Jewish History from the Spanish Expulsion to the Eve of the Enlightenment

This course will survey major trends in Jewish society from the break-up of the medieval world to the emergence of a new order in 18th century Europe. We will trace the transition of Jewish society towards modernity by following the varieties of cultural, social, and religious life among communities of Jewish exiles from Spain from 1492 through the early 18th century. Prerequisites: None.

Required Books: The following book is required for this course. It is available through various online distributors or directly through the press's website.

Lawrence Fine, Judaism in Practice: From the Middle Ages through the Early Modern Period (Princeton University Press, 2001)

What is expected of you:

a) Reading: You should complete each reading assignment before the class session and be ready to discuss the themes and substance of the assignments. Please bring all assigned primary source readings to class on the day for which the reading has been assigned (i.e., internet sources and handouts, etc.). It is your responsibility to contact me if you have difficulty locating the reading assignments. We will not always talk about all of the readings directly. However, these readings were selected to provide you with a foundation for the material and issues covered and you will be responsible for all readings. You are strongly encouraged to bring questions about the readings to class – if one of you had questions or difficulties, others certainly did as well.

b) Attendance: You are responsible for all the material covered in lectures. It is expected that you will be present at all class sessions unless unavoidable circumstances make attendance impossible. If you must miss a class, please make arrangements with another student to get notes. But remember: if you miss a substantial number of classes, your participation grade will suffer proportionately. You will be permitted three absences over the course of the term; every unexcused absence thereafter will lower your grade by one third. Guidelines for excused absences can be found here: https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/1617/regulations/info/attendance.aspx#absences. Please turn off your cell phones before class begins. If your cell phone rings or if you spend your time texting, you may be asked to leave the class and this will count as an unexcused absence.

c) Written assignments: Historical writing demands that you make your arguments in a clear and precise manner and that you back them up with historical evidence. Thus, written assignments will be graded on the basis of style as well as content. Completion of the written assignments is absolutely required. Late assignments will not be accepted without penalty. Please make every effort to apprise me of adverse circumstances that affect your ability to attend class or complete assignments on time. Official documentation is required to excuse an absence and to schedule make-up assignments. Do not submit your work to via email – written work must be presented in hard-copy.
d) **Course Requirements:** i) Two midterms, the first is worth 20% and the second is worth 25% of your final grade. ii) Two short text analyses, due on 22 September and 17 November, the first is worth 20% and the second is worth 25% of your final grade. iii) Participation in class discussions, worth 10%. I will be happy to read and comment on all written assignments prior to the due date; just be sure to give me enough time to read your work carefully and get it back to you in time for you to make any changes.

**Grade Distribution and Grading Scale**

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>100-93</td>
<td>92-90</td>
<td>74-71</td>
<td>62-60</td>
<td>below 60</td>
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<tr>
<td>First paper</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>92-90</td>
<td>89-87</td>
<td>70-71</td>
<td>66-63</td>
<td>63-60</td>
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<tr>
<td>Second paper</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>86-83</td>
<td>82-79</td>
<td>70-75</td>
<td>66-63</td>
<td>below 60</td>
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<tr>
<td>First exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>86-83</td>
<td>82-79</td>
<td>70-75</td>
<td>62-60</td>
<td>60-56</td>
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<tr>
<td>Second exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>82-79</td>
<td>78-75</td>
<td>71-75</td>
<td>66-63</td>
<td>below 60</td>
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More information on grades and grading policies can be found here: [https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx](https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx)

e) **Academic Honesty:** According to the UF Academic Honesty Guidelines, “an academic honesty offense is defined as the act of lying, cheating, or stealing academic information so that one gains academic advantage. As a University of Florida student, one is expected to neither commit nor assist another in committing an academic honesty violation. Additionally, it is the student’s duty to report observed academic honesty violations.” All students are will be expected to follow the UF Honor Code: [https://www.dso.ufl.edu/scrc/process/student-conduct-honor-code/](https://www.dso.ufl.edu/scrc/process/student-conduct-honor-code/)

*All academic honesty offenses will result in a failing grade in this class.*

Students with disabilities requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, [http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/)). The DCR will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation.

**Course Schedule – Readings for this class can be found in three locations:** in Fine, *Judaism in Practice*, in the Canvas ‘Files’ (organized by week) and marked below with an asterisk, and on direct links to websites.

### Week I
21 – 25 August  
*Introduction: Leading to the Spanish Expulsion of 1492*

* Sentencia-Estatuto de Toledo, 1449

### Week II
28 August – 1 September  
*Expulsion and Resettlement…Portugal and Beyond*

Fine, *Judaism in Practice*, 143-153 and 325-338
[http://www.sephardicstudies.org/decree.html](http://www.sephardicstudies.org/decree.html)
Week III
4 – 8 September

**Labor Day:** no class on Monday

*Fine, Judaism in Practice* 348-352.


Week IV
11 – 15 September

**Jewish Life in Renaissance Italy**

*Fine, Judaism in Practice* 52-60, 203-209;


*de Nepi-Murder in the Roman Ghetto

*Siegmund-Taverns*

Week V
18 – 22 September

**The Ghetto**

*Fine, Judaism in Practice* 453-469;

*Siegmund-Gelinbra Testament

*Francescon-Illicit Sex in the Italian Ghetto*

Week VI
25 – 29 September

**Jewish Culture in the Muslim World**

*Fine, Judaism in Practice*, 237-247 and 375-398;


*First Text Analysis due:* Describe and analyze the pietistic practices reproduced in Fine, Judaism in Practice 375-385. What kind of rituals are these and what are they meant to achieve? What do they teach you about the community that practiced them?

*Primary sources on Jews in the Muslim world - TBA*

Week VII
2 – 6 October

**Shabbtai Tzvi**

No class on Friday - Homecoming

*Fine, Judaism in Practice*, 470-482;


*Ben Naeh Jews in the Kadi Court*
Week VIII
9 – 13 October  
* Letter from the Jews of Provence to the Jews of Salonika (ca. 1550)

Week IX  
16 – 20 October  
**MIDTERM Wednesday** * Bring a blue book.*  
No class on Friday

* *Encyclopedia Judaica*, “Menasseh ben Israel” *you have to download this file – it is not readable in preview mode.*

Week X  
23 – 27 October  

Week XI  
30 October – 3 November  
* Bodian-Inventory of Inquisitorial Prisoner’s Possessions

**On Friday 3 November, we will meet in front of the Smathers Library. Be sure to read the following for class that day:**

Week XII  
6 – 10 November  
* *France and the Netherlands*  

Week XII  
6 – 10 November  
* *Central Europe*  

Veterans’ Day: no class on Friday

Martin Luther, *Letter to Spalatin*, [http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1514luther.html](http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1514luther.html);
* Isaac Zarfati
* Stow-Trent 1475
* Jütte-Jailhouse Encounters
* Staudinger-Aulic Court

Week XIII
13 – 17 November

Glikl of Hameln

Fine, *Judaism in Practice*, 483-497;
* Robert Liberles, "’She sees that her merchandise is good, and her lamp is not extinguished at nighttime’: Glikl’s memoir as historical source” in *Nashim* 7 (2004): 11-27

Week XIV
20 – 24 November

Thanksgiving: no class on Wednesday or Friday

Jewish Life in Poland

Fine, *Judaism in Practice*, 61-72
* Greenblatt-Women's Writing
* Magdalena Teter “Jewish Conversion to Catholicism in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth of the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries” in *Jewish History* 17:3 (2003) 257-283

Week XV
27 November – 1 December

The Ba’al Shem Tov and the Vilna Gaon

Fine, *Judaism in Practice*, 498-520;
* Teller-Violence in the Ukraine

Week XVI
4 – 6 December

Conclusion

Voltaire, *A Treatise on Tolerance*, [https://history.hanover.edu/courses/excerpts/111voltaire.html](https://history.hanover.edu/courses/excerpts/111voltaire.html).

More small print…

Online Course Evaluation Process: Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course based on 10 criteria. These evaluations are conducted online at [https://evaluations.ufl.edu](https://evaluations.ufl.edu). Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at [https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results](https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results).

Note: A grade of C- is not a qualifying grade for major, minor, Gen Ed, or College Basic distribution credit. For further information on UF's Grading Policy, see: [https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx - hgrades](https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx - hgrades)[http://www.isis.ufl.edu/minusgrades.html](http://www.isis.ufl.edu/minusgrades.html)