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Fall 2008

HIS 1011x - Medieval Jewish History
Jews and Judaism in the Middle Ages: Under Christendom and Islam

Requirements for this course - an exploration of medieval Jewish life from social and religious perspectives - include readings and class participation, an in-class mid-term and final examination, and a term paper - due our last class session - of approximately ten typewritten pages that employs primary and secondary sources. NO INCOMPLETES WILL BE GRANTED.

All materials in the syllabus can be accessed electronically through Blackboard or found in the library on reserve behind the circulation desk or in the reference section. Reading assignments for each session will be announced and explained at the end of the previous lecture. Those who wish to read ahead of the class are encouraged to do so.

I Definitions and Periodization. Overview of Course and Assigned Readings

"History," Encyclopedia Judaica 8: 651-703 (skim) and examine the time-lines inserted between pages 766 and 767.

M. Gilbert, Jewish History Atlas. You also may wish to consult C. McEvedy, The Penguin Atlas of Medieval History.

Suggested: B. Lewis, The Arabs in History and H. G. Koenigsberger, Medieval Europe 400-1500 or their equivalents.

Recommended: H. H. Ben-Sasson ed., A History of the Jewish People, chs. 25-41 and Y. H. Yerushalmi et al., Bibliographical Essays in Medieval Jewish Studies.

II Christian Theological Attitudes Toward the Jews

The Gospels: Mark, Matthew, Luke and John. (Acquaint yourself with the Gospels and focus on the crucifixion narrative in Mark 15: 6-15 and Matthew 27: 15-26.)

R. Ruether, Faith and Fratricide: 117-182.

J. R. Marcus, The Jew in the Medieval World: 101-114.

III Christianization of the Roman Empire: Ecclesiastical and Imperial Legislation

Marcus: 3-12.

A. Linder, The Jews in Roman Imperial Legislation: 408-410.

J. Cohen, "Roman Imperial Policy towards the Jews," *Byzantine Studies* 3 (1976): 1-29.

IV Aberration or Portent? The Case of Visigothic Spain

A. Linder, The Jews in the Legal Sources of the Early Middle Ages: 279-281; 314-317.

B. Bachrach, Early Medieval Jewish Policy in Western Europe: 3-26.

SESSION ON RESEARCH PAPERS (DATE/TIME TBA)

V Judaism and the Origins of Islam

Our'an: Suras 1 and 2.
N. Stillman, The Jews of Arab Lands: 3-21; 113-120; 122-123; 137-149.

VI Effects of the Muslim Conquest: The Covenant of 'Umar and the People of the Book

Stillman: 152-162; 165-170.
C. Cahen, "Dhimma," Encyclopedia of Islam, 227-231.

VII Jews in the New Cities of the Caliphate; Rise of the Jews as World Traders

S. D. Goitein, A Mediterranean Society 1: 29-74.
Stillman: 163-164.

VIII Jewish Self Government: The Gaonate and the Exilarchate

Stillman: 171-175; 176-182.
H. Malter, Saadia Gaon: 69-88.
E. Rivkin, "The Saadia-David Ben Zakkai Controversy: A Structural Analysis," in Meir Ben-Horin et al. eds., Studies and Essays Presented in Honor of Abraham Neuman: 388-423.
Marcus: 287-292.

IX Political Diversity; Decline in the Power of the Caliphate

Stillman: 40-63; 211-213.
S. D. Goitein, A Mediterranean Society, An Abridgment in One Volume, ed. J. Lassner: 85-92.
Abraham ibn Daud, Sefer ha-Qabbalah, ed. G. D. Cohen: 63-66, English translation.
J. Schirman, "Samuel ha-Nagid, The Man, The Soldier and The Politician," *Jewish Social Studies* 13 (1951): 99-126.

X Messianic and Sectarian Movements

L. Nemoy, Karaite Anthology: 3-29.
Z. Ankori, Karaites in Byzantium: 3-25.

XI Culture of Jewish Elite under Islam

R. Brody, The Geonim of Babylonia and the Shaping of Medieval Jewish Culture: 235-248.
I. Twersky, A Maimonides Reader: 1-29; 35-41; 145-146; 341-349.
Maimonides, "Epistle to Yemen" in A. S. Halkin ed., Epistle to Yemen: i-xx.

MIDTERM

XII Jewry Moves Westward

"Jewish Merchant Charters" in B. Bachrach, Jews in Barbarian Europe: 70-71.
Abraham ibn Daud, Sefer ha-Qabbalah: 97-99, English translation.
R. Chazan, Church, State and Jew in the Middle Ages: 57-59; 69-73.
Idem, European Jewry and the First Crusade: 11-37.

XIII Jewish Self-Government and Christian Society

H. H. Ben-Sasson, "The 'Northern' European Jewish Community and Its Ideals" in Ben-Sasson and S. Ettinger eds., Jewish Society Through the Ages: 208-219.

Kol Bo, 142 in M. Walzer et al. eds., The Jewish Tradition, Volume I, Authority: 392-396.

XIV Women, Men and Family Life in Christian Europe

A. Grossman, Pious and Rebellious. Jewish Women in Medieval Europe: 174-197; 273-281.

E. Baumgarten, Mothers and Children. Jewish Family Life in Medieval Europe: 154-189.

XV Growth of Religious Anti-Judaism and Jewish Response

"The Chronicle of Solomon bar Simson" in S. Eidelberg, The Jews and the Crusaders: 21-72.

"Av ha-Rahamim" from Siddur, Sabbath prayers.

"The Life of Jesus" in B. Bachrach, Jews in Barbarian Europe: 98-102.

Marcus: 121-141.

XVI Expulsions from England and France; and the Jews Move to the East

H. G. Richardson, The English Jewry under Angevin Kings: 213-233.

R. Chazan, Medieval Jewry in Northern France: 191-205.

Idem, Church, State and Jew: 309-319.

XVII The Unique Situation in Christian Iberia

Y. Baer, A History of the Jews in Christian Spain 1: 111-185.

Marcus: 34-40.

"The Disputation at Barcelona" in C. Chavel ed. Ramban. Writings and Discourses 2: 656-696.

XVIII Riots, Inquisition and Expulsions

J. N. Hillgarth, The Spanish Kingdoms 2: 410-483.

O. Constable ed., Medieval Iberia: 331-334; 352-356.