

Jewish- Muslim Relations viewed from the margins

Anthropological Perspectives

Dr. Chen Bram

Office hours: Walker Hall, Tuesday 11:30- 13:00; 13:30- 14:00, or by appointment

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 offer 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 announce during the course.

- 1) In search for a framework: *dimmi*: patrons- clients, neighbors and communal relations
Zenner Walter P. Deshen Shlomo. Jews Among Muslims in Precolonial Times: An Introductory Survey, in *ibid* (eds) Jews among Muslims: communities in the

precolonial Middle East. New York : New York University Press, 1996. [Judaica Libr \(1st Floor - Northwest Corner\) -- DS135.A68J47](#)

2) Ambivalence and shared cultural worlds between past and present

Cohen Mark R. Under crescent and cross : the Jews in the Middle Ages Princeton, N.J. : Princeton University Press, c1994. pp. 3-17; 192-175 . [UF Judaica Libr \(1st Floor - Nw Corner\) -- BM535.C6125 1994](#)

3) North African: rivals & relatives between caves, cities and desert.

Goldberg, Harvey E, Patronage as a Model for Muslim–Jewish Relations in North Africa: Contributions of Anthropological Field Research and a Case from Libya. *Intertwined Worlds, Special section of Religion Compass* **6**(2), 2012, pp. 152-162. DOI: 10.1111/j.1749-8171.2012.00337.x

4) Between Iraq and Kurdistan: merchants, communists, villagers and tribes-chiefs

Zaken Mordechai, "Jewish Subjects and their tribal Chieftains in Kurdistan: A study in Survival" Jewish Identities in a Changing World, 9 (Boston: Brill Publishers, 2007). Pp,-TBA

Film: Avanti Popolo (Rafi Bukai, 1986)

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

Bram, Chen, "Caucasus Jews and their Neighbors: Social Networks in a Multi-Ethnic Society" in: *The North Caucasus, Histories, Diasporas and Current Challenges*. Ergun Ozgur (ed.), New York: The Social Sciences Research Council. pp. 22-35.

6) Contextualized Jews or post-colonial Muslims? "Mountaineer Jew" re-considered

Goluboff, Sascha L, 2004, Are they Jews or Asians? Tale about Mountain Jewish Ethnography, *Slavic Review* 63, 1 13-140.

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

Sarner, Harvey *Rescue in Albania : one hundred percent of Jews in Albania rescued from Holocaust* Cathedral City, Calif. : Brunswick Press, c1997. pp. TBA [Judaica Libr - DS135.A29S271](#)

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

Ro'i Yaacov, The Religious Life of the Bukharan Jewish Community in Soviet Central Asia after World War II, in: *Bukharan Jews in the 20th Century History, Experience and Narration* Ed. by Ingeborg Baldauf, Moshe Gammer, and Thomas Loy Reichert Verlag Wiesbaden 2008, pp. 57-77.

9) "Third party evidences": Conflict between Muslims and Central Asian Jews

Reading: TBA

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

LeBor, Adam *City of oranges : an intimate history of Arabs and Jews in Jaffa*. New York : W.W. Norton, 2007. pp. 296-343

Film: *Ajami*

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

Levine, Mark: Nationalism, Religion and Urban Politics in Israel: Struggles over Modernity and Identity in 'Global' Jaffa. In: Daniel Monterescu and Dan Rabinowitz (eds.) *Mixed towns, trapped communities : historical narratives, spatial dynamics, gender relations and cultural encounters in Palestinian-Israeli towns* Burlington, VT : Ashgate, c2007. pp. 453- 493

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

Al-Haj, Majid, *Immigration and Ethnic Formation in a Deeply Divided Society: the Case of the 1990's Immigrants from the Former Soviet Union in Israel*. Leiden: Brill. 2004. (pp. 181-205; TBA).

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

Torstrick, Rebecca L. *The limits of coexistence: identity politics in Israel* Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, c2000. pp. 131-172; 210-233. [Judaica Libr \(1st Floor - Northwest Corner\) -- DS110.A3T67 2000](#)

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

Reading: Bilu Yoram, Levy Andre 1996., Nostalgia and Ambivalence, The Reconstruction of Jewish- Muslim Relations in Oulad Mansur. In Goldberg H. E. (ed) Sephardi and Middle Eastern Jewries: History and Culture in the Modern Era. Bloomington, IN and New York. 268-311.

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

Additional Bibliography (not compulsory)

Alcalay Ammiel, 1993 *After Jews and Arabs: Remaking Levantine Culture* Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press

Barth, F. (1969). “Introduction” *Ethnic Groups & Boundaries*, Boston: Little Brown.

Eraqi-Klorman, Bat-Zion; Reeva Spector Simon (Ed.), Michael Menachem Laskier (Ed.), Sara Reguer (Ed.) (2003). *The Jews of the Middle East and North Africa in Modern Times*. Columbia, NY: Columbia University Press. ISBN 0-231-10796-X.

Feferman Kiril. “Looking East or Looking South? Nazi Ethnic Policies in the Crimea and the Caucasus”. In: Weiss-Wendt Anton (ed.) *Eradicating differences : the treatment of minorities in Nazi-dominated Europe* Newcastle upon Tyne : Cambridge Scholars, 2010. pp. 103-118.

Gilbert Martin *In Ishmael's house : a history of Jews in Muslim lands* New Haven, Conn. ; London : Yale University Press, 2010. [UF LIBRARY WEST, Judaica Libr -- BP173.J8G55](#)

Goldberg, Harvey E. *Jewish life in Muslim Libya : rivals & relatives* Chicago ; London : University of Chicago Press, 1990. (pp. TBA). [DS135.L44 G65 1990](#)

Ghosh , Amitav *In an antique land* London : Granta Books in association with Penguin Books, 1992. [DT56.2 .G48 1992b](#)

Lewis Bernard, “Muslim Anti-Semitism”. *Middle East Quarterly*, June 1998, pp. 43-49

- Levin, Theodore Craig. 1996. *The hundred thousand fools of God : musical travels in Central Asia* (and Queens, New York) Bloomington : Indiana University Press, c1996.
- Littell Jonathan *The kindly ones* (Bienveillantes, a novel,. translated by Charlotte Mandell). New York : Harper, c2009. 209-335. [UF LIBRARY WEST General Collection -- PQ3939.L58B513 2009 \[Floor 2\]](#)
- Satloff, Robert B. (Robert Barry) *Among the righteous : lost stories from the Holocaust's long reach into Arab lands*. New York : PublicAffairs, c2006. [Judaica Libr \(1st Floor - N.west Corner\) -- DS135.A68S28 2006](#)
- Selengut Charles (ed) *Jewish-Muslim encounters: history, philosophy, and culture*. St. Paul, Minn. : Paragon House 2001. [BP173.J8 J48 2001](#)
- Yacobi, Haim: From Urban Panopticism to Spatial Protest: the case of the "Mixed Town" of Lydda In: Daniel Monterescu and Dan Rabinowitz (eds.) *Mixed towns, trapped communities : historical narratives, spatial dynamics, gender relations and cultural encounters in Palestinian-Israeli towns* Burlington, VT : Ashgate, c2007. pp. 223-258

See also

- Bibliography of Jews in the Islamic world* edited by Maria Angeles Gallego, Heather Bleaney, Pablo Garcia Suárez. Leiden ; Boston : Brill, 2010.
[UF LIBRARY WEST, Judaica Libr \(1st Floor\) Reference Books Section -- Z6373.I74B53](#)
- Encyclopedia of Jews in the Islamic world* (executive editor, N. A. Stillman) Leiden ; Boston : Brill, 2010. [JUdaica Libr \(1st Floor - N.west Corner\) Reference Books Section -- DS135.L4E53](#)
- 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.

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.