

EUH 3670/ASH 3931/JST3930/MEM3930 Jewish History: 711-1492

Instructor: Dr. Nina Caputo

Time/Place: MWF Period 6, Keene-Flint 111

Office Hours: 2:00-3:00 W&F, and by appointment

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**Course description:** This course will survey major historic developments in medieval Jewish society under both Islam and western Christendom. We will look at the divergence of Judaism and Christianity, the rise of the Babylonian geonim, the social and cultural history of Jews in the Arab Mediterranean world, the emergence of Jewish communities in Medieval Ashkenaz, and the impact on Jewish society of the Crusades, the Reconquista, the emergence of the mendicant orders, and the Black Death. In the lectures, readings and assignments, students will examine the interaction of Jews with the majority culture, political structure, and economy, as well as changing cultural trends within Jewish society. The distinctive religious climate of the medieval period will serve as a unifying theme throughout. We will study primary sources as well as recent historical scholarship

**University of Florida GatorLink Email :** Class announcements will be sent out to your gatormail accounts via the classrolls mailing list. Check your GatorLink email account on a regular basis; you will be held responsible for all amendments to reading or writing assignments posted there. 'I don't check my GatorLink account' will not be considered a valid excuse for failure to complete an assignment or follow instructions.

**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 the instructor 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. Unless otherwise noted, assignments will be collected at the end of the precept session for which they are assigned. Do not submit your work to via email – written work must be presented in hard-copy.

**Reading assignments :** You will likely find yourself frustrated and confused during the lectures if you do not make a good faith effort to finish the reading assignments before the class meetings. If you find yourself falling behind in the readings, I suggest you at least skim the texts for each week before lectures so you are familiar with the themes and issues addressed on that day.

**Attendance:** Students are expected to attend class regularly and arrive for lecture promptly. A penalty will be imposed on students who arrive late for class. Attendance is mandatory. Unexcused absences will be penalized in the following manner: you will be permitted **three** absences over the course of the term; every unexcused absence thereafter will lower your grade by one third of a grade (i.e., from A- to B+).

In writing papers, be certain to give proper credit whenever you use words, phrases, ideas, arguments, and conclusions drawn from someone else's work. Failure to give credit by quoting and/or footnoting is **PLAGIARISM** and will not be accepted in this class because it violates the University of Florida's honesty policy. Please review the policy at <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/>.

Please do not hesitate to contact the instructor during the semester if you have any individual concerns or issues that need to be discussed. Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drp/>). The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation.

Please turn off your cell phones. If your cell phone rings or if you spend your time texting, you will be asked to leave the class and this will count as an unexcused absence.

**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>. 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>.

### Grade Distribution and Grading Scale

Participation – 10 %	A = 100 - 93	C = 74 - 71
First paper – 20 %	A- = 92 - 90	C- = 70 - 67
Second paper – 25 %	B+ = 89 - 87	D+ = 66 - 63
First exam - 20 %	B = 86 - 83	D = 62 - 60
Second exam - 25%	B- = 82 - 79	D- = 59 – 56
	C+ = 78 – 75	F = below 55

**Participation:** History classes are most rewarding when students interact with the texts, each other, and the instructor on a sustained basis. Readings provide the raw material for class discussion, where much of the learning takes place. Effective class participation is therefore essential. Students can expect a respectful atmosphere in which to express their opinions. Participation will be graded on: a) contribution to in-class discussion based on a careful reading of the assigned texts; b) Regular and prompt attendance. You will be permitted three 'free-be' absences over the course of the term ; every absence thereafter will lower your grade by one third. If you spend your time in class engaged with other activities – like texting – your participation grade will also suffer.

**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> - [hgradeshttp://www.isis.ufl.edu/minusgrades.html](http://www.isis.ufl.edu/minusgrades.html)

**Required Books:** The following books are required for this course. They are available through various on line distributors or directly through the presses' websites.

Mark Cohen *Under Crescent and Cross: The Jews in the Middle Ages*(Princeton University Press, 1994)

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

Nina Caputo and Liz Clarke *Debating Truth: The Barcelona Disputation of 1263* (Oxford University Press, 2017)

### **Weekly Schedule:**

\* Color codes: **green** means that the reading can be found in the files; **purple** indicates a link to an external site; and **black** indicates an assigned book.

I 7-11 January

### **Introduction: Beginnings**

READINGS:

<http://www.acs.ucalgary.ca/~elsegal/TalmudPage.html>

[http://www.acs.ucalgary.ca/~elsegal/361\\_Transp/T05\\_Shema\\_sources.html](http://www.acs.ucalgary.ca/~elsegal/361_Transp/T05_Shema_sources.html)

[http://www.acs.ucalgary.ca/~elsegal/361\\_Transp/T04\\_Prayer\\_structure.html](http://www.acs.ucalgary.ca/~elsegal/361_Transp/T04_Prayer_structure.html)

[Josephus, Jewish Wars \(Book 6, read chapters 8-10\)](#)

Fine, 1-36, 39-48 (text #5)

II 14-18 January

### **Shared Roots, Contested Authority**

READINGS:

Cohen, 4-29

[Strabo The Geography](#)

Stillman, *The Jews of Arab Lands* xxiii-xxv (Chronological Table) 3-21, 149-151

III 21-25 January

**No class 21 January, MLK Day**

**Jewish Life and Culture Under Islam: Legal and Communal Foundations**

READINGS:

Stillman *The Jews of Arab Lands* 22-39; 113-136; 152-162

Saadya Gaon, excerpts from *Book of Beliefs and Opinions*

Fine, 229-236

Cohen, 111-120

IV 28 January-1 February

**Jewish Life and Culture Under Islam: Legal and Communal Foundations**

READINGS:

Stillman, *The Jews of Arab Lands* 165-183, 200-206, 210-211

Cohen, 52-74

Rustow, "Formal and Informal Patronage Among Jewish in the Islamic East: Evidence from the Cairo Geniza" in *Al-Qantara* vol. 29, no. 2 (2008), 341-382

V 4-8 February

**Jewish Life and Culture Under Islam: Economy**

**First Paper, Due 8 February**

READINGS:

Stillman, *The Jews of Arab Lands* , 40-63, 163-164, 192-197, 252-254

Cohen, 88-103

VI 11-15 February

**Jewish Life and Culture Under Islam: Culture and Literature**

READINGS:

Fine, 413-428

[Stillman, \*The Jews of Arab Lands\*, 211-251](#)

Cohen, 131-136, 145-169

VII 18-22 February

**Monday, 18 February, Midterm**

**Early Christianity and the Jews**

READINGS:

Cohen, 30-51

[Paul's Epistle to the Hebrews, Epistle to the Romans, chapters 9-10](#)

[Augustine, \*The City of God\*, Book XVII, ch. 46](#)

[John Chrysostom, \*Homily Against the Jews\*, IV](#)

[Later Roman Law](#)

[Toldot Yeshu](#)

VIII 25 February-1 March

**Jews in Medieval Latin Christendom: Settlement in Western Europe**

Cohen, 77-88, 107-111

[Malkiel, "Jewish Christian Relations in Europe, 840-1096" in \*Journal of Medieval History\* vol 29, no. 1 \(March 2003\).](#)

[Charlemagne's Capitulary for the Jews](#)

Agobard of Lyon, On the Insolence of the Jews

Jewish Trade

Charter of Speyer

IX 4-8 March

**Spring Break**

X 11-15 March

**Jews in Medieval Latin Christendom: Culture and Religion**

Ivan Marcus, "A Jewish-Christian Symbiosis: The Culture of Early Ashkenaz" in *Cultures of the Jewsed*. David Biale (Schocken, 2002), 449-514

Fine, 115-130, 191-202

XI 18-22 March

**The Crusades: Impact and Responses**

Fine 438-452

Christian Accounts

Shepkaru, "Death Twice Over: Dualism of Metaphor and Realia in 12th Century Hebrew Crusading Accounts" in *Jewish Quarterly Review* vol. 93. nos. 1-2 (2002), 217-256

XII 25-29 March

**Jewish-Christian Relations: Mutual Perceptions and Cultural Encounters**

Cohen, 121-131

Gilbert Crispin: <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/12jewschristian-2views.html>

XIII 1-5 April

**Jewish-Christian Relations: Mutual Perceptions and Cultural Encounters**

[McCulloh, "Jewish Ritual Murder: William of Norwich, Thomas of Monmouth, and the Early Dissemination of the Myth" in \*Speculum\* vol. 72, no 3 \(1997\), 698-740.](#)

Miri Rubin, "Making a Martyr: William of Norwich and the Jews" in *History Today* (June 2010)

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/1173williamnorwich.html>

XIV 8-12 April

**Shifts in the Legal Status of European Jewry**

**Second Paper - Due 7 April**

Fine, 429-437

[Pope Innocent III, Constitution for the Jews](#)

Fourth Lateran Council, in *Debating Truths*

XV 15-19 April

**Jewish-Christian Dialogue**

Caputo and Clarke, *Debating Truth*

XVI 12-14 April

**The Case of Late-Medieval Spain**

Cohen, 169-199

[Nirenberg "Mass Conversion"](#)

[Limpieza de Sangre](#)

[Synod of Castilian Jews](#)

[Edict of Expulsion](#)

Account of Expulsion

**Final exam April 29, 10:00 am**