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3139 FAB  
Office hours MW 10-10:30 & by appt.

### **History 3995/3010: Jewish History to 1492**

This course will survey the history of the Jews from biblical antiquity until the Expulsion from Spain. The course will explore a wide variety of topics, but will focus around three themes: the emergence of rabbinic Judaism and the Jewish life in the diaspora out of the religious and social matrix of ancient Israelite religion and society; the challenges to the primacy of Torah Judaism by Hellenistic culture; and the disparities between Jewish life under Christianity and Islam. Although primarily a lecture course, students are strongly encouraged to participate by asking and answering questions in class. Please note: each two-hour class meeting will be divided into two sessions separated by a break.

#### **Required Reading** (available at the campus book store and are on reserve in the library):

Eli Barnavi, *A Historical Atlas of the Jewish People*  
Judith Baskin, *Jewish Women in Historical Perspective*  
William Hallo, et al, *Heritage, Civilization, and the Jews: A Source Reader* (HCJ)  
Howard Lupovitch, *Jews and Judaism in World History*  
Norman Stillman, *The Jews of Arab Lands*  
*Tanakh: The Holy Scriptures* (JPS Edition)

#### **Lecture topics and reading assignments:**

##### **Sep 2 Introduction: the Dimensions of Jewish History**

###### **The World of the Hebrew Bible**

Reading: HCJ, 1-1 – 1-15

Barnavi 1-13

Baskin, ch 1

Lupovitch, Intro, ch 1

Tanakh: Genesis 12, 22; Exodus 19-24; Leviticus 19, Numbers 16,

Deuteronomy 6:1-9, 26; Judges 18-21, I Samuel 1, 4-6, 8, 9, 12, 15

##### **7 Labor Day – No class**

##### **9 The Kingdom of David and Solomon**

Reading: HCJ, 1-16, 1-17, 1-18

Barnavi, 14-19

Tanakh: II Samuel 5-7, 11-12, I Kings 3-6, 8, 10-11, Proverbs 5-6

###### **The Divided Monarchy**

Reading: HCJ, 1-19, 1-20, 1-22

Barnavi, 20-23

Tanakh: I Kings 12

##### **14 Rosh Hashana – No class**

##### **16 The Age of Prophecy**

Reading: HCJ, 1-23

Barnavi, 26-27

Tanakh: I Kings 17-19; Isaiah 6, 36-39; Hosea 1-3; Amos 1-2

**The Reforms of Josiah**

Reading: HCJ 1-24

Tanakh: II Kings 22-25, Jeremiah 1, 7, 26, Deuteronomy 22,

**21 Exile and the Return to Zion**

Reading: HCJ, 1-25, 2-1, 2-2, 2-3, 2-4, 2-5, 2-6, 2-7, 2-10, 2-11

Barnavi, 24-25, 28-29, 30-32

Tanakh: II Kings 21-25; Job 1-3, 38-42. Ecclesiastes 1,3; Psalm 130

Lamentations 1, Ezekiel 1, Genesis 5:18-23, 28:12-19, Exodus 24:9-18

I Enoch 14

Schiffman, 33-59

**The Persian Diaspora (and the Real Story of *Purim*)**

Reading: Esther,

**23 Yom Kippur – No class**

**28 Sukkot – No class**

**30 The Challenge of Hellenism**

Reading: HCJ, 52-54 2-12, 2-13

Barnavi, 34-39

Baskin, ch 2

Lupovitch, ch 2

I Maccabees 1-2, Ben Sirah (online)

**The Maccabean Revolt (and the *Real* Story of Hanukkah)**

Reading: HCJ 2-14, 2-15

Barnavi, 40--45

I Maccabees 3-4; II Maccabees (online)

Tanakh: Daniel 7, 12

Oct 5 **Shmini 'Atzeret – No class**

**7 The Hasmonean Dynasty**

Reading: Barnavi, 46-47

**The Reign of Herod**

Reading: Barnavi, 48-51

**12 Jewish Sects: Pharisees, Sadducees, Essenes, Zealots**

Reading: HCJ, 2-17

**The Great Revolt, Masada, and Bar Kochba**

Reading: HCJ, 2-16, 2-19

Barnavi, 56-57, 60-61

**14 Coming of Age in the Diaspora: the Jews of Rome and Alexandria**

Reading: HCJ, 3-3

Baskin, ch 2

**“Rebecca’s Children”: Jesus, Paul, and the Great Schism**

Reading: HCJ, 2-18, 3-5

Barnavi, 54-55

Galatians, 1-3

- 21 **The Rise of Rabbinic Judaism**  
 Reading: HCJ, 3-4  
 Barnavi, 58-59, 62-63; Baskin, ch 3; Lupovitch, ch 3
- Roman Rule and the Limits of Christian Toleration**  
 Reading: HCJ, 3-6, 3-7, 3-8, 3-9  
 Barnavi, 68-69
- 26 **The Jews of Babylonia**  
 Reading: Barnavi, 64-67
- The Mind of the Rabbis I: Religious and Ethical Dimensions**  
 Reading: Baskin, ch 3  
 Barnavi, 72-73
- 28 **The Mind of the Rabbis II: Philosophical and Political Dimensions**  
 Reading: Barnavi, 70-71
- On the Eve of the Muslim Conquest**
- Nov 2 **Muhammed and the *Dhimmi***  
 Reading: HCJ, 3-10, 3-11  
 Barnavi, 74-77, 8-85  
 Stillman, 3-39, 113-170  
 Lupovitch, ch. 4
- Exilarchs and *Gaonim***  
 Reading: HCJ, 3-12, 3-13, 3-14  
 Barnavi, 86-89, 90-93  
 Stillman, 171-182
- 4 **Sa'adia Gaon and the Karaite Schism**  
**The Decline of the Baghdad Caliphate**  
 Reading: Stillman, 40-61, 183-209
- 9 ***Convivencia*: The Jews of Muslim Spain**  
 Reading: Barnavi, 94-95, 100-101; HCJ, 4-1, 4-2, 4-3, 4-4, 4-5, 4-6  
 Stillman, 210-211  
 Abraham Ibn Daud, "The Legend of the Four Captives" (on Blackboard)
- "I am David in My Generation": Samuel Ibn Nagrela**  
 Reading: Stillman, 211-225
- 11 **Maimonides**  
 Reading: HCJ, 4-7, 4-8
- Yehuda Halevi, and the Waning of the Golden Age**  
 Reading: HCJ, 4-9  
 Barnavi, 102-103  
 Stillman, 233-254
- 16 **Ashekenazic Jews from Charlemagne to the First Crusade**  
 Reading: HCJ, 3-16, 4-10  
 Baskin, ch 4  
 Barnavi, 78-79  
 Lupovitch, ch 5

**The Crusades**

Reading: HCJ, 4-11, 4-12  
Barnavi, 108-109

18 **Ashkenazic Culture: The Pietists of Ashekanaz and the Tosafists**

Reading: Barnavi, 98-99  
HCJ 4-17, 4-18

***Servi Camarae Nostrum* and the Medieval Jewish Community**

Reading: Barnavi, 104-105

23 **The Fourth Lateran Council and the Mendicant Friars**

Reading: Barnavi, 106-107

**The Jew in the Christian Popular Imagination**

Reading: HCJ, 4-14

30 **The Age of Expulsions**

Reading: HCJ, 4-16  
Barnavi, 110-111

**The Beginnings of Polish Jewry**

Reading: Barnavi, 116-119

Dec 2 **Jews in the Ottoman Empire**  
**The Jews of Persia**

7 ***Reconquista*: the Jews of Christian Spain**

**Nachmanides and the Disputation of Barcelona**

Reading: Nachmanides, *Vikuach* (online)  
***Las Siete Partidas***(online)

9 **1391**

Reading: HCJ, 4-19, 4-20  
Barnavi, 114-115

**The *Converso* Problem**

Reading: HCJ, 4-21; Barnavi, 120-121 14  
**Conclusion: 1492 and Beyond**