Jews in Morocco, Moroccans in Israel

Fall Semester 2022-23
Thursday, 14:30-18:00
Sede Boqer Campus

Dr. Aviad Moreno
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Office hours: office 217, building 23; Thursday, 18:00-19:00
(please email me in advance if you wish to schedule a meeting)

Course Description
The Jews of Morocco constituted the largest Jewish community of any Muslim country before the founding of the state of Israel in 1948. The majority of Moroccan Jews made Israel their new home, where they became one of the largest and most prominent ethnic groups in the country. This course surveys the history of Moroccan Jewry over the past 150 years, bringing their "past" in Morocco into conversation with their post-migration "present" in Israel. Among the topics addressed are intergroup relations, economic, social, and cultural issues, nationalism and colonialism, migration, and community and identity construction. Drawing on a range of sources, we will explore representations of Moroccan Jews in Israeli academic and popular discourse. The course will situate the history of Moroccan Jews in the broader context of Jewish-Muslim, Ashkenazi-Mizrahi, and Arab-Israeli relations.

Course Assignments and Evaluation
This course is designed to facilitate class discussions. Course assignments and final grades are all based on that requirement.

Class Participation (10%): Although class attendance is not mandatory, participation in class will constitute ten percent of your final grade, and you will be
expected to address issues discussed in class in your final essay.

**Presentation (20%)**: Each student is expected to choose topic for presentation, based on the reading list below, or on another topic of particular interest to you. Students are encouraged to use office hours to discuss their choices with me.

**By March 10**, each student is expected to schedule a day to present his/her topic in class. Students are also expected to discuss with me the reading material they will pre-circulate prior to their presentation in class. Class presentations should run about 15 minutes. PowerPoints are welcomed.

**Final home-exam (70%)**: the exam will be based on class discussion, including students’ presentations, and the assigned reading.

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**Course Layout, Schedule and Assigned Readings**

*Section 1: Jewish Histories in Morocco*

1. **Jews and Muslims in Morocco: A Historical Introduction (27/10)**


***Presentations start here***
3. **Jewish Space in Morocco** (10/11)


4. **Education and Social Mobility** (17/11)


5. **Between National Movements** (24/11)


Section 2: Why Did the Jews Leave?

6. **Migration Prior to 1948** (1/12)


7. **Post-1948 Migration (8/12)**


8. **Israeli Policies (15/12)**


9. **The "Moroccan Problem," Or the problem with streotypes (22/12)**


10. **Social Protests and Cultural Responses (29/12)**


11. **Israel and the New Moroccan Diaspora (5/1)**


12. **Morocco and the New Jewish Diapora (13/1)**


13. **Course Summary (19/1)**