**Yeshiva College**

**Jewish History Courses**

**Spring 2022**

**All 3 credit-courses can count as a History elective for those who are History Majors (up to two courses). Both 3 credit and 2 credit courses can count toward the Gen. Ed. JHI requirement and toward the JHI concentration in the Jewish Studies major (after first fulfilling the Gen. Ed. requirement).**

**JHI 1200 62187 Classical Jewish History**

**2 Credits**

**R 1:05-2:45 pm**

**Professor Steven Fine**

History of the Jews from the Second Commonwealth through the Talmudic period (586 BCE to 500 CE).

**JHI 1342 62007 Convivencia and Conflict: Jewish Life in Medieval Spain (1147-1492)**

**2 Credits, WRIN Requirement**

**Mondays 1:05-2:45 pm**

**Professor Ronnie Perelis**

This course will investigate the cultural history of the Jews of Spain (the Sephardim), from the beginning of the Christian Reconquista until the Expulsion of the Jews in 1492. Medieval Spain, with its vibrant Muslim and Jewish populations, was one of the most complex and culturally rich European societies of its time. It served as a bridge for intellectual, artistic and scientific imports from the east to the European north. Its experiment with convivencia –“the living together” of three different religions within the same society – was unheard of in pre-modern Europe. With convivencia as our lens, we will examine the possibilities and limitations of multi-cultural tolerance by studying the socio-political and cultural trajectory of the Sephardim and their Christian and Muslim neighbors.

**JHI 1400 62008 Modern Jewish History**

**3 Credits**

**MW 3-4:15 pm**

**Professor Jess Olson**

Rise and flowering of the Eastern European Jewish communities; Hasidism; the Enlightenment; the Emancipation and development of Western European Jewry; American Jewry; new religious currents; modern anti-Semitism and the Holocaust; Zionism and the founding of the State of Israel.

**JHI 1465H 61847 The History of the Jews of New York**

**Honors**

**3 Credits**

**F 9:30 am to 12 noon**

**Professor Jeffrey Gurock**

American Jewish historians must not only tell comprehensively the story of that immigrant-ethnic and minority group. But to do their job well, they must contextualize that experience within the contours of both American history and modern Jewish history. This course’s initial objective is to examine the history of the Jews of New York from their first meager numbers in the 17th century to, and through, its emergence by the late 19th century as the largest Jewish community in the world. (Recently, it became the largest Diaspora community in the world as there are more Jews in Tel Aviv than in the five boroughs of Gotham.) The collateral objectives are to examine how New York’s Jewish history fits into the larger saga of the metropolis and compares with experiences of Jews elsewhere in America and the world during these three and a half centuries. In each stop along the way, while learning much about the metropolitan Jewish experience, we will examine if and why New York Jewish history was different from that of other Jewish communities while examining fully how events that took place elsewhere impacted upon this “local” Jewish experience. We will also frequently examine how N.Y. Jews lived with, among, and against, other ethnic and racial groups in this diversified city. All told, students will emerge from this course with not only a solid understanding of this immensely important urban Jewish experience but a background in both American and modern Jewish history.

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