



History of the Jews – CAS IT 401

a.y. 2011/2012 - Fall

Prof. **Gadi Luzzatto Voghera**

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Consulting hours: Tuesday morning

The course

This course will provide a social history of the presence of the Jews as single men or/and members of wider Jewish communities in Italy and Europe from early modern times until today. During the course the students will approach the subject from a sociological point of view and will examine some of the most interesting aspects of the history of the relationship between Jews and the Christian environment. It is necessary to forget the old and useless interpretation of the Jewish history as a “tearful” succession of Anti-Semitic persecutions. The focus of the course will be the relationship between the Jewish minority and the Christian majority in cultural, economic, social and religious contexts. Special attention will be devoted to the study of some of the particular aspects of the Jewish culture and way of life in Italy.

The course will be held in Italian. It is composed of 40 hours (20 classes of two hours each). A class presentation is required.

Method

Lectures, class discussions, viewing of films and documentaries, visits to historical sites (Ghetto, Synagogues and Cemeteries in Padua). Students are expected to arrive in class on-time, ready and prepared on the assigned readings.

Exams: held in Italian.

The Mid-term exam is written (2 hours: 10 multiple choice questions, 5 questions with short answer, 1 general composition on given topics)

The Final exam is written (2 hours: 5 questions with short answer, 1 general composition on given topics)

One Class presentation: 15-20 minutes of public explanation in Italian on a given topic

One or two short presentations in Italian on single topics are requested

The course will deal with some general themes:

1. Introduction to the course, general overview on the geography of the Jews in Europe and Italy
2. Who are the Jews: the sociological concept of Jewish Civilization
3. The Jews and the Catholic Church. The Catholic Church and the Jews. Two different ways of thinking the same historical experience.
4. Between marginalization and integration: contradictions and paradoxes
5. Paths of emancipation

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Each student should purchase a copy pack prepared by the teacher. The copy pack will present texts in Italian from the following volumes:

ANNA FOA, *Storia degli ebrei in Europa*, Laterza, Bari-Roma 1991

CORRADO VIVANTI (ed.), *Storia d'Italia. Gli ebrei in Italia*, 2 voll., Einaudi, Torino 1997/8

Shmuel N. Eisenstadt, *Civiltà ebraica*, Donzelli, Roma 1993

Mendes-Flohr, P.R. e Reinharz, J. (edited by), *The Jew in the Modern World. A Documentary History*, New York - Oxford, 1980

David Bidussa (ed.), *Ebraismo*, vol II dell'opera *Le religioni e il mondo moderno* (a cura di Giovanni Filoramo) Einaudi, Torino 2009

Roberto Bonfil, *Gli ebrei in Italia nell'epoca del Rinascimento*, Sansoni, Firenze 1991

Ariel Toaff, *Mangiare alla giudia*, Mulino, Bologna 2000

Interesting web sites:

<http://www.hum.huji.ac.il/dinur/>

<http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/Judaism/jewhist.html>

<http://www.jewishencyclopedia.com/index.jsp>

<http://www.jtsa.edu/>

<http://www.renatomaestro.org>

GRADING CRITERIA

Attendance and active class participation:	15 %
Mid-term exam:	25%
Class presentation:	20 %
Short class presentations:	15%
Final exam:	25 %

Attendance

Boston University Study Abroad Padua students are expected to attend each and every class session, tutorial, and field trips required for the class. Students should note that attendance will be taken into account by faculty when determining final grades. Students absent from class for medical reasons need to provide a local doctor's note.

Plagiarism

Simply stated, **plagiarism** is taking another's work and presenting it as you own.

Dictionary definitions of plagiarism frequently include terms such as 'theft' or 'steal'. Plagiarism is, in fact, intellectual theft. It is one of the most serious forms of academic misconduct. Plagiarism committed by a student will certainly result in course failure and may result in suspension or dismissal. For more details please see Boston University's *Code of Student Responsibilities*: <http://www.bu.edu/lifebook/university-policies/policies-code.html>

Religious Holidays

Boston University's Office of the University Registrar states:

'The University, in scheduling classes on religious holidays and observances, intends that students observing those traditions be given ample opportunity to make up work. Faculty members who wish to observe religious holidays will arrange for another faculty member to meet their classes or for cancelled classes to be rescheduled.' See Chapter 151C of the General Laws, Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

The Course

Week	Title	Readings	Key words	Events
3-7/10	1. Introduction to the course, general overview on the geography of the Jews in Europe and Italy		Sefardim Ashkenazim Italiani Migrations Torah Talmud	Topics for the Class presentation
3-7/10	2. Who are the Jews: the sociological concept of Jewish Civilization.	Anna Foa, <i>Storia degli Ebrei in Europa</i> , Bari 1991 chapter 1	Jewish Civilization Anti-semitism Anarchy Halakhà Cherem Jewish Community	Student's review of the previous lesson
10-14/10	3. The Jewish Community and its organization	SHLOMO SIMONSOHN, <i>La condizione giuridica degli ebrei nell'Italia centrale e settentrionale</i> , in CORRADO VIVANTI (ed.), <i>Storia d'Italia. Gli ebrei in Italia</i> , 2 voll., Einaudi, Torino 1997/8, pp. 97-122	Condotta Loan at interest Citizenship Self-governing	Student's review of the previous lesson
10-14/10	4. Relationship between Jewish Community and the Italian society		Time Language Edàh	Student's review of the previous lesson

17-21/10	5. Jewish historiography and open problems on the Italian Early-Modern Judaism	Roberto Bonfil, <i>Gli ebrei in Italia nell'epoca del Rinascimento</i> , Sansoni, Firenze 1991, chapter VII	Space Qabbalàh Ecclesia Synagogue	Student's review of the previous lesson
17-21/10	6. General problems on the structure of the Italian Jewish Community	Ariel Toaff, <i>Mangiare alla giudia</i> , Mulino, Bologna 2000, Introduzione	Kosher Habit	Student's review of the previous lesson
24-28/10	7. Jewish sociological questions	Anna Foa, <i>Storia degli Ebrei in Europa</i> , Bari 1991 chapter 2	Talmud Segregation Conversion Trento	Student's review of the previous lesson
2-4/11	8. The Jews and the Catholic Church. The Catholic Church and the Jews. Two different ways of thinking the same historical experience.	Renata Segre, <i>La Controriforma: espulsioni, conversioni, isolamento</i> , in CORRADO VIVANTI (ed.), <i>Storia d'Italia. Gli ebrei in Italia</i> , 2 voll., Einaudi, Torino 1997/8, pp. 709-780	Ghetto Controriforma Casa dei Catecumeni	Student's review of the previous lesson
2-4/11				Visit to the Old Jewish Cemetery of Padua
7-11/11	9. The Jews and the Catholic Church. The Catholic Church and the Jews. Two different ways of thinking the same historical experience.			

7-11/11	10. Between marginalization and integration: contradictions and paradoxes. The <i>marranos</i> .	ANNA FOA, <i>EBREI IN EUROPA</i> , CAP VII	Conversos Inquisizione Limpieza de sangre Ladino	
14-18/11				Mid Term Exam
14-18/11	11. Paths of emancipation Jews in Europe and the challenge of Modernity: the <i>Haskalah</i>	Gadi Luzzatto Voghera, <i>Percorsi della cultura ebraica in età moderna</i> , in Patrizia Reinach Sabbadini (a cura di), <i>La cultura ebraica</i> , Einaudi, Torino 2000, pp. 166-194	Bible Hebrew Education	Student's review of the previous lesson
21-25/11	12. Paths of emancipation The juridical framework of the Emancipation of the Jews in Italy and in Europe		Toleranzpatent Egalité Ghetto	Student's review of the previous lesson
21-25/11	13. Paths of emancipation The new Jewish Historiography	Gadi Luzzatto Voghera, <i>Jewish historiography in Italy in the 1800s</i>	History Anti-semitism Nation	Student's review of the previous lesson
28/11-2/12	14. Paths of emancipation	Gadi Luzzatto Voghera, <i>La riforma ebraica e le sue articolazioni fra Otto e Novecento</i> , in <i>Le religioni e il mondo moderno</i> , a cura di Giovanni Filoramo, vol.II <i>Ebraismo</i> a cura di D. Bidussa, Einaudi, Torino 2008, pp. 125-144	Jewish Reform Israelitism Orthodox Assimilation Conversion	Student's review of the previous lesson

28/11-2/12	15. Paths of emancipation		Jewish Reform Israelitism Orthodox Assimilation Conversion	Student's review of the previous lesson
5-7/12				Visit to the Ghetto of Venice
5-7/12	16. Jews in XXth Century: transformations and clashes		Anti-semitism Zionism Holocaust Israel Diapora	Student's review of the previous lesson
12-14/12				Class Presentations
19-20/12				Final exam