

Year Course Olami Journey to Morocco

Course Summary:

Year Course Olami Journey to Morocco is an introduction to the rich historical culture of the Moroccan Jewish community of over 1000 years. We will gain a greater understanding of the Jewish community through ritual life, community living, art, Saint Veneration, and the unique traditions of the Sephardic community in Morocco. We will also focus on the relationship of the Jews and Muslims in Morocco throughout history, delving into the difficult questions of what it means for Jews to be living under Muslim rule. We will spend time learning about the yearning of the Moroccan Jews for Zion throughout generations, the way in which it integrated with a larger national Zionist dream, the beginnings of the underground Zionist movements to bring Moroccan Jews to Israel in the 1950s and 60s, and the absorption of the Moroccan Jews into Israeli society. Finally, we will explore the conflicts of a Muslim-Mediterranean country at the beginning of the 21st century, and its effect on Israel and the Middle East.

The course will primarily be a field study. On the Morocco Journey we will visit cities of the largest Jewish communities that existed and still exist today, exploring the following things: the Mellah, synagogues, cemeteries, artisan workshops, and significant members of the community. A combination of lecturers, discussions, student presentations, all of which require a high degree of participation and motivation from the individual student, will be used throughout the course. Through a host of written and internet sources as well as class discussions, we will come to understand the flourishing Jewish community that at its peak was the largest Jewish community outside of the Western world and the implications for the 21st century.

The following are the course requirements and grading distribution:

Preparation Seminar	10%
Travel Participation	20%
Presentation	25%
Presentation 2	25%
Summary Paper	20%

Classes

1). Introduction: Where East Meets West

- ◆ Jews in a Muslim World
- ◆ Dynasty of Modern Morocco
- ◆ Ancestry of Hassan II
- ◆ Berber Culture and History

Readings:

Gerber, Jane S., Jewish Society in Fez: Studies in Communal and Economic Life, (pp 1-22)

Hughes, Stephen O., Morocco under King Hassan

Laskier, Michael M., North African Jewry in the Twentieth Century

2). History of Moroccan Jews

- ◆ Jewish Ritual Life and Culture
- ◆ Life in the Mellah

Readings:

Bar-Itzhak, Haya, Jewish Moroccan Folk Narratives from Israel

Gerber, Jane S., Jewish Society in Fez: Studies in Communal and Economic Life, (pp 40-77)
Goldberg, Harvey E., The Mimuna and the Minority Status of Moroccan Jews, (pp. 75-87)
Gottreich, Emily, The Mellah of Marrakesh
The Jews of Morocco, (pp. 18-34, 40-53))
Laskier, Michael M., North African Jewry in the Twentieth Century (pp 23-84)

3). Maimonides

- ◆ Biography and his years in Fes
- ◆ Maimonides' philosophy

Readings:

Zeitlin, Solomon, Maimonides, a biography
Hartman, David, Maimonides: Torah and Philosophic quest

4). Moroccan Handicraft/Artwork

- ◆ Life in the Medina vs. Mellah
- ◆ Tanneries vs. ceramics vs. silverwork

Readings:

"Customs of the Jews of Morocco". (pp. 85-104)
Gerber, Jane S., Jewish Society in Fez (pp 143-156, 159-184)

5). Tzadikim

- ◆ Contributions
- ◆ Hilulah
- ◆ Understanding the significance

Readings:

Ben Ami, Issachar, Saint Veneration Among the Jews in Morocco, pp.
Bilu, Yoram, "Jewish Moroccan "Saint Impresarios" in Israel

6). Zionist Awakenings

- ◆ Underground
- ◆ Aliyah and klitah in Israel

Readings:

Laskier, Michael M. The Alliance Israelite Universelle (pp 194-226)
Laskier, Michael M., North African Jewry in the Twentieth Century (pp 84-158, 186-254)

7). Moroccan Community in Israel

- ◆ Absorption in the 50s and 60s
- ◆ Identities today

Readings:

The Jews of Morocco, (pp. 75-79, 87-95)
Laskier, Michael M., North African Jewry in the Twentieth Century (pp 158-186).
"Moroccan Jews and the Shaping of Israel's Sacred Geography", (pp. 72-85)

8). Jewish Muslim Relations

Readings:

Gerber, Jane S., Jewish Society in Fez (pp 22-40)
Laskier, Michael M. The alliance Israelite Universelle, (pp 303-321)

Laskier, Michael M., North African Jewry in the Twentieth Century (pp 84-117)
"Nostalgia and Ambivalence" (pp. 288-310)

9). *Today's Youth of Morocco, What's Next?*

On Site:

Meetings with elementary and high schools students in Casablanca

Meetings with Jewish scouts in Casablanca

Guest Speaker from the Casablanca Jewish Community

Bibliography

Abitbol, Michel, The Jews of North Africa during the Second World War, Wayne State University Press, Detroit, 1989

Abouzeid, Leila, Return to Childhood: The Memoir of a Modern Moroccan Woman, University of Texas Press, 1993

Bar-Itzhak, Haya, Jewish Moroccan Folk Narratives from Israel, Wayne state University Press, Detroit, 1993

Ben Ami, Issachar, Saint Veneration Among the Jews in Morocco, Wayne state University Press, Detroit, 1998

Bilu, Yoram, "Jewish Moroccan "Saint Impresarios" in Israel: A Stage – Developmental Perspective", *Psychoanalytic Study of Society*, vol. 15, pp. 247-269.

"Customs of the Jews of Morocco". In Mann, Vivian, ed. Morocco: Jews and Art in a Muslim Land. New York: Merrell In association with the Jewish Museum, 2000, pp. 85-104

Gerber, Jane S., Jewish Society in Fez: Studies in Communal and Economic Life, Columbia University, 1972

Gershovich, Moshe, French Military Rule in Morocco: Colonialism and its Consequences, Frank Cass, London, 2000, Chapter 7 – The Impact of French Rule on Contemporary Morocco, pg. 206-218

Goldberg, Harvey E., "The Mimuna and the Minority Status of Moroccan Jews", *Ethnology* 17(1) 1978, pp. 75-87.

Gottreich, Emily, The Mellah of Marrakesh: Jewish and Muslim space in Morocco's Red City, Indiana University Press, Bloomington, 2007.

Hartman, David, Maimonides: Torah and Philosophic quest, Philadelphia: Jewish Publication Society of America, 1976.

Hoisington, Jr., William A., The Casablanca Connection: French Colonial Policy, 1936-1943, The University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill and London, 1984. Chapter 7 – The American Road to Morocco, pg. 194-224.

Hughes, Stephen O., Morocco Under King Hassan, Ithaca Press, 2001

The Jews of Morocco, The Zionist Youth Council, New York, 1956.

Katz, Jonathan G., Murder in Marrakesh: Emile Mauchamp and the French Colonial Adventure, Indiana University Press, Bloomington and Indianapolis, 2006, Chapter 3 – Europeans and Jews, pg. 74-91.

Laskier, Michael M. The alliance Israelite Universelle and the Jewish Communities of Morocco 1862-1962, State University of New York Press, Albany, 1983

Laskier, Michael M., North African Jewry in the Twentieth Century: The Jews of Morocco, Tunisia, and Algeria, New York University Press, New York, 1994

Lipman, Sonia and V.D., eds, Mission to Morocco 1863-1864, Oxford University Press 1985

“Nostalgia and Ambivalence: The Reconstruction of Jewish-Muslim Relations in Oulad Mansour”, In, Goldberg, Harvey, Ed, Sephardi and Middle Eastern: Jewries History and Culture in the Modern Era. Indiana University Press, 1996.

Mann, Vivian B., editor, Morocco Jews and Art in a Muslim Land, Merrell, New York, 2000

“Moroccan Jews and the Shaping of Israel’s Sacred Geography”, In Moore, Deborah, and Troen, S. Ilan, eds. Divergent Jewish Cultures Israel and America, Yale University Press, New Haven, pp. 72-85.

The Jews of French Morocco and Tunisia, Institute of Jewish Affairs, World Jewish Congress, New York, NY 1952

Zeitlin, Solomon, Maimonides, a biography, New York: Bloch Publishing Co., 1935

Year Course Olami Greece:

The Greek Jewish community was once of the oldest and relatively independent Diasporas. It gave the Jewish world many wonderful traditions and customs and were important contributors to the economy and culture of Greece. The tragic and almost total destruction of this once glorious community remains one of the most extreme examples of the cruelty of the Shoah.

The trip will focus on what was the golden past of the Greek Jews, their painful end and the threads of culture and history that have survived after the desecration.

Here is a sample of educational highlights:

- **Thessaloniki** :Tour of Jewish Thessaoloniki including Synagogue, Jewish Museum, railway station, ***Cemetery at Holocaust Memorial.***
- Kabbalat Shabbat & services with locals
- **Volos**: Anna Frank Monument and Local Synagogue in Larisa Local synagogue and the Holocaust memorial in Volos.
- **Athens**: Jews and Greeks
- **Judaism and Greek Philosophy**
- **Democracy and Jewish law**
- **Shoa and Aliyah**
- The following are the course requirements and grading distribution:
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- Preparation Seminar 10%
- Travel Participation 20% •
- Presentation 25% •
- Presentation 2 25% •
- Summary Paper 20% •

Year Course Olami Italy

Introduction:

Italy was a hub of activity for Jews from all over the European Diaspora, a relatively safe and prosperous country. As a result, three kinds of Jewish communities emerged, Sephardic, Ashkenazi and Italian, each with their own traditions and customs. This tour will explore the places, people and events that made this once important Jewish community so colorful, wealthy and creative. Along with this we will examine the terrible moments in Italian Jewish history: the creation of the Ghetto, the repeated expulsions, the public burning of sacred texts, the Inquisition and Shoah.

Educational Highlights:

- **Rome:** the Great Synagogue of Rome
- Ceremony at the memorial commemorating the expulsion of Italian Jews to Auschwitz during WW2.
- Visit the plaque by Campe Di Fiori square commemorating the burning of the Talmud and many other Jewish books during the Spanish Inquisition.
- Arch of Titus
- Pitigliano, a quaint old town that is known as "the little Jerusalem", due to the historical presence of a Jewish community that has always been well integrated into the social context.
- For several hundred years Pitigliano was a frontier town between the Grand Duchy of Tuscany and, to the south, the Papal States. For this reason, the town was home to a flourishing and long-lived Jewish community, mostly made up by people fleeing from Rome during the Counterreformation persecutions. Jews of the town used one of the caves for their ritual Passover matzoh bakery. After the promulgation of racial laws under Nazi influence, all the Jews of the town reportedly escaped capture with the help of their Christian neighbors. Although there are almost no Jews left in town, not enough to provide a Minyan, the synagogue (1598, with furnishings of the 17th and 18th centuries) is still officiated from time to time. It was restored in 1995.
- **PISA:** In the evening, join the Jewish community for "Balagan Café", an evening of food and music and talk
- **Florence:** The Synagogue and Jewish Museum of Florence
- Kabbalat Shabat and services with the Jewish community followed by Shabbat dinner
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 - Presentation 2 25% •
 - Summary Paper 20% •