Jews in Islamic Countries: Between Arab Nationalism, Colonialism and Zionism

Fall Semester 2013-2014
Thursday, 12:00-15:30

Sde Boker Campus, The Ben Gurion Research Institute for the Study of Israel and Zionism

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Office hours: Sde Boker Campus – Thursday 12:00-13:00

Seminar Description:
The course will examine the main characteristics of the Jewish communities in the Middle East and North Africa in the 20th century. It will focus on the changes as a consequence of European colonialism, the rise of Arab Nationalism and the emergence of Zionism in the middle East. The course will also deal with the emigration from Arab countries and the integration in Israel.

Course Objectives:
Jewish history usually deals with European history. The aim of this course is to acquaint the students with another history – that of the Jews who came from Islamic countries, Jews who constitute a half of the Jewish population in Israel.

Method of Teaching:
The seminar is based on reading and analyzing documents and articles.

Throughout the course the students will have to study the background for each document, to read the relevant articles and to present two of them in class.

At the end of the course, students will be required to submit a written paper about one of the topics of the course.
Course Requirements
Compulsory Attendance: YES
Pre-requisites: NONE

Structure of Final Course Grad
1. Two Class-Presentations  30% (15% each)
2. Final Paper  70%
               100%

Course Schedule Layout:

Week 1: October 24, 2013
Weekly subject title: Three Patterns of Jewish Communities in Yemen, Iraq and Morocco
Reading:


Weekly subject title: European Colonialism and its Influence on the legal status of the Jews
Reading:


Week 4: November 14, 2013
Weekly subject title: Social Transition: From Traditional to Modern Education
Reading:


Weeks 5-6: November 21, 2013; November 28, 2013
Weekly subject title: Jews-Moslems Relationships: A Story of Harmonious Co-existence or Continuing Hatred?

Readings:


e. Lital Levy, 'Historicizing the Concept of Arab Jews in the Mashriq', Jewish Quarterly Review, Volume 98, Number 4, Fall 2008, pp. 452-469

Weeks 7: December 5, 2013
Weekly subject title: The Jews of Islamic Countries in World War II

Reading:


Week 8-9: December 12, 2013; December 19, 2013
Weekly subject title: Zionism in the Islamic Countries until 1948

Readings:


Week 10: December 26, 2013
Weekly subject title: The Change in Zionist Policy vis-a-vis The Jews in Islamic Countries

Readings:


Week 11: January 2, 2014
Weekly subject title: Immigration to Israel

Readings:


**Weeks 12: January 9, 2014**

**Weekly subject title: The Jewish 'Nakba'**


**Week 13: January 16, 2013**

**Weekly subject title: Discussion**