Course Description and Purpose

Today there are around 15 million Jews in the world most of them in Europe, the Americas and Israel. However, the Jewish Diaspora - the first diaspora - is still scattered throughout the world. Although in recent history the Jews of Europe, known as Ashkenazi Jews, were numerically more important than those Jews (Sephardi or Oriental) who lived in Asia and Africa, this was not always so. Over and above the ancient Jewish communities in great centers, this course will examine far-flung diasporic communities from Zimbabwe to Ethiopia to China and even Papua New Guinea. By looking at these various manifestations of the Jewish people you will get an idea also of the wider communities of which they form part. We shoals examine the growing phenomenon of new Jewish communities which are springing up in all parts of the world. No people in the history of the world has lived so successfully and indelibly as a minority as the Jews. This course will explain why.

Course Objectives

1. Students will expand their knowledge of Jewish life beyond the Ashkenazi and Sephardi worlds.
2. Students will engage with the history of racial stereotypes and racial theories as they apply to Jews, Blacks and Black Jews.
3. The story of the Lost Tribes of Israel will be introduced and critically examined.
4. The use and misuse of modern genetics, physical anthropology and eugenics will be examined.

Learning Outcomes

5. Students will learn about Jewish communities in sub-Saharan Africa, Central Asia, India, China, Japan, and Papua New Guinea as well as the ancient Jewish communities of Persia and the Arab world.
Topics

Introduction and course overview

- Jews, Judaism and ‘Race’: the question of Black Jews.
- Is Judaism color blind? The Black Jews of Africa and the Americas
- The Lemba: the Black Jews of Southern Africa
- Beta Israel – the Black Jews of Ethiopia
- The lost tribes of Israel and Genetic Anthropology
- The Judaizing Movement of Papua New Guinea
- The Jews of India
- The Jews of India (contd)
- The Jews in China and Japan
- Jews in Colonial Discourse
- Muslims and Jews: the Beginning of Middle Eastern racial anti-Semitism?

Important Information

Before starting this course, please review the following pages:

- [courses/81046/pages/accessibility-and-accommodation]Accessibility and Accommodation
- [courses/81046/pages/academic-misconduct-statement]Academic Misconduct Statement

*The professor reserves the right to change or modify the syllabus at any time during the semester.

Sample Grading Scheme

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<th>Letter</th>
<th>Range%</th>
<th>Letter</th>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>95 or above</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>83 - 86</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>70 - 76</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90 - 94</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80 - 82</td>
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<td>87 - 89</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77 - 79</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>59 or less</td>
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References works:


