

H366 The Greek Jews: History, Identity & Memory, from 1821 to the Present

Spring 2018

Course Instructor

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HOURS AVAILABLE

After Class Tue & Thu

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Class Meetings:

DAY Tue / Thu

HOURS

Classroom

Course Description

This course explores the history of the Greek Jews from 1821 to the present, focusing on: their rich cultural and religious traditions; communal life; incorporation into Greek society and the events that shaped their lives - including the Holocaust and its remembrance. The Greek Jews include primarily two communities, the Romaniotes and the Sephardim. The Romaniotes have been present in the Greek lands for centuries and are considered the oldest Jewish community in Europe. The Sephardic Jews settled in the Greek lands after their expulsion from Spain in 1492. Their large concentration in Salonika -present-day Thessaloniki- made the city known as "Mother of Israel." We will study the evolution of this extraordinary blend of Jewish history and culture, its place in Greek society, the devastation endured in the Holocaust, and its survival and memorialization in present-day Greece and Israel.

The aim of this course is to understand the history of the Jews in Greece but also to function as a window into mainstream Greek culture and society by examining its interactions with a minority group and a religious "other." It is a history of Greece viewed through the lens of the experiences of the Greek Jews. Towards that purpose, the course is structured as a historical investigation, and treats the lives of the Jews against the backdrop of the chronological evolution of Greece from the creation of the modern independent state through the present.

By the same token, the course illustrates the ways historians study the past through privileging an investigation of causes and effects over a simple recitation of dates and facts; inquiring about the meaning of significance of events for a particular era or period; analyzing texts by placing them in their proper historical context; evaluating sources; and using a broad range of data including primary sources (evidence produced contemporaneously to the event we are studying), secondary sources (ex-post facto assessments either by lay-persons or academic historians), films, music and photographs.

Course Resources and Activities

Our encounter with the history of the Greek Jews will entail:

Reading and analyzing primary and academic texts and the viewing of documentary films and collections of photographs;

Discussion of this material in class with an emphasis on conversation and exchange of ideas;

In-class presentations, at the end of the semester, of the final assignment each student will be working on;

Visits to major Jewish sites in Athens including the Jewish Museum, the Holocaust Memorial, Beth Shalom Synagogue, Gostijo Kosher Restaurant;

The CYA field trip to Thessaloniki (April 17-21) is of special importance for our course because we will have the opportunity to visit the city's major Jewish sites.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the course, students should have acquired an understanding of the historical trajectory of the Jewish presence of Greece; an ability to use the historian's tools to reflect and analyze the past and a familiarity with the use of a range of sources including texts, films and photographs.

Course Requirements

Regular, prompt class attendance and ability to discuss assigned readings

Mid-term Exam - Tue. 13 March

1-page proposal of planned research paper, including topic & main argument due Tue. 24 April

2-page outline of research paper including annotated content & bibliography due Thu. 3 May

In-class presentation of term paper 8/10 May

Research Paper - 5,000 words, double-spaced, due Thursday 17 May, 12noon.

Research paper specifications: Your paper should be organized in a way that demonstrates its main argument followed by the premises on which it is made, with the help of primary and secondary sources, it should be footnoted and include a bibliography. We will have ample time to discuss the paper, the topics, the appropriate sources and the instructor's expectations in class during the semester.

Grading and Evaluation

Your grade for this course will be based on the following distribution:

25% Regular, prompt class attendance and ability to discuss assigned readings

25% Mid-term Exam

10% In-class presentation of term paper 8/10 May

40% Research Paper

Grades are intended to give you a sense of the quality of a particular piece of work: roughly speaking, a B means that you have done a good job with the writing, the ideas, and the organization of the work; a C conveys that the work lacks some important qualities and has some problems, while an A means that the work is exemplary in some key ways: the writing is particularly clear, the ideas thoroughly treated, the organization of the presentation well considered and effective.

Your attendance and in class writing and analysis is vitally important to your success in this course. Tardiness for class and absences without a valid excuse (e.g. illness) will affect your grade.

Policy on Original Work: Unless otherwise specified, all submitted work must be your own, original

work. Any excerpts from the work of others must be clearly identified as a quotation, and a proper citation provided. (Check Student handbook, pg. 9)

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: If you are a registered (with your home institution) student with a disability and you are entitled to learning accommodation, please inform the Director of Academic Affairs and make sure that your school forwards the necessary documentation.

Class & Readings Schedule

Class Day	Day/Date	Topic & Readings
1	Tue Jan 30	<i>Introduction to the Course</i>
2	Thu Feb 1	<i>The Romaniote Jews</i> Wolfe, "Kehila Kedosha Janina in NYC" https://www.kkjsm.org/
3	Tue Feb 6	<i>Jews in the Ottoman Empire</i> Veinstein, "Jews & Moslems in the Ottoman Empire"
4	Thu Feb 8	<i>Jews & the Establishment of Modern Greece</i> Fleming, Greece – a Jewish History Ch. 2
5	Tue Feb 13	<i>Jewish Communities & the Expansion of Greece</i> Fleming, Greece – a Jewish History Ch. 3
6	Thu Feb 15	<i>Visit to the Jewish Museum of Greece</i> 39 Nikis str. Athens – for directions go to: http://www.jewishmuseum.gr/en/information/welcome/opening_hours.html
7	Tue Feb 20	<i>Jewish Ioannina</i> Dalven, The Jews of Ioannina pp. 3-47
8	Thu Feb 22	<i>Visit to Beth Shalom Synagogue</i> 5 Melidoni str. Athens – for directions go to: http://www.koshergreece.com/templates/articlecco_cdo/aid/2089438/jewish/Map-Directions-Synagogue-Athens.htm
9	Mon Feb 26	<i>The Early Jewish Presence in Salonika</i> Mazower, Salonica City of Ghosts Chs 3&4
<i>Field Trip to Peloponnese Feb. 27 – Mar 3</i>		
10	Tue Mar 6	<i>From Salonika to Thessaloniki</i> Fleming, Greece – a Jewish History Ch. 5 Mazower, Salonica City of Ghosts Ch. 14
11	Thu Mar 8	<i>Between WWI & WWII</i> Mavrogordatos, <i>Stillborn Republic</i> Ch. 5
12	Tue Mar 13	<i>Jews Speaking Greek</i>

		Ginio, "Judeo-Spanish Speaking Jews & the Greek language"
13	Thu Mar 15	<i>The Holocaust in Greece</i> Bowman "Jews in Wartime Greece" Fleming, Greece – a Jewish History Ch. 6
14	Tue Mar 20	<i>The Holocaust in Thessaloniki</i> Mazower, City of Ghosts Chs 21 & 22
15	Thu Mar 22	<i>The Fate of the Ioannina Jews</i> Dalven, "The Holocaust in Janina"
15	Tue Mar 27	<i>Stories of Protection</i> Kitroeff, "Wartime Greek Attitudes Towards the Jews in Athens"
16	Tue Mar 27	<i>Stories of Survival</i> Sevillas, From Athens to Auschwitz (excerpts)
17	Thu Mar 29	<i>Jews in Post-War Greece</i> Fleming, Greece – a Jewish History Ch. 9
<i>Spring Recess (Passover & Greek Easter Apr 2-9)</i>		
18	Tue Apr 10	<i>Antisemitism in Greece?</i> https://gr.boell.org/en/2017/08/01/antisemitism-greece-today-executive-summary
19	Thu Apr 12	<i>Salonica in Thessaloniki</i> Molho & Hastaoglou-Martinidis, Jewish Sites in Thessaloniki (excerpts)
<i>Field Trip to Thessaloniki Apr 17-21</i>		
20	Tue Apr 24	<i>Jews & Greek Sports</i> Zaikos, "Greek Jews in Sports"
21	Thu Apr 26	<i>Sephardic Music</i> http://www.sephardicmusic.org/ https://folkways.si.edu/greek-jewish-musical-traditions/judaica-world/music/album/smithsonian
22	Thu May 3	<i>Sephardic Cuisine</i> Stavroulakis, <i>The Cookbook of the Jews of Greece</i> (excerpts) & Visit to Gostijo Restaurant
23	Tue May 8	In-class presentations based on research paper
24	Thu May 10	In-class presentations based on research paper

**Assignments must be submitted at the beginning of class on due date, unless noted otherwise on syllabus*

***Course schedule, in terms of subjects and readings, may be subject to change to benefit student learning and in keeping up to date with current research.*

Course Readings: Full Bibliography

"Antisemitism in Greece today - Executive Summary." *Heinrich Böll Stiftung Greece*, 1 Aug. 2017, gr.boell.org/en/2017/08/01/antisemitism-greece-today-executive-summary.

"Greek-Jewish Musical Traditions | Smithsonian Folkways." Smithsonian Folkways Recordings. Accessed October 18, 2017. <https://folkways.si.edu/greek-jewish-musical-traditions/judaica-world/music/album/smithsonian>.

Dalven, Rachel. "The Holocaust in Janina." *Journal of Modern Greek Studies* 2, no. 1 (1984): 87-103.

Dalven, Rae. *The Jews of Ioannina*. Philadelphia: Cadmus Press, 1990.

Fleming, K. E. *Greece: a Jewish history*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2008.

"Kehila Kedosha Janina Synagogue and Museum." Kehila Kedosha Janina Synagogue and Museum. Accessed October 18, 2017. <https://www.kkjism.org/>.

Kitroeff, Alexandros. "Wartime Greek attitudes towards the Jews in Athens." *Forum on the Jewish People, Zionism and Israel* 60 (1987): 41-51.

Maurogordatos, Giorgos T. *Stillborn republic: social coalitions and party strategies in Greece, 1922-1936*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1983.

Mazower, Mark. *Salonica, city of ghosts: Christians, Muslims and Jews, 1430-1950*. London: HarperCollins, 2004.

Meier, Christian. *From Athens to Auschwitz: the uses of history*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2005.

Molho, Rena, and Vilma Chastaoglou. *Jewish sites in Thessaloniki: brief history and guide*. Athens: Lycabettus Press, 2009.

Sephardic Music: A Century of Recordings. Accessed October 18, 2017. <http://www.sephardicmusic.org/>.

Stavroulakis, Nicholas. *Cookbook of the Jews of Greece*. Athens: Lycabettus Press, 1986.

Veinstein, Gilles. "Jews and Muslims in the Ottoman Empire." In *A History of Jewish-Muslim Relations: From the Origins to the Present Day*, edited by Meddeb Abdelwahab and Stora Benjamin, by Todd Jane Marie and Smith Michael B., 171-202. Princeton University Press, 2013.

Zaikos, N. *Greek Jews in Sport: The Contribution of Thessaloniki. An exhibition by the Jewish Museum of Thessaloniki*. Thessaloniki: Jewish Community of Thessaloniki/ Jewish Museum of Thessaloniki, 2011.