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HIS 6313 - Jews and Judaism in the Middle Ages

This course is an advanced survey of Jewish life under Christendom and Islam from the fourth through the end of the fifteenth centuries. Requirements for the course include readings and class participation, a final exam, and a 10-15 page term paper employing primary and secondary sources due our last class session. 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 the following session will be announced and explained at the end of each lecture. Those who wish to read ahead of the class are encouraged to do so.

I Definition and Periodization: Overview of Course (and assigned readings)

"History" in Encyclopedia Judaica 8, pp. 651-703 (skim) and examine the timelines inserted between pp. 766 and 767.

H. H. Ben-Sasson, ed., A History of the Jewish People, chapters 25-41.

Y. H. Yerushalmi et al., Bibliographical Essays in Medieval Jewish Studies.

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

B. Lewis, The Arabs in History.

H. G. Koenigsberger, Medieval Europe 400 - 1500 (or equivalent).

II Christian Theological Attitudes toward the Jews

The Gospels: Mark, Matthew, Luke and John (skim; and focus on the crucifixion narrative in Mark and Matthew).

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

J. Cohen, Living Letters of the Law, pp. 23-65.

III Christianization of the Roman Empire: Ecclesiastical and Imperial Legislation; The Case of Visigothic Iberia

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

- Marcus, pp. 3-12.
 B. Bachrach, Early Medieval Jewish Policy in Western Europe, pp. 3-26.
 A. Linder, The Jews in Roman Imperial Legislation, pp. 408-410.
 Idem, The Jews in the Legal Sources of the Early Middle Ages, pp. 279-281, 314-317.
- IV Judaism and the Origins of Islam
Qur'an: Suras 1 and 2.
 N. Stillman, The Jews of Arab Lands, pp. 3-21, 113-51.
- V Effects of the Muslim Conquest
 Stillman, pp. 152-170.
 S. D. Goitein, A Mediterranean Society 1, pp. 29-74.
- VI Jewish Self-Government: The Gaonate and the Exilarchate
 Stillman, pp. 176-182.
 R. Brody, The Geonim of Babylonia and the Shaping of Medieval Jewish Culture, pp. 3-82.
 D. Sklare, The Religious and Legal Thought of Samuel ben Hofni Gaon: Texts and Studies in Cultural History, pp. 100-140.
 "Seder ha-Yeshivot" (Sippur Natan ha-Bavli) in A. Kahana ed., Sifrut ha-Historiah ha-Yisraelit 1, pp. 60-70.
- VII Decline in the Power of the Caliphate: Political Diversity, Messianic and Sectarian Movements
 Stillman, pp. 40-63.
 H. Malter, "Saadia's Controversy with Ben Meir," in his Saadia Gaon, pp. 69-88.
 E. Rivkin, "The Saadia-David Ben Zakkai Controversy . . .," in Meir Ben-Horin et al., eds., Studies and Essays Presented in Honor of Abraham Neuman, pp. 388-423.
 Abraham ibn Daud, Sefer ha-Qabbalah, ed. G.D. Cohen, pp. 46-48 (Heb. section).
 Z. Ankori, Karaites in Byzantium, pp. 3-25.
 L. Nemoy, Karaite Anthology, pp. 3-29.
- VIII Jewish Culture under Islam, Maimonides
 I. Twersky, A Maimonides Reader, pp. 1-29.
 Maimonides, Mishneh Torah: Haqdamah; Hilkhot Tefillin 4:25; Hilkhot Mezuzah 6:13; and Hilkhot Meilah 8:8.
 Idem, The Guide of the Perplexed, trans. S. Pines, pp. 619-628.
 Maimonides, "Epistle to Yemen," in A. S. Halkin ed., Epistle to Yemen, pp. i-xx.

IX Jewry Moves Westward

B. Bachrach, "Jewish Merchant Charters" in B. Bachrach, Jews in Barbarian Europe, pp. 70-71.

Abraham ibn Daud, Sefer ha-Qabbalah, pp. 70-72 (Heb. section).

R. Chazan ed., Church, State and Jew in the Middle Ages, pp. 57-68.

Idem, European Jewry and the First Crusade, pp. 11-37.

X Jewish Self-Government and Christian Society

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

Kol Bo, No. 142.

A. Grossman, Hakhmei Ashkenaz ha-Rishonim, pp. 132-149.

XI Aspects of Ashkenazi Culture in Christian Europe

H. Soloveitichik, "Three Themes in Sefer Hasidim," AJS Review 1 (1976), pp. 311-357.

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.

XII Growth of Religious Anti-Judaism and Jewish Response

Excerpts from "Toledot Yeshu" (English translation) in B. Bachrach, Jews in Barbarian Europe, pp. 98-102.

"Chronicle of Solomon bar Simson," in A. M. Habermann, ed., Sefer Gezerot Ashkanaz ve-Zarefat, pp. 24-38.

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

I. G. Marcus, "From Politics to Martyrdom...," Prooftexts 2 (1982), pp. 40-52.

Marcus, Medieval World, pp. 137-141.

Chazan, pp. 221-238.

XIII Expulsions in England and France, and the Jews Move to the East

R. Mundill, "Medieval Anglo-Jewry: Expulsion and Exodus," in F. Burgard et al., eds., Judenvertreibungen in Mittelalter und früher Neuzeit, pp. 75-97.

S. Menache, "The King, the Church and the Jews: some Considerations on the Expulsions from England and France," Medieval History 13 (1987), pp. 223-236.

W. C. Jordan, "Jews, Regalian Rights, and the Constitution in Medieval France," AJS Review 23 (1998), pp. 1-16.

Chazan, pp. 309-319.

XIV The Unique Situation in Christian Iberia

Y, Baer, A History of the Jews in Christian Spain 1,
pp. 111-185 (skim)

Chazan, pp. 69-75, 319-22.

"The Disputation at Barcelona," in Ch. Chavel ed.,
Kitvei Ramban 1, pp. 302-320.

Marcus, Medieval World, pp. 34-40.

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