

The Archaeology of Jewish Diaspora

ANT3930 Sections 3B00 and 3B01/JST 3930 Section SG01

Dates/Times: Tuesdays (9:35-11:30 AM) and Thursdays
(9:35-10:25 AM)

Location: Turlington 208A

Instructor: Simon Goldstone

Office Hours: Tuesdays (1-2:30 pm) and Thursdays (10:30 am- 12 pm)

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Course Description and Objectives

This course is designed to present a historical overview of the field of Jewish Diaspora Archaeology focusing on the archaeological investigations of Jewish life and culture in Medieval Europe (starting with the first scientific excavations in England in the late 19th Century) and in the Early Modern Atlantic World. Participants will obtain knowledge of important case studies, key figures, major issues, and the overall development of the discipline of Jewish Diaspora Archaeology. Methodological, and ethical issues of the excavation of Jewish secular and sacred landscapes will be central to this course. Through lectures, students will be introduced to the readings and provide broad overviews of the overarching topics and issues within the field of Jewish Diaspora Archaeology. Topics to be addressed include: the origins of the Archaeology of Medieval European Jewry, Jewish Landscapes, Religious Structures, Mortuary Practices, and Diet. Attention will also be given to the archaeology of early modern Jewish communities in the Americas.

By the conclusion of this course, each student should be able to answer the following:

What is historical archaeology and what methods are involved in the discipline?

How does historical archaeology contribute to our understanding of Jewish life in the past?

What are the major research areas that have been addressed by historical archaeologists studying Medieval and Early Modern Judaism in the Atlantic?

How does the historical archaeology of Judaism contribute to diaspora studies and studies of

colonialism?

What have been the limitations of historical archaeology in this field, and what should future research projects in the field seek to address?

Course Format

This course includes lectures, readings, and discussion. Reading assignments are to be read prior to the class period for which they are scheduled, and students will be required to submit one paragraph summaries for selected readings each week. The purpose of lectures will be to introduce topics of discussion and examples of Jewish archaeology relevant to the students in the class, as well as addressing student questions and points of interest. The readings will be integrated into class lecture and discussion to build upon the week's theme. Students are active members in class. Material will be tailored to the interests of students. In order to accomplish this goal, active participation in class discussion and e-Learning posts is required.

Required Text

There is only one book that is required for this course:

Ezra, Harry A. (1997) *500 Years in the Jewish Caribbean: The Spanish and Portuguese Jews in the West Indies*. Baltimore: Read Street Publishing.

Please let me know if you have trouble obtaining a copy of this book.

The majority of the required readings are journal articles and book chapters that will be made available electronically on the Canvas website for the course. Please let me know if you have a problem accessing the electronic files.

Course Requirements

Participation (5%): Students should come to class having read the readings for each week and be prepared to discuss them critically. Grades will be dependent upon class discussion and attendance.

Weekly Reading Summaries (10%): At the beginning of each week prior to lecture, students will be asked to submit one-paragraph summaries for all or a select few of the readings. These summaries should include the main argument made by the author as well as specific details about the author's supporting evidence.

Discussion Posts (10%): Students will be asked to post comments or questions for each week's readings to the Canvas webpage at the end of the week after lectures have taken place. Discussion questions will be posted on Thursdays and will reflect points of interest brought up during lectures, to ensure that the issues of interest to the class are covered. Students will be asked to post one initial post answering the discussion prompt and two replies to other students.

Weekly Quizzes (10%): Students will be required to complete weekly quizzes that cover information presented in the readings, lectures, and potential videos. Quizzes will be composed of a combination of key term identification and multiple-choice questions.

Course Project: The course project will eventually produce a 5-7 page paper on a subject, chosen by the student, on the material conditions, or archaeology, of Jews in the diaspora. The project is broken into four components that will contribute to your grade. Additional requirements and instruction will be provided on e-Learning to the class prior to their due dates.

- *Paper Topic and Abstract (15%):* Students will propose a project that they wish to work on which will be approved or altered by the instructor to insure it both can be completed during the semester and is relevant to the course.
- *Bibliography (20%):* Students will submit a working bibliography of at least 10 sources with at least 5 annotated. This is to ensure students are working towards their project during the semester and are not having difficulty finding sources.
- *Project Presentation (20%):* Students will create a digital poster using VoiceThread to present their research to the class via Canvas.
- *Final Paper (25%):* Students will turn in their final paper to the instructor on the date of the final exam as scheduled by the registrar. The paper is due as an electronic copy delivered to the instructor by the end of the workday (5pm) on the due date.

Course Schedule and Readings

Week 1- What is Archaeology?

No required readings for this week. Lecture will focus on the syllabus, and an introduction to archaeological methods and theory. Students are also encouraged to get a head start on the readings for next week.

Week 2- The Archaeology of Religious Diasporas

Silberman, Neil Asher 2010 Rewriting Jewish History. *Archaeology* 63(4):18, 58, 60-61, 65-66.

Orser, Charles E. Jr. 1994 The Archaeology of African-American Slave Religion in the Antebellum South. *Cambridge Archaeological Journal* 4 (1):33-45.

Fennell, Christopher C. 2003 Group Identity, Individual Creativity, and Symbolic Generation in a Bakongo Diaspora. *International Journal of Historical Archaeology* 7(1):1-31.

Yoffie, Leah Rachel 1925 Popular Beliefs and Customs among the Yiddish-Speaking Jews of St. Louis, Mo. *The Journal of American Folklore* 38(149):375-399.

Lefever, Harry G. 1996 When the Saints Go Riding in: Santeria in Cuba and the United States. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 35(3):318-330.

Fandrich, Ina J. 2007 Yorùbá Influences on Haitian Vodou and New Orleans Voodoo. *Journal of Black Studies* 37(5):775-791.

Week 3- Introduction to European Medieval and Early Modern Jewry

Bodian, Miriam 2014 The Formation of the Portuguese Jewish Diaspora. In *The Jews in the Caribbean*, edited by Jane S. Gerber, pp. 17-27.

Kaplan, Debra 2012 Jews in Early Modern Europe: The Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries. *History Compass* 10(2):191-206.

Melammed, Renee Levine 2011 Adapting and Adopting Conversos and the Sephardi Diaspora. *Hispania Judaica Bulletin* vol. 8:85-94.

Nirenberg, David 2003 Enmity and Assimilation: Jews, Christians, and Converts in medieval Spain. *Common Knowledge* 9(1): 137-155.

Week 4- Introduction to the Archaeology of Judaism

Gruber, Samuel D. 2011a The Archaeology of Judaism. In *The Archaeology of Medieval Europe*, Vol. 2, edited by Martin Carver and Jan Klápště, pp. 437-441. Aarhus, Denmark: Aarhus University Press.

Wesler, Kit W. 2012 Archaeology of Judaism. In *An Archaeology of Religion*, by K. Wesler, pp.182-210. Lanham, MD: University Press of America.

Week 5- Origins of Archaeology of Medieval European Jewry

Davis, M. D. 1881 The Mediæval Jews of Lincoln. *Archaeology Journal* 38:178- 200.

King, C. W. 1884a Norman Jewish Seal. *Archaeology Journal* 41:242-243.

King, C. W. 1884b Jewish Seal Found at Woodbridge. *Archaeology Journal* 41:168-170.

Rosenau, Helen 1936 Note on the Relationship of 'Jews' Court' and the Lincoln Synagogue. *Archaeology Journal* 93:51-58.

Week 6- European Jewish Landscapes

Codreanu-Windauer, Sylvia 2002 Regensburg: The Archaeology of the Medieval Jewish Quarter. In *The Jews of Europe in the Middle Ages (Tenth to Fifteenth Centuries)*, Proceedings of the International Symposium held at Speyer, 20-25 October 2002 edited by Christoph Cluse, pp. 391-404, Turnhout, Belgium: Brepols Publishers.

Nenk, Beverly S. 2003 Public Worship, Private Devotion: The Crypto-Jews of Reformation England. In *The Archaeology of Reformation 1480-1580*, edited by David Gaimster and Roberta Gilchrist, pp. 204-220. Leeds: Maney Publishing.

Pepper, Gabriel 1992 An Archaeology of the Jewry in Medieval London. *London Archaeologist* 7(1):3-6.

Stolk, Marijn (2018) Exploring Immigrant Identities: The Link between Portuguese Ceramics and Sephardic Immigrants in 17th Century Amsterdam. *Ex Novo Journal of Archaeology* 3:101-120.

Bartels, Michiel H.
2012 The Van Lidth de Jeude Family and the Waste from Their Privy: Material Culture of a Wealthy Family in 18th-Century Tiel, the Netherlands. *Northeast Historical Archaeology* 34(1):15-46. (Possible Jewish Site)

Week 7- Archaeology of Jewish Religious Structures

Gruber, Samuel D. 2011b Jewish Religious Buildings. In *The Archaeology of Medieval Europe*, Vol. 2, edited by Martin Carver and Jan Klápště, pp. 479-485. Aarhus, Denmark: Aarhus University Press.

Porsche, Monika 2002 Speyer: The Medieval Synagogue. In *The Jews of Europe in the Middle Ages (Tenth to Fifteenth Centuries)*, Proceedings of the International Symposium held at Speyer, 20-25 October 2002 edited by Christoph Cluse, pp. 421-434, Turnhout, Belgium: Brepols Publishers.

De Paepe, Timothy 2014 “Among the most beautiful synagogues of Western Europe”: A

Virtual Reconstruction of the Rotterdam Synagogue of the Boompjes (1725-1940). *Digital Applications in Archaeology and Cultural Heritage* 1:23-31.

Allsworth-Jones, Philip, D. Gray, and S. Walter 2003 The Neveh Shalom Synagogue Site in Spanish Town Jamaica. In *Toward an Archaeology of Buildings* edited by G. Malm, pp. 77-88. BAR International Series 1186, Oxford: Archaeopress.

Week 8- Archaeology of Jewish Religious Structures (Continued- Mikvot)

Blair, Ian, Joe Hillaby, Isca Howell, Richard Sermon and Bruce Watson 2004 The Milk Street Mikveh *Current Archaeology* 190:456-461

Hillaby, Joe and Richard Sermon 2004 Jacob's Well, Bristol: Mikveh or Bet Tohorah? *Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society* 122:127-152.

Gilmore, R. Grant
2006 Recovering the Jewish Heritage on St. Eustatius, Netherlands Antilles. *Archaeobrief: Vakblad voor de Nederlandse archaeologie* 9(1):7-10.

Week 9- Archaeology of Jewish Mortuary Practices

Gruber, Samuel D. 2011c Jewish Memorial Practice. In *The Archaeology of Medieval Europe*, Vol. 2, edited by Martin Carver and Jan Klápště, pp. 522-528. Aarhus, Denmark: Aarhus University Press.

Gradwohl, David Mayer
1998 *Benditcha Sea Vuestra Memoria: Sephardic Jewish Cemeteries in the Caribbean and Eastern North America. Markers* XV:vi, 1-29.

Lilley, J. M., G. Stroud, D. R. Brothwell, and M. H. Williamson 1994 *The Jewish Burial Ground at Jewbury – The Medieval Cemeteries*. The Archaeology of York 12/3. York: Council for British Archaeology. (Selected Readings)

Week 10- Archaeology of Jewish Mortuary Practices (Continued)

Müller, Karlheinz 2002 Würzburg: The World's Largest Find from a Medieval Jewish Cemetery. In *The Jews of Europe in the Middle Ages (Tenth to Fifteenth Centuries)*, Proceedings of the International Symposium held at Speyer, 20-25 October 2002 edited by Christoph Cluse, pp. 391-404, Turnhout, Belgium: Brepols Publishers.

Payne, Sabastian 2009 Is it Right to Excavate and Study Human Remains? Re- examining the Issues of Jewbury. *The Archaeologist* 72:42-43.

McComish, Jane 2000 The Medieval Jewish Cemetery at Jewbury, York. *Jewish Culture and History*, 3:2, 21-30.

Week 11- Archaeology of Jewish Dietary Practices

Greenfield, H., and R. Bouchnik 2011 Kashrut and Shechita: The Relationship Between Dietary Practices and Ritual Slaughtering of Animals on Jewish Identity. In *Identity Crisis: Archaeological Perspectives on Social Identity*, ed. Amunsen-Meyer, Engel, and Pickering, pp. 106-120.

Cope, C. 2004 The Butchering Practices of Gamla and Yodefat: Beginning the Search for Kosher Practices. In *Behaviour Behind Bones: The Zooarchaeology of Ritual, Religion, Status and Identity*, edited by Van Neer and Ervynck, pp. 25-33.

Week 12- Archaeology of Jewish Dietary Practices (Continued)

Valenzuela-Lamas, Silvia, Lua Valenzuela-Suau, Oriol Saula, Anna Colet, Oriol Mercadal, Carme Subiranas, Jordi Nadal 2014 Shechita and Kashrut: Identifying Jewish populations through zooarchaeology and taphonomy. Two examples from Medieval Catalonia (North-Eastern Spain). *Quaternary International* 330:109-117.

Daroczi-Szabo, Laszlo 2004 Animal Bones as Indicators of Kosher Food Refuse from 14th Century AD Buda, Hungary. In *Behavior Behind Bones: The Zooarchaeology of Ritual, Religion, Status and Identity*, edited by Sharyn Jones O'Day, Win Van Neer, and Anton Ervynck, Oxbow Books: Oxford, England, pp 252-261.

Week 13- Post-Medieval European Jewry

Marks, Kenneth 2010 The Archaeology of Anglo-Jewry in London 1656-c. 1850. *London Archaeologist* 12(7):182-188. [SEP]

Gawronski, Jerzy and Ranjith Jayasena 2007 Mid-18th-Century *Mikveh* Unearthed in the Jewish Historical Museum in Amsterdam. *Post-Medieval Archaeology* 41(2):231-221.

Ijzereef, F.G. 1989. Social differentiation from animal bone studies. In *Diet and Crafts in Towns, British Archaeological Research British Series 199*, edited by Serjeantson and Waldron, pp. 41-53.

Week 14- Archaeology of Jews in the Atlantic World

Terrell, Michelle M. 2005 *The Jewish Community of Early Colonial Nevis: A Historical Archaeological Study*. University Press of Florida, Gainesville, FL.

Frankel, Rachel

2014 Testimonial Terrain: The Cemeteries of New World Sephardim. In *The Jews in the Caribbean*, edited by Jane S. Gerber, pp. 131-142.

Watson, Karl 2004 The Iconography of Tombstones in the Jewish Graveyard, Bridgetown, Barbados. *Journal of the Barbados Museum and Historical Society* 50:195-211.

Ben-Ur, Aviva 2004 Still Life: Sephardi, Ashkenazi, and West African Art and Form in Suriname's Jewish Cemeteries. *American Jewish History* 92:31-79.

Week 15- Archaeology of Judaism in the US

Heldman, D. P.

1986 Michigan's First Jewish Settlers: A View from the Solomon-Levy Trading House at Fort Michilimackinac, 1765–1781. *Journal of New World Archaeology* 6(4):21–34.

Stewart-Abernathy, Leslie C. and Barbara Ruff

1989 A Good Man in Israel: Zooarchaeology and Assimilation in Antebellum Washington, Arkansas. *Historical Archaeology* 23(2):96-112.

Week 16- Class Presentations

No required readings for this week.