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; office hours by appointment in office: 40.154 (Roger de Llúria Building-Ciutadella Campus)

Course contact hours: 45

Recommended credit: 6 ECTS credits

Course prerequisites: There are no pre-requisites for the course. No previous background in either Judaism or Jewish history is required. All Readings 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.

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.

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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Absences</th>
<th>Penalization</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Up to two (2) absences</td>
<td>No penalization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three (3) absences</td>
<td>1 point subtracted from final grade (on a 10-point scale)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four (4) absences</td>
<td>2 points subtracted from final grade (on a 10-point scale)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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

**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.

**Session 5: Within the Judería or Call**
- *Faculty-guided field study tour* to the medieval Jewish Quarter of Barcelona
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 *Kuzari* and Poems, Shlomo ben Gabirol’s *Fons Vitae* and Shlomo ben Adret’s *(the RASHBA) Responsa* or the *Hidushei haRashba* (commentary on the *Talmud*).

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*.

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*.

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
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

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”.

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)

Session 15: Sephardic or Jewish?
The Sephardic Jews come back to Spain
The arrival of the Ashkenazi Jews in the 1930’ s

Session 16: Spain and the Shoah
The Jews in Spain during the Spanish Civil War
Franco and the Holocaust
“Visas for freedom”

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


**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 2021

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

**Recommended bibliography:**


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


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


David L. Graizbord, Souls in Dispute. Converso Identities in Iberia and the Jewish Diaspora, 1580-1700, University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia, 2004


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


The intellectual property rights of this course belong to the instructor
The exploitation rights of this course belong exclusively to Universitat Pompeu Fabra-July 2020
VV.AA. The Sephardi heritage: essays on the history and cultural contribution of the Jews of Spain and Portugal, Madrid, Mapfre, 1989