

History 2821F: Jewish History to 1492

Wednesdays, 9:30-11:30 [place?]

Instructor: Rabbi Catharine Clark, [university email?]

Office Hours: Wednesdays, 11:30-12:30 (but not Oct. 11) at [shared work space location?]

Course Description:

This course provides a critical survey of the social, economic, religious, and political experience of the Jewish people and their precursors from the biblical period until the Spanish Expulsion. The course will cover a wide variety of topics, but will focus on three principal themes: (1) how we know what we know about Jewish history; (2) the ways in which Jewish life was influenced by the cultures in which particular Jewish communities lived; and (3) the ways in which there is continuity and commonality among Jewish communities no matter the time and place of these communities.

Learning Outcomes:

Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:

- present and explain key developments in Jewish history and larger contexts in which they took place;
- formulate clear and analytic arguments in written work based on primary and secondary sources.

Required Text (for purchase at the bookstore):

John Efron, et al, *The Jews: A History*, 2nd ed. (Boston: Pearson, 2014)

Other readings will be available on OWL.

Evaluation:

Class Participation	5%
Primary Source Analysis #1 (1,300-1,600 words)	20%
Midterm Examination	25%
Primary Source Analysis #2 (1,300-1,600 words)	20%
Final Examination	30%

Grades will be based on participation (which necessarily includes attendance), two exams, and two papers designed to develop students' ability to analyze primary documents and integrate them into broader historical narratives. Students will choose a primary text from a list provided. The primary text essay will be modelled on the kind of analysis done in class starting with the first session. The papers are due on the schedule set forth below.

Bring your textbook to class every session. Bring your other readings to the session for which they were assigned. When we discuss the time period of the primary source you analyzed, bring your completed paper to class, along with the key materials you researched for the paper.

Primary Source Analysis #1 is due Wednesday, October 4 at 12 noon via OWL. The midterm examination will take place in class on Wednesday, October 25. Primary Source Analysis #2 is due Wednesday, November 8 at 12 noon via OWL. The final examination will take place ____.

The Primary Source Analyses must be typed, double-spaced, using 1" margins, and 12-point font. Each paper must be between 1,300 and 1,600 words.

Papers handed in late will be penalized one full letter grade if submitted within one week of the due date. Papers will not be accepted after that time. Exams will be taken as scheduled. Any exceptions will be pursuant to the Western Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness.

	Date	Topic and Readings
1	Sept 13	Origins to the Babylonian Exile, Part 1
2	Sept 20	Origins to the Babylonian Exile, Part 2 Efron, Chapter 1
3	Sept 27	Exile and Return Efron, Chapter 2
4	Oct 4	Jews and Hellenism Efron, Chapter 3 Primary Source Analysis #1 DUE at 12 noon via OWL
	Oct 11	NO CLASS; NO OFFICE HOURS – Reading Week
5	Oct 18	Jews under Roman Rule Efron, Chapter 4
6	Oct 25	MIDTERM EXAMINATION (1 st hour of session)
7	Nov 1	The Babylonian Jewish Community & the Talmud Efron, Chapter 5
8	Nov 8	Jews in the Mediterranean World & the Cairo Geniza Efron, Chapter 6 Primary Source Analysis #2 DUE at 12 noon via OWL
9	Nov 15	Jews in Spain

10	Nov 22	Jewish Life and Death in Medieval Ashkenaz, part 1 Efron, Chapter 7
11	Nov 29	Jewish Life and Death in Medieval Ashkenaz, part 2
12	Dec 6	Expulsion Efron, Chapter 8, only through page 216