tauris, pp. 1-42.

2) Browne, Edward G., trans. *Nizāmī 'Arūdī. Chahār maqāla ("Four Discourses")*. London, 1921, pp. 31-32 ("Excursus. On the quality of the Poet and his verse").

3) Hanaway, William L. "Epic Poetry." In *Persian Literature*. Ed. Ehsan Yarshater. *Columbia Lectures on Iranian Studies 3*. Albany, N.Y.: Bibliotheca Persica, pp. 96-108.

4) שקד, שאול. "ספר המלכים ורקעו". בתוך: פירדוסי. שאה-נאמה. ספר המלכים. תרגם אליעזר כגן. ערך והוסיף מבוא והערות שאול שקד. ירושלים: מוסד ביאליק, כרך 1, עמ' כא - עב (נא לקרוא בעיון בייחוד עמ' כא - לג; לו-נו; סא-סה).

5) פירדוסי. שאה-נאמה. ספר המלכים. תרגם אליעזר כגן. ערך והוסיף מבוא והערות שאול שקד. ירושלים: מוסד ביאליק, כרך 1, עמ' 23 - 33 (ד. ג'משיד; ה. צפאן).

6) פירדוסי. שאה-נאמה. ספר המלכים. תרגם אליעזר כגן. ערך והוסיף מבוא והערות שאול שקד. ירושלים: מוסד ביאליק, כרך 1, עמ' 277 - 327 (יב. הגדת סְהַרַאב).

7) Rubanovich, Julia. "In the Mood of Love: Love Romances in Medieval Persian Poetry and their Sources", pp. 67-94.

8) הסיפור על אודות בהראם גור ואזאדה/פתנה ב"שאה-נאמה" של פרדוסי וב"הַפֶּת פִּיכֶר" של גַּט'אמִי.

9) Safa, Z. "Andarz. ii. Andarz literature in New Persian." *Elr II* (1987), pp. 16-22.

10) Yūsofī, Ğ.-H. "Andarz-nāma." *Elr II* (1987), pp. 23-24.

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- 11) *The Gulistan, or Rose Garden of Sa'di*. Tr. by Rehatsek, Edward; ed. with a preface by W.G. Archer; introduction by G.M. Wickens. London, 1964.
- 12) Avery, Peter. "Introduction." In *The Ruba'iyat of Omar Khayyam*. Trans. by P. Avery and J. Heath-Stubbs. London: Penguin Books, 1981, pp. 7-31.
- 13) Parsinejad, Iraj. *A History of Literary Criticism in Iran (1866-1951)*. Bethesda, Maryland: IBEX Publishers, 2003, pp. 197-201.
- 14) *The Ruba'iyat of Omar Khayyam*. Trans. by P. Avery and J. Heath-Stubbs. London: Penguin Books, 1981.
- 15) לצרוס-יפה, חוה. "הקוראן ומצוות היסוד באסלאם". בתוך פרקים בתולדות הערבים והאסלאם. בעריכת חוה לצרוס-יפה. תל-אביב: רשפים, תשכ"ז/1967, עמ' 82 - 101.
- 16) לצרוס-יפה, חוה. "חסידות ומיסטיקה". בתוך פרקים בתולדות הערבים והאסלאם. בעריכת חוה לצרוס-יפה. תל-אביב: רשפים, תשכ"ז/1967, עמ' 316-332.
- 17) Schimmel, Annemarie. *Mystical Dimensions of Islam*. With a new foreword by Carl W. Ernst. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press.
- 18) סבירי, שרה. הסופים. אנתולוגיה. תל-אביב: אוניברסיטת תל-אביב, 2008.
- 19) *The Poems of Abu Sa'id Abu'l Kheyr*. Trans. by Reza Ordoubadian. Bethesda, Maryland: Ibex Publishers, 2010, pp. 37, 45, 73.
- 20) de Bruijn, J.T.P. *Persian Sufi Poetry. An Introduction to the Mystical Use of Classical Persian Poetry*. Richmond: Curzon, pp. 51-76.
- 21) Reinert, B. "Aṭṭār, Farīd al-Dīn." *Encyclopaedia Iranica*. Online version: <http://www.iranicaonline.org/articles/attar-farid-al-din-poet>
- 22) *Fifty Poems of 'Aṭṭār*. Texts, translations and analysis by K. Avery and A. Alizadeh. Melbourne: re.press, 2007, pp. 61, 101, 161.
- 23) Lewis, Franklin D., trans. *Rumi: Swallowing the Sun. Poems Translated from the Persian*. Oxford: Oneworld, pp. 26, 66-67, 68, 78-79, 102, 141-142.
- 24) Davis, Dick, trans. *Faces of Love: Hafez and the Poets of Shiraz*. New York: Penguin Books, 2012.
- 25) Ridgeon, Lloyd. *Sufi Castigator: Ahmad Kasravi and the Iranian Mystical Tradition*. London and New York: Routledge, 2006, pp. 5-9; 104-113; 160-190.

Additional Reading Material:

Major Reference Tools:

1) *Encyclopaedia Iranica* (online version:

<http://www.iranicaonline.org/>)

2) *Encyclopedia of Islam*

3) *The Cambridge History of Iran*. Different editors. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1968-1991, 7 vols. (available as electronic resource in the Bloomfield Library)

4) *The Cambridge History of Islam*. Ed. P.M. Holt, Ann K.S. Lambton, B. Lewis. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1977, 4 vols. (reprinted in 1992) (available as electronic resource in the Bloomfield Library).

5) פרקים בתולדות הערבים והאסלאם. בעריכת חוה לצרוס-פיה (תל-אביב: רשפים, תשכ"ז/1967).

Pre-Islamic Iran:

1. *The Cambridge History of Iran*. Ed. Ehsan Yarshater. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1983 (vol. 3 in two parts.) [electronic resource]

2. Boyce, Mary. *Zoroastrians: Their Religious Beliefs and Practices*. London: Routledge and Keagan Paul, 1986. [BL 1525 B695]

3. Brosius, Maria. *The Persians: An Introduction*. London&New York: Routledge, 2006. [DS 275 B76 2006]

4. Hinnells, John R. *Persian Mythology*. New York: Hamlyn, 1973. [BL 2270 H56]

5. Wiesehöfer, Josef. *Ancient Persia from 550 BC to 650 AD*. Tr. by A. Azodi. London&New York: I.B. Tauris, 1996. [DS 281 W543 2001]

Iran in the Middle Ages:

1. *The Cambridge History of Iran*. Ed. R.N. Frye. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1975 (vol. 4). [electronic resource]

2. *The Cambridge History of Iran*. Ed. J.A. Boyle. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1968 (vol. 5). [electronic resource]

3. Gronke, Monika. *Iran. A Short History from Islamization to the Present*. Trans. by S. Rendall. Princeton: Markus Wiener Publishers, 2008. [DS 272 G763 2008]

4. Morgan, David. *Medieval Persia 1040-1797*. London&New York: Longman, 1988. [DS 288 M67]

Classical Persian Literature:

1. de Bruijn, J.T.P. *Persian Sufi Poetry. An Introduction to the Mystical Use of Classical Persian Poems*. Richmond: Curzon, 1997. [PK 6416 B78]

2. Morrison, G. "Persian Literature (Belles-Lettres) from the Earliest Times to the Time of Jāmī". In *History of Persian Literature from the Beginning of the Islamic Period to the Present Day*. Ed. by Morrison, G. Leiden-Köln: E.J. Brill, 1981, pp. 1-81. (*Handbuch der Orientalistik*) [PK 6406 M6; also available as electronic resource]

3. Rypka, Jan. "Poets and Prose Writers of the Late Saljuq and Mongol Periods". In *The Cambridge History of Iran. Vol. 5: The Saljuq and Mongol Periods*. Ed. by Boyle, J.A. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1968, pp. 550-625. [electronic resource]

4. Rypka, Jan. "History of Persian Literature up to the Beginning of the 20th Century". *History of Iranian Literature*. Ed. by Rypka, J. Dordrecht: D. Reidel Publishing Company, 1968, pp. 69-351. [PK 6097 R913; also available as electronic resource]

Course/Module evaluation:

End of year written/oral examination 0 %

Presentation 0 %

Participation in Tutorials 15 %

Project work 0 %

Assignments 85 %

Reports 0 %

Research project 0 %

Quizzes 0 %

Other 0 %

Additional information:

None