

**Proposal to Create a New Course: The Jewish Experience in Latin America
History 534.08, TTH
Prof. Donna J. Guy
Dulles 210 292-0324
Office Hours T-Th, 2-3 and by Appointment**

Justification

This course is designed to introduce students to selected issues in the history of Jews in Latin America. There are no language requirements. It will focus on the history of the Jewish experience in Argentina, Mexico, Brazil, and Cuba, and examines the role of Latin America as both a refuge from and a source of anti-Semitism; the role of immigration, Zionism, Jewish philanthropy, the politics of the Jewish communities, and the impact of current events on particular countries. Designed to give students a basic understanding of the dynamics of the Jewish Diaspora in Latin America, it will be offered every other year.

This course will fit in with both the Latin American history focus of the undergraduate program and the Jewish History offered in the department as well as the interdisciplinary Melton Center.

Course Outcomes

Students completing this course will have an understanding of how the both the Sephardic and the Ashkenazi Diasporas affected Latin America, and how Jews constructed lives and communities in predominantly Hispanic, Catholic countries. They will be able to compare and contrast these experiences and read personal reminiscences of participants in these Diasporas. Furthermore, they will be able to develop critical thinking through historical analysis of primary and secondary sources, and will improve their writing and communication skills in exams, papers, and discussions.

Syllabus

All students will be expected to attend each class ready to participate in discussions and have the readings finished by Thursday of each week. Students will also be expected to write two papers. The first will compare and contrast the Jewish experience in Argentina and Brazil based upon the Avni and Lesser books. The second will be a thoughtful essay about the Jewish experience based upon Agosin book. There will also be a take-home final. Grades will be determined by class attendance and participation 10%; paper 1 25%; paper 2 25%; final exam 40%. Students must hand in all papers and exams to receive credit for the course.

Grade breakdowns:

A: 92.6 and above; A-: 89.6-92.5; B+: 87.6-89.5; B-: 79.6-82.5; C+: 77.6-79.5; C: 72.6-77.5; C-: 67.6-69.5; D: 62-67.5; E: below 62.

Disability Policy: Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated, and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue.; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; <http://www.odes.osu.edu>

Class attendance is mandatory. If a student misses a class meeting without an excuse or more than one of the scheduled classes (regardless of the reason), he/she must still hand in the thought paper for the next class.

All students must be officially enrolled in the course by the end of the second full week of the quarter. No requests to add the course will be approved by the Chair of the Department after that time. Enrolling officially and on time is solely the responsibility of the student.

Any plagiarized paper, i.e. papers that quote directly from sources without quotation marks or footnotes and/or those that summarize opinions of others without acknowledging the source in a footnote, will be subject to penalties listed in the University Code of Conduct. See this web site for information on plagiarism and writing handouts:

especially

http://cstw.osu.edu/writing_center/handouts/index.htm. Be forewarned that I will pursue cases of academic misconduct to the appropriate University committee.

Required Readings: all in paperback

David Gitlitz, Secrecy and Deceit: The Religion of the Crypto Jews

Avni, Haim, Argentina and the Jews: a History of Jewish Immigration

Lesser, Jeffrey, Welcoming the Undesireables: Brazil and the Jewish Question

Agosin, Marjorie, Memory, Oblivion and Jewish Culture in Latin

America

Weekly Schedule

Week 1: The Jewish Diaspora in World Perspective; Iberian Jews on the eve of the conquest

Readings

Cimet-Singer, "The Last Battles of Old-World Ideologies in the Race for Identity and Communal Power: Communists vs. Bundists vs. Zionists in Mexico, 1938-1951" in

Week 7: Jewish Philanthropy in the Americas; Jewish prostitution and anti-Semitism

Readings

Sandra McGee Deutsch, "Changing the Landscape: The Study of Argentine Jewish Women and New Historical Vistas," Jewish History 18:4 (2004), 49-73.

Guy, Ch. 1 "On the Road to Buenos Aires," Donna J. Guy, Sex and Danger in Buenos Aires: Prostitution, Family and Nation in Argentina.
Guy, Women's Organizations and Jewish Orphanages in Buenos Aires, 1918-1955, Jewish History 18:1 (2004), 75-93.

Comparative Paper Due on Thursday

Week 8: The Jewish Community in Cuba (Video: Havana Nagila) The Brazilian experience

Read Behar article on Cuban Jewish Identity in Agosin
Robert Levine, "Jews Under the Cuban Revolution 1959-95" Luso Brazilian Review 5:1 (Summer 1968),

Week 9: Jewish cultural contributions to Latin America;

Discussion of rest of Agosin book

Week 10: Anti-Semitism in Latin America: local or international roots?

Sandra McGee Deutsch, "Anti-Semitism and the Chilean Movimiento Nacional Socialista, 1932-41"

Raanan Rein, "Argentine Jews and the Accusation of 'Dual Loyalty,'" in Kristin Ruggiero, ed., The Jewish Diaspora in Latin America and the Caribbean: Fragments of Memory ,pp, 51-71.

Agosin Thought Paper due on Thursday
Take Home Exam handed out on Thursday.

Take home final exam due on date assigned

Useful Websites for the History of Jews in Latin America

Jewish Genealogical Research in Argentina

<http://www.jewishgen.org/InfoFiles/argentina.html>

Jewish Virtual Library—Look for individual countries

<http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/index.html>

YIVO Institute for Jewish Research

http://www.yivoinstitute.org/archlib/archlib_fr.htm

Sephardic Genealogy Sources

http://www.orthohelp.com/geneal/spain_sites.html