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## **CAS RN 327 Jews and Christians in Italy : A Historical Perspective**

### The course

This course will provide a social history of the relationship between Jews as individuals or/and members of wider Jewish communities in Italy and the Church and Christian Society from early modern times until today. During the course, students will approach the subject from a sociological point of view and will examine some of the most interesting aspects of this relationship. It is necessary to leave behind the old and useless way of studying Jewish history as a “tearful” succession of anti-Semitic persecutions. We will focus on the exploration of the experience of coexistence 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 44 hours (22 classes of two hours each). A **class presentation** is required.

### Method:

Lectures, class discussions, viewing of films and documentaries, visits to historical sites (churches, ghettos, synagogues and cemeteries in Padua and Venice). Students are expected to arrive in class on-time, ready and prepared to discuss the assigned readings.

### Exams:

The midterm exam is written (2 hours: 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 making of the Church of Rome: a historical survey
4. The Jews and Catholic Church the Catholic Church and the Jews: two different ways of thinking the same historical experience.
5. Between marginalization and integration: contradictions and paradoxes
6. The challenge of Jewish emancipation and the confrontation with the Catholic Church in modern times

### BIBLIOGRAPHY

Each student will purchase a **copy pack** prepared by the teacher

### SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

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. - Reinharz, J. (ed.), *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

Michael Brenner, *Breve storia degli ebrei*, Donzelli, Roma 2009

Marina Caffiero, *Legami pericolosi. Ebrei e cristiani tra eresia, libri proibiti e stregoneria*, Einaudi, Torino 2012

G. Luca Potestà – Giovanni Vian, *Storia del cristianesimo*, Mulino, Bologna 2010

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>

<http://www.bu.edu/judaicstudies/>

## GRADING CRITERIA

Attendance and active class participation:	15 %
Mid-term exam:	20%
Class presentation:	20 %
Short class presentations:	10%
Written review of a reading	10%
Final exam:	25 %

### Attendance

Boston University 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.

### Course Calendar

Lesson	Title	Readings	Key words	Events
1	1. Introduction to the course, general overview on the geography of the Jews in Europe and Italy	Shmuel N. Eisenstadt, <i>Civiltà ebraica</i> , Donzelli, Roma 1993 pp.82-101	Sefardim Ashkenazim Italiani Migrations Torah Talmud Jewish Civilization	<b>Topics for the class presentation</b>
2	2. Genesis of the Roman Church and the Jews	G. Luca Potestà – Giovanni Vian, <i>Storia del cristianesimo</i> , chapter 1 Anna Foa, <i>Storia degli Ebrei in Europa</i> , Bari 1991 chapter 1	Jesus St. Paul Pope Baptism Anti-Semitism	
3	3. The Jewish Community and its organization	Gadi Luzzatto Voghera, <i>Rabbini</i> , Bari 2011, Chapters 1 and 2	Anarchy Halakhà Cherem Jewish Community	
4	4. Relationship between Jewish Community and the Italian society	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	
5	5. Jewish historiography and open problems on the Italian Early-Modern Judaism	Gadi Luzzatto Voghera, <i>Rabbini</i> , Bari 2011, Chapter 3	Rabbi Time Language Edàh	

<b>6</b>	6. Structure of the Italian Jewish Community in Early Modern time and relationship with the Church	Roberto Bonfil, <i>Gli ebrei in Italia nell'epoca del Rinascimento</i> , Sansoni, Firenze 1991, chapter VII	Space Ecclesia Synagogue	
<b>7</b>				<b>Visit to the Ghetto of Venice</b>
<b>8</b>	7. Jewish cultural questions	Marina Caffiero, <i>Legami pericolosi</i> , Torino 2012, Chapter 1 Jonathan Israel, <i>La cultura ebraica</i> , pp.95-114	Qabbalàh Hebrew printing Censura	
<b>9</b>	8. The Jews and the Catholic Church, the Catholic Church and the Jews. Two different ways of thinking the same historical experience.	Anna Foa, <i>Storia degli Ebrei in Europa</i> , Bari 1991 chapter 2	Talmud Segregation Conversion Trento	
<b>10</b>				<b>Mid-term exam</b>
<b>11</b>	9. 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	
<b>12</b>	10. The Jews and the Catholic Church, the Catholic Church and the Jews. Two different ways of thinking the same historical experience.	Marina Caffiero, <i>Legami pericolosi</i> , Torino 2012, Chapter 2 ANNA FOA, <i>EBREI IN EUROPA</i> , CAP VII	Indice dei Libri proibiti Casa dei Catecumeni	

<b>13</b>	11. Between marginalization and integration: contradictions and paradoxes. The <i>marranos</i> .	Renata Segre, <i>La comunità marrana</i> , in CORRADO VIVANTI (ed.), <i>Storia d'Italia. Gli ebrei in Italia</i> , 2 voll., Einaudi, Torino 1997/8,	Conversos Inquisizione Limpieza de sangre Ladino	
<b>14</b>	12. 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	
<b>15</b>	13. Paths of emancipation The juridical framework of the Emancipation of the Jews in Italy and in Europe		Toleranzpatent Egalité Ghetto History Anti-semitism Nation	
				<b>VISIT TO PADUA'S GHETTO AND CEMETERIES</b>
<b>16</b>	14. The Catholic Church and the Modern World	G. Luca Potestà – Giovanni Vian, <i>Storia del cristianesimo</i> , chapter 6	Genealogia degli errori Riforma Massoneria Intransigentismo	
<b>17</b>	15. 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	
<b>18</b>	16. From Anti-Judaism to Anti-Semitism	Gadi Luzzatto Voghera, <i>Antisemitismo</i> , Milano 1994, Chapter 2	Complotto giudaico Omicidio Rituale	

			Razzismo	
<b>19</b>	17. Jews and Christians confronting the Racial persecution	Frank J. Coppa, <i>The Papal Response to Nazi and Fascist Anti-Semitism</i> , in Joshua D. Zimmermann ed, <i>Jews in Italy under Fascist and Nazi Rule 1922-1945</i> , Cambridge 2005	Anti-Semitism Holocaust Pio XI Pio XII	
<b>20</b>				<b>Class Presentation</b>
<b>21</b>				<b>Class Presentation</b>
<b>22</b>				<b>Final exam</b>