**Jewish History from the Spanish Expulsion to the Eve of the Enlightenment** This course will survey major trends in Jewish society from the break-up of the medieval world to the emergence of a new order in 18th century Europe. We will trace the transition of Jewish society towards modernity by following the varieties of cultural, social, and religious life among communities of Jewish exiles from Spain from 1492 through the early 18th century. **Prerequisites:** None.

**Required Books:** The following book is required for this course. It is available through various online distributors or directly through the press's website.

Lawrence Fine, *Judaism in Practice: From the Middle Ages through the Early Modern Period* (Princeton University Press, 2001)

**What is expected of you:**

a) **Reading:** I strongly recommend that that you complete each reading assignment before the class session and be ready to discuss the themes and substance of the assignments. Lectures and discussions will be more engaging and productive for you if you have a formal point of reference. Please bring all assigned primary source readings to class on the day for which the reading has been assigned (i.e., internet sources and handouts, etc.). We will not always discuss all of the readings directly. However, these readings were selected to provide you with a foundation for the material and issues covered and you will be responsible for all readings. You are strongly encouraged to bring questions about the readings to class - if one of you had questions or difficulties, others certainly did as well.

b) **Attendance:** You are responsible for all the material included in the readings as well as the material covered in lectures. It is expected that you will be present at all class sessions unless unavoidable circumstances make attendance impossible. If you must miss a class, please make arrangements with another student to get notes. But remember: if you miss a substantial number of classes, your participation grade will suffer proportionately. **You will be permitted three absences over the course of the term; every unexcused absence thereafter will lower your grade by one third.** Guidelines for excused absences can be found here: [https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/1617/regulations/info/attendance.aspx#absences](https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/1617/regulations/info/attendance.aspx#absences). Also, as a courtesy to me and to your fellow students, please turn off your cell phones before class begins and refrain from checking them during class. Obsessive attention to cell phones distracts your instructor and your colleagues. If ringing cell phones and persistent texting become a problem, the owners of those phones will be asked to leave the class and their absence subsequent will count as
unexcused.

c) **Written assignments**: Historical writing demands that you make your arguments in a clear and precise manner and that you back them up with historical evidence. Thus, written assignments will be graded on the basis of **style as well as content**. Completion of the written assignments is **absolutely required**. Late assignments **will not** be accepted without penalty. Please make every effort to apprise me of adverse circumstances that affect your ability to attend class or complete assignments on time. Official documentation is required to excuse an absence and to schedule make-up assignments. Do not submit your work to via email - unless I tell you otherwise, written work must be presented in hard-copy.

d) **Course Requirements**: i) Two exams, the first worth 20% and the second worth 25% of your final grade, ii) Two short text analyses, due on 22 September and 17 November, the first is worth 20% and the second is worth 25% of your final grade. I will be happy to read and comment on all written assignments prior to the due date; just be sure to give me enough time to read your work carefully and get it back to you in time for you to implement changes, iii) Participation in class discussions, worth 10%. By participation, I mean active and attentive engagement with the course material. Ideally, it also means contribution to in class discussion, including asking questions. Coming to class and sleeping through the lecture, for example, is not considered productive participation.

**Grade Distribution and Grading Scale**

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<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>A-</th>
<th>B+</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>B-</th>
<th>D+</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>D-</th>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>100 - 93</td>
<td>92 - 90</td>
<td>89 - 87</td>
<td>86 - 83</td>
<td>82 - 79</td>
<td>78 - 75</td>
<td>74 - 71</td>
<td>70 - 67</td>
<td>below 55</td>
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<td>First paper</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>A- = 92 - 90</td>
<td>C = 70 - 67</td>
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<td>Second paper</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>B+ = 89 - 87</td>
<td>D+ = 66 - 63</td>
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<tr>
<td>First exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>B = 86 - 83</td>
<td>D = 62 - 60</td>
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<tr>
<td>Second exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>B- = 82 - 79</td>
<td>D- = 59 - 56</td>
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More information on grades and grading policies can be found here: [https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx](https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx)

e) **Academic Honesty**: According to the UF Academic Honesty Guidelines, "an academic honesty offense is defined as the act of lying, cheating, or stealing academic information so that one gains academic advantage. As a University of Florida student, one is expected to neither commit nor assist another in committing an academic honesty violation. Additionally, it is the student's duty to report observed academic honesty violations." All students are will be expected to follow the UF Honor Code: [https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/](https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/). All academic honesty offenses will result in a failing grade in this class.

Students with **disabilities** requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, [http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/)). The DCR will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation.

**Week I**

**21 - 25 August**

* Sentencia-Estatuto de Toledo, 1449

Week II
28 August - 1 September  
* Expulsion and Resettlement...Portugal and Beyond

Fine, Judaism in Practice, 143-153 and 325-338  
http://www.sephardicstudies.org/decree.html


Week III
4-8 September  
* Portugal and Beyond

Fine, Judaism in Practice348-352.


Week IV
11 - 15 September  
* Jewish Life in Renaissance Italy

Fine, Judaism in Practice, 52-60, 203-209;


* de Nepi - Murder in the Roman Ghetto

* Siegmund-Taverns

Week V
18 - 22 September  
* Ehe Ghetto

Fine, Judaism in Practice, 453-469;


* Siegmund-Gelinbra Eestament

* Franscesconi-Iffic/t Sex in the Italian Ghetto

Week VI
25 - 29 September  
* Jewish Culture in the Muslim World

Fine, Judaism in Practice, 237-247 and 375-398;


**First Text Analysis due:** Describe and analyze the pietistic practices reproduced in Fine, Judaism in Practice375-385. What kind of rituals are these and what are they meant to achieve? What do they teach you about the community that practiced them?

* Primary sources on Jews in the Muslim world - TBA
Week VII
2-6 October
No class on Friday - Homecoming

* Ben Naeh Jews in the Kadi Court

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Week VIII
9-13 October

* Letter from the Jews of Provence to the Jews of Salonika (ca. 1550)

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Week IX
16 - 20 October

* Encyclopedia Judaica, "Menasseh ben Israel" *you have to download this file - it is not readable in preview mode.

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Week X
23 - 27 October


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Week XI
30 October - 3 November

On Friday 3 November, we will meet in front of the Smathers Library. Be sure to read the following for class that day:


Week XII
6 - 10 November

Veterans' Day: no class on Friday

Central Europe

Fine, Judaism in Practice, 155-167 and 215-226;
Martin Luther, Letter to Spalatin, http: // www.fordham.edu/ halsall/ mod / 15141uther.html;

* Isaac Zarfati
* Stow-Trent 1475
* Jütte-Jailhouse Encounters
* Staudinger-Azz ZZc Court

Week XIII
13 - 17 November

Glikl of Hameln

Fine, Judaism in Practice, 483-497;

* Robert Liberis, ""She sees that her merchandise is good, and her lamp is not extinguished at nighttime": Glikl's memoir as historical source" in Nashim 7 (2004): 11-27
* Natalie Zemon Davis, "Revealing, Concealing: Ways Of Recounting The Self In Early Modern Times"

Week XIV
20 - 24 November

Thanksgiving: no class on Wednesday or Friday

Jewish Life in Poland

Fine, Judaism in Practice, 61-72

* Greenblatt-Women's Writing
* Magdalena Teter "Jewish Conversion to Catholicism in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth of the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries" in Jewish History 17:3 (2003) 257-283

Week XV
27 November - 1 December

The Ba'al Shem Tov and the Vilna Gaon

Fine, Judaism in Practice, 498-520;

* Teller-Violence in the Ukraine

Week XVI
4-6 December

Conclusion


Online Course Evaluation Process: Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course based on 10 criteria. These evaluations are conducted online at https://evaluations.ufl.edu. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results.

Note: A grade of C- is not a qualifying grade for major, minor, Gen Ed, or College Basic distribution credit. For further information on UF’s Grading Policy, see: https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx - hgradeshttp://www.isis.ufl.edu/minusgrades.html