



EUH3670/ASH3931/WOH3931

Instructor: Dr. Nina Caputo
Time/Place: MWF Period 6, Keene-Flint 119
Office Hours: 2:00-3:00 M&W, and by appointment
Office Location: 233 Keene-Flint Hall
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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

Required Books: The following books are required for this course. They are available through various on line distributors or directly through the presses' websites. You are expected to have these books in hard copy and to bring them to class on the days they have been assigned.

Mark Cohen *Under Crescent and Cross: The Jews in the Middle Ages* (Princeton University Press, 2008)

Lawrence Fine, *Judaism in Practice: From the Middle Ages through the Early Modern Period* (Princeton University Press, 2002)

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

Grade Distribution and Grading Scale

Participation - 10 %	A = 100 - 93	C = 74 - 71
Paper - 30 %	A- = 92 - 90	C- = 70 - 67
First exam - 25 %	B+ = 89 - 87	D+ = 66 - 63

Second exam - 35%

B = 86 - 83

D = 62 - 60

B- = 82 - 79

D- = 59 - 56

C+ = 78 - 75

F = below 55

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)

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.

Email : Class announcements will be sent out through the canvas site. Be sure to read all announcements; you will be held responsible for all amendments to reading or writing assignments posted there.

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*. Unexcused 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. I will try to work with you to help you succeed in this course if something comes up that makes it impossible to complete the work in timely fashion, but I can only help you if you communicate with me. 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 class session on which they are due. Do not submit your work to via email unless otherwise instructed – 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+).

Academic Honesty: In writing papers, be certain to give proper credit whenever you use words, phrases, ideas, arguments, and conclusions drawn from someone else's work. Please note that the recently revised Honor Code specifically prohibits the use of "any materials or resources, through any medium, which the Faculty has not given express permission to use and that may confer an academic benefit to a Student." This includes the use of web sources and AI. Failure to give credit by quoting and/or footnoting is **PLAGIARISM** and **CHEATING** and will not be accepted in this class because it violates the University of Florida's honesty policy. Please review the policy at [https://policy.ufl.edu/regulation/4-040/Links to an external site.](https://policy.ufl.edu/regulation/4-040/Links%20to%20an%20external%20site)

Accommodations: Please do not hesitate to contact me 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.

Electronic device policy: 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. I strongly recommend that you take lecture and reading notes by hand. Studies have shown that writing, rather than typing, stimulates active learning and aids memory retention.

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>.

* Color codes: **green** means that this is an internal canvas link; **purple** indicates a link to an external site; and **black** indicates an assigned book. Please let me know right away if there are problems with any of the links.

I 8-12 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/T04_Prayer_structure.html

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

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

II 15 -19 January

No class 15 January, MLK Day

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](#)

<https://www.bl.uk/collection-items/babylonian-talmud>

[Hebrew Calendar](#)

[The Kallah](#)

III 22 -26 January

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 29 January-2 February

Jewish Life and Culture Under Islam: Legal and Communal Foundations

READINGS:

[Stillman, *The Jews of Arab Lands* 165-183, 200-206](#)

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](#)

[A fragment of one of Saadya's *piyyutim*](#)

V 5-9 February

Jewish Life and Culture Under Islam: Economy

READINGS:

[Stillman, *The Jews of Arab Lands* , 40-63, 163-164, 192-197, 210-213, 252-254](#)

[Hasdai ibn Shaprut - letter to the Khazar King Joseph](#)

Cohen, 88-103

[Map of Al-Andalus](#)

[Recommended: Shmuel and Joseph ha-Nagid](#)

VI 12-16 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
[Judah ha-Levi, *The Kuzari*](#)
[Judah ha Levi - poetry](#)

VII 19-23 February

Monday, 19 February, Midterm

Early Christianity and the Jews

READINGS:

Cohen, 30-51

VIII 26 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 \(March 2003\)](#)

[Paul's Epistle to the Romans, chapter 9-10](#)[Links to an external site.](#)

[Links to an external site.](#)[Augustine, *City of God*, Book XVII, ch. 46](#)

[John Chrysostom, *Homily Against the Jews IV* - read section I, skim the rest](#)

[Jews and Later Roman Law](#)

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

[Agobard of Lyon, *On the Insolence of the Jews*](#)

IX 4-8 March

Jews in Medieval Latin Christendom: Culture and Religion

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

Fine, 115-130, 191-202

[Charter of Speyer](#)

[Hebrew Account of Speyer](#)

X 11-15 March

Spring Break

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 25-28 March

Paper Due 28 March

Jewish-Christian Relations: Mutual Perceptions and Cultural Encounters

Cohen, 121-131

Toldot Yeshu

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>Links to an external site.

XIV 8-12 April

Shifts in the Legal Status of European Jewry

Fine, 429-437

Pope Innocent III, Constitution for the Jews

Fourth Lateran Council, in *Debating Truth*

William of Newburgh

Petrus Alfonsi

Herman the Jew

XV 15-19 April

Jewish-Christian Dialogue

Caputo and Clarke, *Debating Truth*

XVI 22-24 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 30, 3:00-5:00 pm