**Language of Instruction:** English

**Professor:** Dr. Javier del Barco.

**Professor’s contact and office hours:** javier.delbarco@cchs.csic.es

**Course Contact Hours:** 22

**Recommended Credit:** 1,5 US credits; 2,5 ECTS.

**Course Prerequisites:** there are no prerequisites for this course.

**Course Language Requirements:** none

**Course Description and Learning Goals**

This course is a historically oriented survey that introduces students to the culture, literature, history, philosophy, and religious customs of the Jewish people in Medieval and Modern times. Special emphasis will be put on the construction of Jewish identity in contact with other cultures. The readings and class discussions will divide into five different moments in Jewish History crucial to the formation and development of modern Judaism, from the rise of rabbinic culture to the challenge of Jewish heterodoxy in the 17th century. The course will mainly proceed by lecture and discussion, and students are strongly encouraged to participate by asking and answering questions in class. No prior systematic study of Judaism is required.

**Course Workload**

The students are required to read a selection of texts and participate actively in the class. Students will have to prepare short guided commentaries on historical texts which will be briefly discussed at the beginning of each session.

Students will also have to analyze other material such as pictures or documentaries. There will be two field sessions to complete de classes.

**Methods of Instruction**

The course is structured in both lecture and on-site classes. Lecture classes will be conducted by the professor. Provided readings are mandatory.

The on-site classes are field studies to places relevant to the course content. The field studies are a substantial part of the course and all students are required to attend them. They will also be a substantial part of the assessment.

**Method of Assessment**

Participation in class and active discussion of course readings 50%

Essay (not more than three double-spaced pages) 50%
The essay will consist of a critical synthesis of all the topics previously discussed in class. Due date will be announced in advance.

**Absence Policy**

Registering in the Seminar implies attendance to all classes and field studies.

Excused absences will only be justified by an official medical report or probable family emergency. Any other reason will not justify an absence to class or changing the date of an exam.

**Classroom Norms:**
- No food or drink is permitted in the classrooms
- Students will have a ten-minute break during each hour session

**Course Outline**

**SESSION 1 Monday, June 14**

**SESSION 2 Tuesday, June 15**
Jews and Islam. From East to West: cultural and intellectual life in al-Andalus / Sepharad.

**SESSION 3 Wednesday, June 16**

**SESSION 4 Thursday, June 17**
Jewish communities in medieval Christian Europe.

**SESSION 5 Friday, June 18**
Jewish heterodoxy in the 17th century. Spinoza and Shabbetai Zvi.

**SESSION 6 Monday, July 5 (3-7 pm)**
Field study Tour to Girona’s Jewish Quarter

**SESSION 7 Friday, July 9 (3-7 pm)**
Field study Tour to Barcelona’s Jewish Quarter.

**SESSION 8 Wednesday, July 21 (3-5 pm)**
Field study Tour to Besalú’s Jewish Quarter.
REQUIRED READINGS:

- Course reading pack prepared by professor

BASIC BIBLIOGRAPHY AND RECOMMENDED READINGS:


- Further, specific bibliography will be provided upon request.