



Israel Studies International MA Program

Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

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

Dr. Esther Meir

Email: Esmeir@bgu.ac.il

Phone: 08 659 6970(office)

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	<u>70%</u>
	100%

Course Schedule Layout:

Week 1: October 24, 2013

Weekly subject title: Three Patterns of Jewish Communities in Yemen, Iraq and Morocco

Reading:

- a. Norman Stillman, 'The long twilight: The Jews of Arab lands in the later Middle Ages', in: Stillman, *The Jews of Arab Lands*, pp. 64-94.
- b. Norman Stillman, 'The dawn of modern times: The Jews of Arab lands in the 19th century', in: Stillman, *The Jews of Arab Lands*, pp. 95-110

Weeks 2-3: October 31, 2012; November 7, 2013

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

Reading:

- a. Norman Stillman, 'The Nineteenth Century and the Impact of the West', in: N. Stillman, *The Jews of Arab Lands in Modern Times*, Philadelphia-New York, 1991, pp. 3-26.
- b. Daniel J. Schroeter and Joseph Chetrit, 'Emancipation and its Discontents: Jews at the Formative Period of Colonial Rule in Morocco', *Jewish Social Studies*, New Series, Vol. 13, No. 1 (Autumn, 2006), pp. 170-206.
- c. Hayyim J. Cohen, *The Jews of the Middle East, 1860-1972*, Jerusalem 1973, pp. 14-16.

Week 4: November 14, 2013

Weekly subject title: Social Transition: From Traditional to Modern Education

Reading:

- a. Hayyim J. Cohen, *The Jews of the Middle East, 1860-1972*, Jerusalem 1973, pp. 68-70; 85-87; 105-108; 157-176.
- b. Norman Stillman, 'Social Transformations', in: N. Stillman, *The Jews of Arab Lands in Modern Times*, Philadelphia-New York, 1991, pp. 27-46

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:

- a. Norman Stillman, 'Between Nationalism and Colonialism in the Aftermath of the First World War', in: N. Stillman, *The Jews of Arab Lands in Modern Times*, Philadelphia-New York, 1991, pp. 47-64.
- b. Ibid, 'Darkening Shadows: 1929-1939', pp. 93-112.
- c. Esther Meir-Glitzenstein, *Zionism in an Arab Country: Jews in Iraq in the 1940s*, London and New York 2004, pp. 13-39.
- d. Andre Levy, "Notes on Jewish-Muslim Relationships: Revisiting the Vanishing Moroccan Jewish Community", *Cultural Anthropology*, Vol. 18, No. 3 (Aug. 2003), pp. 365-397.
- 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:

- a. Norman Stillman, 'World War II and its Impact', in: N. Stillman, *The Jews of Arab Lands in Modern Times*, Philadelphia-New York, 1991 , pp. 113-139.
- b. Michel Abitbul, *The Jews of North Africa During the Second World War*, Detroit 1989.

Week 8-9: December 12, 2013; December 19, 2013

Weekly subject title: Zionism in the Islamic Countries until 1948

Readings:

- a. Norman Stillman, 'Zionism and the Jews of Arab Lands', in: N. Stillman, *The Jews of Arab Lands in Modern Times*, Philadelphia-New York, 1991, pp. 65-91.
- b. Ella Shohat, 'Sephardim in Israel: Zionism from the Standpoint of its Jewish Victims', *Social Text*, No. 19/20 (Autumn, 1988), pp. 1-35.

Week 10: December 26, 2013

Weekly subject title: The Change in Zionist Policy vis-a-vis The Jews in Islamic Countries

Readings:

- a. Esther Meir-Glitzenstein, 'From Eastern Europe to the Middle-East: The Reversal in Zionist Policy vis-a-vis the Jews of Islamic Countries', *The Journal of Israeli History*, Vol. 20, No. 1 (Spring 2001), pp. 24-48.

Week 11: January 2, 2014

Weekly subject title: Immigration to Israel

Readings:

- a. Norman Stillman, 'The Last Chapter', in: N. Stillman, *The Jews of Arab Lands in Modern Times*, Philadelphia-New York, 1991 , pp. 141-176.

- b. Joseph B. Schechtman, "Yemen: Ezra's Stepchildren – operation Magic Carpet", *On Wings of Eagles, The Plight, Exodus and Home Coming of Oriental Jewry*, NY & London, 1960, pp. 31-86.
- c. Avi Picard, "The Ethnic Perspective of the Selective Immigration in the 1950's", pp. 1-11.
- d. Sammy Smooha, "The mass immigrations to Israel: A comparison of the failure of the Mizrahi immigrants of the 1950s with the success of the Russian immigrants of the 1990s", *Journal of Israeli History*, Volume 27, Issue 1, March 2008, pages 1-27

Weeks 12: January 9, 2014

Weekly subject title: The Jewish 'Nakba'

Reading: Carole Basri, *The Jews of Iraq: A Forgotten Case of Ethnic Cleansing*, Policy Study No. 26, 2003.

Maurice M. Roumani, "The Silent Refugees: Jews from Arab Countries", *Mediterranean Quarterly* 14(3), 2003, pp. 41-77.

Cotler Irwin and David Matas, *Jewish Refugees from Arab Countries: The Case for Rights and redress*, New York 2007.

Week 13: January 16, 2013

Weekly subject title: Discussion