

**Course title:** The Jews in Spain: History, Heritage and Memory

**Language of instruction:** English

**Professor:** Lucía Conte, PhD

**Professor's contact and office hours:** [lucia.conte@upf.edu](mailto:lucia.conte@upf.edu); office hours [by appointment](#) in office: 40.154 (Roger de Llúria Building-Ciutadella Campus)

**Course contact hours:** 45

**Recommended credit:** 6 ECTS

**Course prerequisites:** There are no pre-requisites for the course. No previous background in either Judaism or Jewish history is required. All Reads will be delivered in English translation

**Language requirements:** Recommended level in the European Framework B2 (or equivalent : Cambridge Certificate if the teaching language is English, DELE or 3 semesters in the case of Spanish)

**Course focus and approach:** this is a course of History with a trans-disciplinary approach. The course focuses on the history of the Hispanic Jews approaching it from Jewish identities and culture and an analysis of Jewish sources and sources about the Jews. In this sense, this is not a course of religious studies or about Judaism *per se*, but an approximation to Jewish identity from the experiences of the Jews in Spain through centuries.

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1

#### **Course description:**

The course proposes an itinerary through the rich cultural heritage of Hispanic Jews to present day along with interpretative elements to understand the recovery of that heritage and to manage it by analyzing the history of the Jewish people in the Hispanic lands and the interrelations, connections and influences between the Hispanic societies and Judaism, from the Middle Ages to present day. This is a course of history with a distinct interdisciplinary approach. A general contextual overview and an itinerary through the history of the Jews in Spain frame the discussions to follow. The aim is to delve around a series of selected themes to better understand the boundaries between Spanish Jews and Spanish gentiles from multiple perspectives and across time. Based on the in-class commentary and analysis of primary sources, film debates and case studies, specific topics will be examined: the perception of the self and the perception of the other; the shaping of a Jewish identity in the Hispanic lands versus the creation of the "Sephardic" cultural construct; the representations of Jews and Judaism; the role played by archetypes in the views on Judaism and Spanish anti-Semitism; and in Modern and contemporary times, the reconfiguration of Jewish identity from Modern Crypto-Judaism to the rising phenomenon of the Sephardic *Benei Anusim*.

#### **Learning objectives:**

- Provide the conceptual tools to analyze historical processes.
- Understand the history of Spanish Jewry and the singularity of the Spanish case.
- Recognize the Hispanic contribution to Jewish culture.
- Assess projects revolving around cultural heritage.

- Analyze the situation of minority cultures in multi-cultural contexts and their development.
- Interpret primary historical sources.
- Interpret audiovisual resources.
- Value the historic, archaeological and human heritage
- Respect the social values of equality and cultural diversity.

#### Course workload:

Students are expected to participate in lecture and faculty-led on-site visits and to do daily reads of the required bibliography which will be commented in class. Some sessions are based on active practical work with primary. Students will have to produce three short written assignments from three of the workshop sessions, a midterm exam and a final exam.

#### Teaching methodology:

The course is organized around several main topics which will be delivered in lecture classes - to provide the historical background- and practical sessions -devoted to the commentary of primary sources relevant to each given topic, film viewings with in-class debates or case study sessions. Some examples of these sources are: Canon laws and regulations, Royal decrees, Papal decrees, Inquisitorial procedures, Rabbinical *Responsa* and private correspondence, Halachic texts, Latin and Hebrew apologetic literature, Hebrew lyrical poetry, Spanish literature of the Golden Age, visual representations (from medieval paintings to comics) among others. All sources will be studied in their English translations.

2

The course includes field study tours to the Jewish Quarter and Museums or exhibitions, as well as the participation of relevant guest speakers.

#### Assessment criteria:

The course final grade will be distributed as it follows:

- Active class participation and commentary of the Read assignments: 20%
- Midterm exam: 25%
- Final exam: 25%
- 3 short written exercises based on the work with sources: 30%

#### BaPIS absence policy

Attending class is mandatory and will be monitored daily by professors. Missing classes will impact on the student's final grade as follows:

Absences	Penalization
Up to two (2) absences	No penalization
Three (3) absences	1 point subtracted from final grade (on a 10-point scale)
Four (4) absences	2 points subtracted from final grade (on a 10-point scale)

Five (5) absences or more	The student receives an INCOMPLETE (“NO PRESENTADO”) for the course
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The BaPIS attendance policy **does not distinguish between justified or unjustified absences**. The student is deemed responsible to manage his/her absences.

Only absences for medical reasons will be considered justified absences. The student is deemed responsible to provide the necessary documentation. Other emergency situations will be analyzed on a case by case basis by the Academic Director of the BaPIS.

The Instructor, the Academic Director and the Study Abroad Office should be informed by email without any delay.

**Classroom norms:**

- No food or drink is permitted in class
- Students will have a ten-minute break after one one- hour session

**Daily schedule:**

**Session 1: Spain and the Jews**

Introduction to the course, assignments, assessment and reading matters.

- *Film viewing and class debate:* Martí Sans’ *L’Estigma*. Documenta, Altervideo, Barcelona, 2012

**Session 2: Jewish Spaces? The Jews in Spain through time**

Context and overview of the history of the Hispanic Jews

The places for Jewish life: living as a minority

- *Read:* GERBER, Jane (1992) “Volatile Origins: The Early History of Jewish Life in Spain”. *The Jews of Spain. A History of the Sephardic Experience*. The Free Press: New York, pp. 1-26

**Session 3: Being “The Other”?**

Regulations regarding the Jews in the Hispanic Kingdoms

- *Work with sources:* excerpts from the *Lex Wisigothorum*, the *Usatges de Barcelona*, and the *Canons* of the IV Lateran Council.
- *Read:* CATLOS, Brian A. (2014) “Ethno-religious Minorities” in Horden, P. and S. Kinoshita, eds. *A Companion to Mediterranean History*. London: Wiley-Blackwell, 2014, pp. 361-366.

**Session 5: Within the *Judería* or *Call***

- *Faculty-guided field study tour* to the medieval Jewish Quarter of Barcelona
- *Read:* ASSIS, Y.T. (2008) “The Jewish Quarter”. *The Golden Age of Aragonese Jewry. Community and Society in the Crown of Aragon*. Littman Library Of Jewish Civilization, pp. 199-234

**Session 6: Shaping Jewish Culture in the Hispanic Lands**

From the RAMBAM TO the RAMBAN: Hispanic Jewish Culture.

Science, Literature, Thought and Halacha

- *Work with sources:* excerpts from Yehuda ha-Levi's *Kuzarí* and *Poems*, Shlomo ben Gabirol's *Fons Vitae* and Shlomo ben Adret 's (*the RASHBA*) *Responsa* or the *Hidushei haRashba* (commentary on the *Talmud*).
- *Read:* FORCANO, M. y S. PLANAS (2009) "The Story of a Transmission: Arabs and Jews, Transmitters of Classical Culture in Medieval Europe". *A History of Jewish Catalonia*. Girona: Ajuntament de Girona, pp. 123-135

**Session 7: Confronting "The Other": The Judeo-Christian Disputations**

The time of apologetics: from the Disputation of Barcelona (1263) to the Disputation of Tortosa (1414-1415)

The proselytizing task of Franciscans and Dominicans

- *Work with sources:* The Hebrew (Nahmanides') and Latin reports of the Disputation of Barcelona; Jerónimo de Santa Fe's *Ha-Mamar* and Vicente Ferrer's *Sermon for Good Friday*.
- *Read:* CHAZAN, R., (1977): "The Barcelona "Disputation" of 1263: Christian Missionizing and Jewish Response," *Speculum* 52, no. 4, pp. 824-842

4

**Session 8: The Medieval Anti-semitism**

The exacerbation of medieval anti-semitism.

The pogrom in 1391: causes, development and consequences

- *Work with sources:* Hasdai Cresques' letter to the Jewish Community of Avignon; excerpts from the records of the *Book of the Generalitat* (1391); Moshe Natan's private correspondence; excerpts from selected town council's regulations and from the papal bull *Sicut Iudeis*.
- *Read:* GAMPEL, B. (2016) *Anti-Jewish riots in the Crown of Aragon and the royal response, 1391-1392*. New York: Cambridge University Press. (selected excerpts)

**Session 9: The Image of the Jew: the Representation of Jews and Judaism in Medieval Art**

- *Faculty-guided visit* to the Museum of National Art of Catalunya (medieval art collections)

**Session 10: Convert Identities (with and without Jews)**

A rising social group, a new identity: the *Conversos*

The Expulsion of the Jews from Spain

- *Work with sources:* The Statutes of Blood Purity
- *Read:* IDEL, M. (1992) "Religion, Thought and Attitudes: The Impact of the Expulsion on the Jews". *Spain and the Jews*. Kedourie, E. (ed.). London: Thames and Hudson. pp. 123-139

**Session 11: MIDTERM EXAM****Session 12: “Mucho judaísmo se encierra en España” or the Rise of Crypto-Judaism**

The power of the inner self: a Jewish consciousness

Practices, identity and psychology of the “marranos”

- *Work with sources*: selected excerpts from the processes of the Inquisition
- *Read*: NIRENBERG, D. (2002) “Mass Conversion and Genealogical Mentalities: Jews and Christians in Fifteenth-Century Spain”. *Past & Present*, No. 174 (Feb. 2002), Oxford University Press, pp. 3-41 and BODIAN, M. "Men of the Nation": The Shaping of Converso Identity in Early Modern Europe”. *Past & Present*, No. 143 (May 1994), pp. 48-76

**Session 13: A Judaism Without Jews? The *Xuetes* of Mallorca and the Portuguese *Marranos***

- *Film viewing and class debate*: documentary *The Xuetes of Mallorca* (currently being produced) and guest lecture by the director of the Association “Jewish Mallorca”.
- *Read*: LEVINE, R. (2000) “Crypto-Jewish Women Facing the Spanish Inquisition: Transmitting Religious Practices, Beliefs and Attitudes”. *Christians, Muslims and Jews in Medieval and Early Modern Spain*. Indiana: University of Notre-Dame Press, pp. 197-219

5

**Session 14: The Construction of the Sephardic identity**

Hispanic Jews beyond the Hispanic lands: The Sephardim

The Sephardic identity viewed from Spain: The creation of the “myth” of Sefarad

- *Film viewing and class debate*: documentary *Los judíos de patria española* (1929)
- *Read*: RODRIGUE, A. (1992) “The Sephardim in the Otoman Empire”. *Spain and the Jews*. Kedourie, E. (ed.). London: Thames and Hudson. pp. 162-188

**Session 15: Sephardic or Jewish?**

The Sephardic Jews come back to Spain

The arrival of the Ashkenazi Jews in the 1930’s

- *Read*: OJEDA, M. (2015) “‘Spanish ‘but’ Jewish’: race and national identity in nineteenth and twentieth century Spain”. *Jewish Culture and History*, n. 1 vol. 16. Routledge, pp. 64-81

**Session 16: Spain and the Shoah**

The Jews in Spain during the Spanish Civil War

Franco and the Holocaust

“Visas for freedom”

- *Read*: BAER, A. (2011) “Visas for Freedom: Spanish Diplomats and the Holocaust”. *Visas for Freedom*. Madrid: Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores

**Session 17: The Shoah and the Public Remembrance Policies in Spain**

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- *Film viewing and class debate:* Documentary *Persecuted and Saved* (Diputació de Lleida, 2014)
- *Read:* ARAGONESES, A. (2015) "Polishing the Past? The Memories of Deportation and the Holocaust in Spanish Law and society" *IVS FVGIT Revista de Cultura Jurídica*

### **Session 18: Are they Jewish? Jewish Identity Recovery in Present Day**

In search for their roots: the awakening of the *Benei Anusim*.

Identity revival in the Sephardic world

### **Session 19: Jewish Heritage Recovery in Spain and Europe**

- *Guest lecture* by a representative of the European Association for the Preservation of Jewish Heritage

### **Session 20: Recovery, Embracement or Appropriation? Discourses on Jewish Heritage Recovery in Spain.**

- *Workshop: Analysis of case studies:* projects for Jewish Heritage recovery in Spain
- *Read:* FLESLER, D. A. PEREZ MELGOSA, (2008) "Marketing Convivencia: Contemporary Tourist Appropriations of Spain's Jewish Past". *Spain is Still Different. Tourism and Discourse in Spanish Identity*. Lanham: LexingtonBooks, 2008, pp.63-79

### **Session 21: Spain and the Jews: Being a Jew in Spain Today**

An approach to the perception of Jews by present day's Spanish society.

- *Guest lecture* by a representative of a Jewish Community in Barcelona

### **Session 22: FINAL EXAM**

Last revision, April 2022

#### **Required reads:**

Required Reads as indicated in each class session will be provided by the professor (in electronic format)

#### **Recommended bibliography:**

Alfons Aragoneses. "Polishing the Past? The Memories of Deportation and the Holocaust in Spanish Law and Society" *IVS FVGIT Revista de Cultura Jurídica*, 2015

Michael Alpert. *Cryptojudaism and the Spanish Inquisition*. New York: Palgrave, 2001

Ramon Álvarez de la Vega (Dir.) *El patrimonio cultural como símbolo*. Valladolid: Fundación Patrimonio Histórico de Castilla y León, 2011

- Yom Tov Assis, *The Golden age of Aragonese Jewry: Community and Society in the Crown of Aragon: 1213-1327*, Littman Library of Jewish Civilization, London, 1997
- Elisheva Baumgarten, *Mothers and Children. Jewish Family Life in Medieval Europe*. Princeton University Press, 2013
- Haim Beinart *The Expulsion of the Jews from Spain*, The Littman Library of Jewish Civilization, Oxford, 2002
- Charles Chavel ed., *Ramban. Writings & discourses*. New York: Shilo Pub. House, 1978
- Robert Chazan, *Church, state, and Jew in the Middle Ages (Library of Jewish studies)*. New York: Behrman House, 1980
- Maite Ojeda-Mata. “‘Spanish’ but ‘Jewish’: race and national identity in nineteenth and twentieth century Spain”, *Jewish Culture and History*, 16:1, 64-81
- Paloma Diaz-Mas, *Sephardim. The Jews from Spain*, The University of Chicago Press, Chicago, 1992
- Jonathan Elukin, *Living Together, Living Apart. Rethinking Jewish-Christian Relations in the Middle Ages*, Princeton University Press, Princeton, 2007
- David L. Graizbord, *Souls in Dispute. Converso Identities in Iberia and the Jewish Diaspora, 1580-1700*, University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia, 2004
- Manuel Hernández Martí, *La memoria construida: patrimonio cultural y modernidad*. Valencia: Editorial Tirant lo Blanch, S.L., 2005.
- Henry Kamen, *The Spanish Inquisition: An Historical Revision*, Weidenfeld & Nicolson, London, 1997
- Amnon Linder, *The Jews in the legal sources of the early Middle Ages*. Detroit: Jerusalem: Wayne State University Press; Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities, 1997
- Jacob R. Marcus, *The Jew in the medieval world: A source book: 315-1791*. New York: Harper & Row, 1965
- David Nirenberg, *Communities of Violence: Persecution of Minorities in the Middle Ages*, Princeton University Press, Princeton, 1998
- Sílvia Planas i Marcé, *A History of Jewish Catalonia: the life and death of Jewish communities in medieval Catalonia*, Ajuntament de Girona, Girona, 2009
- Marcial Pons, *El antisemitismo en España: la imagen del judío, 1812-2002*. Madrid: Marcial Pons, 2002
- Paulino Rodríguez Barral, *La Imagen del judío en la España medieval: el conflicto entre cristianismo y judaísmo en las artes visuales góticas*, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Bellaterra, 2009
- Norman Roth, *Conversos, Inquisition, and the Expulsion of the Jews from Spain*, The University of Wisconsin Press, Madison, 2002
- Rosemary Ruether. (1974). *Faith and fratricide: The theological roots of anti-Semitism*. New York: Seabury Press Teofilo F. Ruiz, *Spanish Society 1400-1600*, Harlow, London, 2001
- Joshua Trachtenberg, *The Devil and the Jews: the medieval conception of the Jew and its relation to modern antisemitism*, New York: Meridian Books, 1961

VV.AA. The Sephardi heritage: essays on the history and cultural contribution of the Jews of Spain and Portugal, Madrid, Mapfre, 1989 VV.AA. Studies and Essays in Honor of Abraham A. Neuman (Book Review) (Vol. 82). Society of Biblical Literature, 1963