

**Jewish Culture in North Africa & Israel**

Fall Semester 2007 (since updated)

Turlington Hall

Tu 10:40am-11:30am &amp;

Th 10:40am-12:35pm

Professor Harvey Goldberg

JST 3930, Sect 6439

Tu - 2350

Th - 184 Norman Hall

Hours: Tu-5<sup>th</sup> period & OfficeThu- 7<sup>th</sup> period(5<sup>th</sup> = 11:45am - 12:35pm)(7<sup>th</sup> = 1:55pm - 2:45pm)**OBJECTIVES**

*Background:* In the mid-twentieth century about one million Jews lived in the Muslim countries of the Middle East, half of them in North Africa. Together, they constituted less than 10% of world Jewry, and well over 90% of them subsequently emigrated to Israel, as well as to Western Europe, the Americas and elsewhere. In Israel, Jews of Middle Eastern backgrounds now constitute about one-half of the Jewish population, and until the large-scale immigration from the former Soviet Union, Jews from Morocco were the largest country-of-origin group in the society. In France, Jews of North African background now outnumber those of European provenance. It is somewhat ironic that scholarly research on these groups developed consistently only after their emigration from the Maghrib (North Africa), but there now exists a considerable body of work by historians, anthropologists, and other scholars on Jewish life in the Maghrib during recent centuries. Once considered an "exotic" subject, it is now time for understanding the history and culture of Jews in North Africa as part of Jewish Studies and the history of the modern Middle East.

This course is a survey of the traditional social structure and cultural features of North African Jewry, and an analysis of the changes taking place within it during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Jewish life will be viewed as reflecting both the imprint of the Maghribi environment and the influence of Jewish communal and religious traditions. Topics to be examined in detail include the nature of Muslim-Jewish relationships, the comparison of communities in urban and tribal areas, and changes within the Jewish communities in the 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> centuries. At the end, the course also will examine emigration from North Africa and the evolution of North African Jewish life in Israel.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

There will be two exercises/papers due during the semester, and a final paper. The grade on each exercise will worth 15% of the final grade (totaling 30%), and the paper will be worth 70% of the final grade. The first exercise will be due by the end of the fifth week, and the second will due at the end of the eighth week. At that time, discussions about final papers, due at the last day of the semester, will be begin.

## COURSE STRUCTURE

The Topics and Readings are listed below organized into a framework of fifteen weeks. Individual topics may be expanded or “shrunk” somewhat as the semester progresses.

### **Week One - Some source materials**

Mordecai Ha-Cohen. *The Book of Mordechai*, Edited by H. Goldberg (Philadelphia: Institute for the Study of Human Issues, 1980.) {Reissued, London: Darf Publishers, 1993}, pp. 178-193.

Aron Rodrigue. *Images of Sephardi and Eastern Jewries in Transition: The Teachers of the Alliance Israélite Universelle, 1860-1939* (Seattle: University of Washington Press), pp. 144-162.

### **Week Two - General Background**

Reeva Spector Simon, Michael Menachem Laskier, and Sara Reguer, eds., *The Jews of the Middle East and North Africa in Modern Times* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2003), chaps. 1-3 (pp. 3-48).

### **Week Three - Language and other Cultural factors**

Norman Stillman. “Contacts and Boundaries in the Domain of Language: The Case of Sefriwi Judeo-Arabic,” in Mark Cohen and Abraham Udovitch (eds.) *Jews among Arabs: Contacts and Boundaries* (Princeton: Darwin Press, 1989), pp. 97-111. DS135 A68 J46

Yosef Tobi. “The Flowering of Judeo - Arabic Literature in North Africa 1850-1950”, in Harvey E. Goldberg (ed.) *Sephardi and Middle Eastern Jewries in the Modern Era* (Bloomington, 1996), pp. 213-225. DS148.5 S4 S401

### **Week Four - The North African Environment**

Lucette Valensi. “Religious Orthodoxy or Local Tradition: Marriage Celebration in Southern Tunisia,” in Mark Cohen and Abraham Udovitch (eds.) *Jews among Arabs: Contacts and Boundaries* (Princeton: Darwin Press, 1989), pp. 65-84.

Yoram Bilu and Andre Levy. “Nostalgia and Ambivalence: The Reconstruction of Jewish-Muslim Relations in Oulda-Mansour,” in Harvey E. Goldberg, ed., *Sephardi and Middle Eastern Jewries: History and Culture in the Modern Era*. (Bloomington and New York: Indiana University Press and The Jewish Theological Seminary of America, 1996), pp. 288-311.

Hsaïn Ilahiane. “Spanish Balconies in Morocco: A Window on Cultural Influence and Historical Persistence in the Mallāh (Jewish) community” in Stacy N. Beckwith, ed.,

*Charting Memory: Recalling Medieval Spain* (New York: Garland, 2000), chap. 6 (pp. 171-193).

### **Week Five - Daily Life and the Economy**

Mordecai Ha-Cohen. *The Book of Mordechai*, pp. 77-96.

Daniel J. Schroeter. *Merchants of Essaouira: Urban Society and Imperialism in Woutwestern Morocco, 1844-1886* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press), chaps. 1-3 (pp. 1-60).

### **Week Six - Social Stratification and Leadership**

Morton Rosenstock. "The House of Bacri: and Busnach," *Jewish Social Studies* 14 (1952): 343-364.

Daniel J. Schroeter. *The Sultan's Jew: Morocco and the Sephardi World* (Stanford: Stnford University Press, 2002), pp. 36-54. DS135 M8 S38 2002

### **Week Seven - Family**

Rachel Simon. *Change Within Tradition Among Jewish Women in Libya* (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1992), pp. 21-35. DS135 L4 S56

Joëlle Bahloul. *The Architecture of Memory: A Jewish-Muslim household in colonial Algeria 1937-1962* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996), chaps. 1-2 (pp. 11-50).

### **Week Eight - Change: Status of Jews of Jewish – European Relations**

L. Bowie. "An Aspect of Muslim-Jewish Relations in Late 19<sup>th</sup> Century Morocco: A European Diplomatic View," *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 1 (1974): 3-19.

Mordecai Ha-Cohen. *The Book of Mordechai*, pp. 40-61.

### **Week Nine – Economic and Communal Changes**

Kenneth Brown. "The Mkīna of Eugenio Lumbroso: A Case Study in the Beginnings of Industrialization in Tunisia," in *The Sephardic and Oriental Jewish Heritage*, ed. I. Ben-Ami (Jerusalem: Magnes Press, 1982), 179-90.

Renzo De Felice. *Jews in an Arab Land: Libya 1935-1970*. Translated by J. Roumani. (Austin: University of Texas Press, 1985), chap. 4 (pp. 80-116).

### **Week 10 - Education and Zionism**

Harvey E. Goldberg and Claudio G. Segrè. "Mixtures of Diverse Substances: Education and the Hebrew Language among the Jews of Libya, 1875-1951," in S. Fishbane and J. Lightstone, eds. *Essays in the Social Scientific Study of Judaism and Jewish Society* (Montreal: Concordia University Press, 1990), pp. 151-201.

Haim Saadoun. "Tunisia," in Reeva Spector Simon, Michael Menachem Laskier, and Sara Reguer, eds., *The Jews of the Middle East and North Africa in Modern Times*, chap. 24 (pp. 444-457).

### **Week 11 - Religious and Cultural Trends**

Abraham Udovitch and Lucette Valensi. *The Last Arab Jews: The Communities of Jerba, Tunisia* (New York: Harwood, 1984), chap. 7 (pp.119-131).

Norman Stillman. *Sephardi Religious Responses to Modernity* (Luxembourg: Harwood, 1995), Chapter on Eliahu Hazan (pp. 29-47).

### **Week 12 - Toward Aliya**

Michael M. Laskier. *North African Jewry in the Twentieth Century: The Jews of Morocco, Tunisia, and Algeria* (New York: New York University Press, 1994), Chap. 4 (pp. 117-157).

Norman Stillman. *The Jews of Arab Lands in Modern Times* (Philadelphia: Jewish Publication Society, 1991) pp. 433-436.

### **Week 13 - Entering Israeli Society**

Dorothy Willner. *Nation Building and Community in Israel* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1969), pp. 117-124.

Harvey E. Goldberg. *Cave-dwellers and Citrus-growers: A Jewish Community in Libya and Israel* (Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 1972), pp. 46-56.

Shlomo Swirsky. *Israel: The Oriental Majority* (London: Zed Books, 1989), pp. 7-18.

### **Week 14 - Cultural Expressions in Israel and France**

Yoram Bilu. "Dreams and the Wishes of the Saint," in Harvey Goldberg, (ed.), *Judaism Viewed From Within and From Without* (Albany: SUNY Press, 1987), pp. 285-313. DS148.5 A1 J84

Shlomo Deshen. "Revitalization of Literacy: The Works of Tunisian Scholars in Israel," *American Ethnologist* 2 (1975): 251-59.

Harvey E. Goldberg. "Introduction: Culture and Ethnicity in the Study of Israeli Society," in special issue of *Ethnic Groups* (publ. Gordon & Breach) on 'Ethnicity in Israeli Society,' 1 (1977): 163-186.

Efrat Rosen-Lapidot and Harvey E. Goldberg. The triple loci of Jewish-Maghribi ethnicity: Voluntary associations in Israel and in France. *The Journal of North African Studies* 18:112-30, 2013. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/13629387.2012.702014>

### **Week 15 - Summary and final paper**