OBJECTIVES

A survey of the traditional social structure and cultural features of North African Jewry, and an analysis of the changes taking place within it during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Jewish life will be viewed as reflecting both the imprint of the Maghribi environment and the influence of Jewish communal and religious traditions. Topics to be examined in detail include the nature of Muslim-Jewish relationships and the comparison of communities in urban and tribal areas. The course will also examine emigration from North Africa and the evolution of North African Jewish life in Israel.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

There will be two exercises/papers due during the semester, and a final paper. The grade on each exercise will worth 15% of the final grade (totalling 30%), and the paper will be worth 70% of the final grade. The first exercise will be due by the end of the fifth week, and the second will due at the end of the eighth week. At that time, discussions about final papers, due at the last day of the semester, will be begin.

COURSE STRUCTURE

The Topics and Readings are listed below organized into a framework of fifteen weeks. Individual topics may be expanded or “shrunk” somewhat as the semester progresses.

Week One  -  Some source materials


Week Two - General Background


Week Three - Language and other Cultural factors


Week Four - The North African Environment


Week Five - Daily Life and the Economy


Week Six - Social Stratification and Leadership


Week Seven - Family


Week Eight - Change: Status of Jews of Jewish – European Relations


Week Nine – Economic and Communal Changes


Week 10 - Education and Zionism


Week 11 - Religious and Cultural Trends

Abraham Udovitch and Lucette Valensi. The Last Arab Jews: The Communities of Jerba, Tunisia (New York: Harwood, 1984), chap. 7 (pp.119-131).

Week 12 - Toward Aliya


Week 13 - Entering Israeli Society


Week 14 - Cultural Expressions in Israel


Week 15 - Summary and final paper