Women and Femininity in Jewish Folk Narratives  
Professor Haya Bar-Itzhak

Course Description
In this course we will examine the concept of women and femininity in Jewish folk narratives. We will uncover women archetypes in Jewish myths starting with Eve (Hava) and Lilith in the Hebrew Bible until contemporary Jewish culture. There will be discussions on the portrait of women in Jewish Legends of Demons, Sacred Legends, Novellas and Jewish Wonder tales. Encompassed in our discussions will be issues relating to the wise women, the trickster women, the brave women, the mother, relationship among women and interrelationship between men and women.

Course Requirements:
The classes will consist of lectures and discussions, and the weekly reading assignments. During the course students will make a class presentation (40%). At the end of the semester students shall prepare a term paper (60%).

Absences will negatively impact your grade. You should not miss class unless you have an emergency or a disease.

Bibliography
Books


**Articles**


Schedule of Classes
We 9/3 Folk Narratives – Introduction
Reading: Olrik 1965.

We 9/10 Introduction to Jewish Folk Narratives

We 9/17 Jewish Myth About Women
Reading: "Lilith", "Why Do Man Have an Adams Apple in their Troat"

We 9/24 Women and Religion – The Jewish Holy Virgin

We 10/1 Women and Community – Esther & Estherke

We 10/8 Women in Times of Persecution – The Brave Heroine

We 10/29 Women and Demons
Reading: "Women and Demons"

We 11/19 Women in Wonder Tales – The Jewish Cinderella
Reading: Dundes 1982; Bar-Itzhak 1993; Bilu & Hassan-Rokem 1989.

We 11/26 Women Tricksters in Jewish Novellas
Reading: Bar-Itzhak & Shenhar 1993, 129-144.

We 3/12 Women as Suffering Heroines; Men, Women and Social Order.

Changes in Syllabus
This syllabus is subject to change.