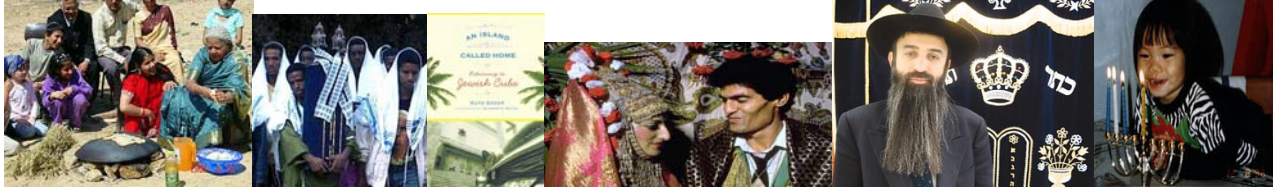


*Global Culture: Religion, Migration and Diaspora (JUD 30980 G)**

Professor Brink-Danan

Brown University - Spring 2009

Wednesdays 3:00 pm - 5:20 pm Wilson 303



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Box 1826/Phone: 863-2750/Office Hours: Monday 3:00-4:30 (163 George St./Corner of Brook)

Through historical and ethnographic texts, music, images and film, this class provides students with a global perspective on Jewish life. Special attention will be given to the languages and literatures of the Sephardi and Mizrahi diasporas in places such as the Middle East, North Africa, France and the Americas. Issues raised include the representation of Sephardi and Mizrahi Jews in academic and popular media, the politics of ethnicity in Israel and the relationship to Ashkenazi Jewish practices worldwide.

*Note to concentrators: This course is cross listed in Judaic Studies and anthropology.

As a course in Judaic Studies *and* anthropology, this course is oriented around certain goals that help build skills and knowledge in these fields. These include:

1. Understanding the historical and cultural trajectories of different branches of the Jewish people.
2. Evaluating diverse manifestations of Jewish identity through a comparative lens; at the same time, investigating what these seemingly diverse groups have in common.
3. Critically examining different forms of cultural representation of/by Jews from around the globe.

Throughout the semester, we accomplish these goals by:

1. Reading across disciplines - from historical, ethnographic, sociological and literary texts - which describe the issues relevant to Jews from around the world.
2. Situating these narratives in a comparative framework through class discussion and individual reflections on these themes.
3. Learning to critique stereotypes and generalizations about Jews by evaluating these against alternative modes of representation.

As the New England weather improves and to mark our focus on the "New World," our class will plan a trip to Newport, RI to visit the Touro Synagogue, the oldest surviving synagogue in the United States (founded by a group of Portuguese Jews in 1658). This synagogue was visited by George Washington in 1790.

Readings

The following books are on order for purchase at the Brown bookstore; they are also all on 24 hour reserve at the Rockefeller Library:

- Beinin, Joel *The Dispersion of Egyptian Jewry: Culture, Politics and the Formation of a Modern Diaspora.*
- Daniel, Ruby *Ruby of Cochin : an Indian Jewish woman remembers.*
- Solomon, Hagar *The Hyena People: Ethiopian Jews in Christian Ethiopia*
- Rawet, Samuel (Trans. Nelson Vieira) *The Prophet (Collection of Short Stories from Brazil)*
- Nahai, Gina *Cry of the Peacock*

In addition, you will read a variety of book excerpts and journal articles in OCRA; you may access these articles via OCRA's website: <http://dl.lib.brown.edu/reserves/> - our course password is: "hamsa." The best way to see these organized is by author (follow deadlines on syllabus, not on OCRA).

Our class has a website on mycourses (blackboard). This is accessible through the following link: mycourses.brown.edu. Prior to registration for the course, the site is viewable by logging in as username: brown.guest password: guest. The syllabus, readings, assignments and related folders for this course can be accessed on mycourses.brown.edu under the course name. If you have technical problems, please contact help@brown.edu.

Student Responsibilities and Assessment

Your successful participation in this class is contingent upon completion of the following:

Class Participation (15%)

Participation is evaluated along the following guidelines: Do your classroom comments show engagement with the reading? Are you responding to fellow classmates? It is also important to keep in mind that, while participation counts toward your grade, *dominating the classroom discussion and not allowing others time to contribute will have a negative impact on your grade.* It is understood that students will keep up with all readings and films. In order to prepare for class discussion, you must write a page-long thought-piece of the readings each week and post them to our class discussion list and bring three questions about the readings to class.

Discussion Leading (15%) Depending on course enrollment, you will be assigned to lead 1-2 class discussions. This may include (but is not limited to) power point presentations, text analyses, video footage, discussion questions, etc. Be creative!

Two Take-Home Exams (essay questions TBA) (25% each)

Book Review of Gina Nahai's Cry of the Peacock (5 pp, double-spaced) (20%)

This book review is not meant to be a simple synopsis of the text; rather, in lieu of a final exam, I expect you to use the review as a platform from which to highlight themes which we have discussed throughout the semester and integrate them into your analysis.

I expect you to complete papers and exams on time. Late submissions will be graded down **one letter grade** per day overdue. See course website for my grading rubric on essays, university policies on plagiarism and suggestions for improving the quality of college papers. It is highly recommended to keep extra copies of all assignments until the end of the course. All references quoted or otherwise cited in assignments should follow anthropology citation standards (see: http://www.aaanet.org/pubs/style_guide.htm). Note: I *highly* recommend taking advantage of the Writing Center to edit your papers before you submit them to me. Papers are graded on content *and* style, quality of argument, clarity, etc. *I do not accept re-writes of papers.*

Topics/Readings/Calendar:

Please Note: Readings are first discussed the day they appear on the calendar! This means you need to have done the reading *before* this class date.

** Indicates assignment handed out or due.

Syllabus subject to revision!

1/21

Introduction to course

1/28

"Jewish" Foods and Faces

☞ Bahloul, Joelle FOOD PRACTICES AMONG SEPHARDIC IMMIGRANTS IN CONTEMPORARY FRANCE *Journal Of The AAR*, 1995

☞ Sered, Susan

FOOD AND HOLINESS: COOKING AS A SACRED ACT AMONG MIDDLE-EASTERN JEWISH WOMEN *Anthropological Quarterly*, 1988

☞ Excerpts from Khazzoom, Loolwa (OCRA)

2/4 Golden Ages and Useable Past

☞ Benbassa, Esther and Aron Rodrigue Sephardi Jewry, (Introduction and Prologue SEE BOTH PDFS)

☞ Lewis, Bernard THE JUDAEO-ISLAMIC TRADITION *IN: The Jews Of Islam*, 1984, p.66-106 (see library holdings/e-book)

2/11 Myths and Counter-myths

☞ Cohen, Mark MYTH AND COUNTERMYTH *IN: Under Crescent And Cross*, 1994, p.3-16

☞ Bat Ye'or 1987 "Islam and the Dhimmis" in *Jerusalem Quarterly*, Volume Number 42
In Class-Film: The Forgotten Refugees

2/18 Colonialism, Nationalism and the Jews

☞ Simon, Reeva EUROPE IN THE MIDDLE EAST IN: The Jews Of The Middle East And North Africa In Modern Times, 2003, p.19-28

☞ Memmi, Albert . Jews, Tunisians and Frenchmen. *Literary Review* v.41 (2), 1998: p.223-227

☞ Stein, Sarah 2007 "Mediterranean Jewries and Global Commerce in the Modern Period: On the Trail of the Jewish Feather Trade." *Jewish Social Studies* Winter2007, Vol. 13 Issue 2, p1-39

2/25 Time, Memory and Memoir

☞ Zumwalt, Rosemary MEMORIES OF TIME PAST: FIELDWORK AMONG THE SEPHARDIM *Journal Of American Folklore*, 2001

☞ Sciaky, Leon OUR HOUSE IN SALONICA IN: Farewell To Salonica, 1946, p.9-20

☞ Daniel, Ruby 2002 Ruby of Cochin : an Indian Jewish woman remembers. Philadelphia : Jewish Publication Society

In-Class Film: Turn Left at the End of the World

Exam #1 Essay Questions Posted

3/4 Israel: Part One: Demographics and Politics

☞ Lissak, Moshe THE DEMOGRAPHIC-SOCIAL REVOLUTION IN ISRAEL IN THE 1950s, *Israel Affairs* 2003

☞ Weingrod, Alex EHUD BARAK'S APOLOGY: LETTERS FROM THE ISRAELI PRESS, *Israel Studies* 3(2) 1998

☞ Weissbrod, Lilly SHAS: AN ETHNIC RELIGIOUS PARTY, *Israel Affairs* 2003

☞ Chetrit, Sami Shalom Mizrahi Politics in Israel: Between Integration and Alternative *Journal of Palestine Studies*, Vol. 29, No. 4. (Autumn, 2000), pp. 51-65.

3/11 Israel: Part Two: Culture Wars

☞ Shohat, Ella RUPTURE AND RETURN: ZIONIST DISCOURSE AND THE STUDY OF ARAB JEWS *Social Text*, 21(2), 2003

☞ Penslar, Derek BROADCAST ORIENTALISM: REPRESENTATIONS OF MIZRAHI JEWRY IN ISRAELI RADIO IN: *Orientalism And The Jews*, 2005, p.182-200

☞ Saada-Ophir, Galit BORDERLAND POP: ARAB JEWISH MUSICIANS AND THE POLITICS OF PERFORMANCE, *Cultural Anthropology* 21(2) 2006

See "Salah Shabati" excerpts in class

3/13 *Exam #1 Due*

3/18 Homes and Homelands

☞ Levy, Andre CENTER AND DIASPORA: JEWS IN LATE-TWENTIETH-CENTURY MOROCCO *City & Society*, XIII(2), 2001, p.245-270

☞ Beinun, Joel The Dispersion of Egyptian Jewry: Culture, Politics and the Formation of a Modern Diaspora.

3/25 (Spring Break, No Class)

Exam #2 Essay Questions Posted

4/1 The "New World" I

☞ Behar, Excerpts from An Island Called Home: Views from Jewish Cuba

☞ In Stavans, Ed. Lazarus

☞ Documents concerning the Touro Synagogue

See "Adio Kerida" outside of class (film on reserve and on OCRA); Attend Behar's campus lecture and write 1 pg. response, 4/6/08.

4/8 (No class, but attend Ruth Behar's public lecture on the Jews of Cuba; Monday 4/6)

4/15 (Class to be rescheduled due to Passover Holiday)

The "New World" II: Focus on Brazil

☞ Rawet, Samuel, The Prophet.

4/17 *Exam #2 Due*

4/22 Other Trajectories (Beyond Sephardi, Mizrahi and Ashkenazi)

☞ Salamon, Hagar 1999 The Hyena People: Ethiopian Jews in Christian Ethiopia. Berkeley: University of California Press

☞ Sharot, Stephen THE KAIFENG JEWS: A RECONSIDERATION OF ACCULTURATION AND ASSMILATION Jewish Social Studies, 13(2), 2007

☞ (Suggested) Chitando, Ezra VAJUDHA (AFRICAN JEWS) IN HARARE African Studies, 64(2), 2005

Class Dinner at Professor's Home, Date/Time TBA

This class observes reading week.

5/11 Final Essay Due