Applying an anthropological perspective, this course will examine inter-group relations between Jews and Muslims in various social and geographical settings. This course focuses on Jewish-Muslims inter-communal relations, especially in sites where these groups lived side by side for generations. The Arab-Israeli conflict had influenced and shaped Jewish-Muslim relations over the last century. Moreover, Jewish-Muslim relations have been usually portrayed through the lenses of the conflict. This course offers additional perspectives by exploring Jewish-Muslim inter-communal encounters in several settings.

We will discuss the experience of Jewish communities in several Muslim societies along the Middle-east, North Africa and Central Asia from Morocco and Libya to Kurdistan. Special focus will be given to less known setting in the margins of the Moslem World: relations between Jews and Muslim in the Caucasus and in Central Asia, especially under Soviet Rule. These different settings raise important questions for the study of intergroup relations: the perceptions of the “other”; the meaning of ethnic boundaries and their maintenance; multi-ethnic networks and cooperation between groups; patron-clients and other modes of relations; the meaning of shared cultural worlds, etc.

Attention will be given also to Jewish-Muslim relations in areas with Muslim majority during Nazi-German Occupation in WWII. Finally, we will examine social and cultural encounters between Jewish and Muslims citizens in present day Israel. We will discuss inter-communal relations in “Mix” cities, with special attention to the meaning of former relations with Muslim neighbors among immigrants to Israel. Finally, we will explore how new Israeli films suggest critical- and also amusing- perspectives on Jewish-Muslim relations.

Course Requirements

Reading requirements will include 1 compulsory article for each lesson. Students are expected to actively participate in class – (30% of final grade, further explanations and guidelines can be found under “Assignments”, below), one assignment (20%, see below) and a final exam/assignment (50%). There is an option of up to 10% bonus for introducing an article in class (from the additional literature list). No former knowledge is required for this course.

List of subjects and reading

The subject matter of the course has been divided into fourteen general headings, outlined below. Each topic will be covered in approximately one week, but the precise number of sessions will be determined as the course proceeds. Please note that the following list is not final- specific reading requirements to each lesson will be announced during the course.

1) In search for a framework: *ḏimmī*: patrons-clients, neighbors and communal relations

Contact: chen.bram@huji.ac.il; chenb@ufl.edu
Course # JST 3930 / 0902;  Time: Tuesday 10:40-11:30, Thursday 10:40-12:35; Building FAC 0127


2) Ambivalence and shared cultural worlds between past and present


Film: The Dimmis


4) Middleman Minorities in the Syrian Mosaic: Jews in Syria

5) Contextualized Jews or post-colonial Muslims? “Mountaineer Jew” re-considered

6) Multi Ethnic networks as a way of life: Muslim and Jews in the Caucasus

7) The Caucasus, Albania, North Africa: Jews in Muslim areas under Nazi occupation

8) Every day relations under Soviet Rule: Muslim & Jews in Central Asia

9) “Third party evidences”: Conflict between Muslims and Central Asian Jews
Reading: TBA

Contact: chen.bram@huji.ac.il; chenb@ufl.edu
Course # JST 3930 / 0902; Time: Tuesday 10:40-11:30, Thursday 10:40-12:35; Building FAC 0127

10) Under the shade of a national conflict: Israeli Jewish and Muslim Arabs encounters

11) Jews and Arab – Palestinians in Israel: inter-communal and inter-religious aspects

12) Muslim, Jews, Immigration and inter-group conflict in Israel

13) Jewish migrants & Muslim in a “mix” Israeli city: the cases of Acre and Ramle

14) Intertwined worlds re-visited: Strange encounters in a desert town

**Film:** The Band’s visit (Eran Kolirin, Israel, 2007).

**Additional Bibliography** (not compulsory)


Contact: chen.bram@huji.ac.il; chenb@ufl.edu


See also


Studies in Muslim-Jewish relations (Journal). BP173.J8 S77

**Assignments**

*Active participation* – 30%

Each student will present in class remarks regarding one item from the reading list remarks should include reference to at least one additional bibliographical item from the additional bibliography. All students are required to actively participate in class (but there is place also for shy students…!) and to write remarks about reading material.

In addition, students will write twice a course feedback (1/2 to 1 page), in the 5th week and the 10th week of class. Feedback essay will include in short: (a) what “works” for you and what does not in this class; (b) Suggestions how to improve the class. The idea behind this is to bring more students involvement and dialogue during class.

**Assignment 1** – 20% (should be hand to Professor after the 10th week of class).

Suggest 10 multiply choice questions for a final exam (including answer). Questions should refer to discussions in class and reading material, and should refer to at list 7 different topics.

Contact: chen.bram@huji.ac.il; chenb@ufl.edu
Final exam/paper - 50%
The final exam will be at the form of a multiply choice exam. There will be also an alternative option to write a specific paper if a student have a specific interest in some of the sub-fields.