20.05 The Jewish Diaspora
3 hours; 3 credits

Comparative study of cultures by exploring Jewish diaspora, the cultures in which Jews found themselves, and variations in development as a result of location. Influences, differences, and similarities of immigrant and local populations. 
Prerequisite: Junior standing and satisfaction of all lower-tier requirements in Philosophical and Social Inquiry.

Common Goals Addressed by Core Course
To understand the literature and cultures of the past as a foundation for those of the present within an increasingly global context. (3, 4)
To develop the ability to think critically and to express one's thoughts in writing with clarity and precision. (9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 22, 23, 24, 25)

Objectives of Core Course
An understanding of the past, including world history, the material and cultural foundations of ancient civilizations, and their relationship to the shaping of the modern world. (3)
An understanding of the major forms of literary and artistic achievement, past and present and a critical appreciation of the contribution of literature and the arts to society. (4)
Critical thinking. (9)
Effective writing. (11)
Analytical reading (13)
Quantitative reasoning. (15)
Understanding of research methodologies in various disciplines. (17)
A study of cultures other than one's own. (19)
Respect for diversity. (22)
Effective interaction in a pluralistic society. (23)
Understanding an appreciation of other cultures and of globalization. (25)

Outcomes for Core Course
Students will have an understanding of the past, including world history, the material and cultural foundations of ancient civilizations, and their relationship to the shaping of the modern world. (3)
Students will have an understanding of the major forms of literary and artistic achievement, past and present and a critical appreciation of the contribution of literature and the arts to society. (4)
Students will develop critical thinking. (9)
Students will develop effective writing. (11)
Students will develop analytical reading (13)
Students will develop quantitative reasoning. (15)
Students will develop an understanding of research methodologies in various disciplines. (17)
Students will study cultures other than their own. (19)
Students will gain respect for diversity. (22)
Students will learn to interact in a pluralistic society. (23)
Students will develop an understanding and an appreciation of other cultures and of globalization. (25)

Course Outline:

Introduction: [Week 1]
Israelite origins
Scheindlin, ch. 1

Judea, Egypt, Babylon
Scheindlin, ch. 2

Roman and Persian Empires
Scheindlin, ch. 3

The Islamic World-- The Middle East and North Africa [Weeks 2-5]
Islamic Civilization and religious minorities
Jewish adjustment & Acculturation
Iberia: a special case
Ottoman Turks
Sephardic dispersion

Scheindlin, ch. 4, 6
Lewis, Part III, IV
Goitein, Jews and Arabs

Asia--China, Central Asia, India [Weeks 6-8]
Asian culture: an overview
Jewish society: adjustment and acculturation
The Indian experience
The Chinese experience
The Central Asian experience: Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan

Latin America [Weeks 9 - 11]
Latin American culture, local and colonial
Jewish society, adjustment and acculturation
The Argentinian experience
The Caribbean experience
The Mexican experience

The Modern World [Weeks 12- 14]
Modernization of traditional societies and adjustment of Jews to modernization
The unique American experience and Americanization of the Jews
Nationalism and Zionism
Demographic Transformations in the Modern World
New and renewed Jewish communities

Scheindlin, ch. 9, 10, 11

Method of Evaluation: Midterm (35%), Final (45%), Research Paper (15%), Class Participation (5%).

Method of Assessment:
Students are asked to summarize and compare various works written in different historical periods and discuss the central issues that appear in these works.
Students are asked to compare literary forms and artistic genre from different periods and to understand the reasons for these differences.
Students will be asked to write a term paper in which they critically examine issues.
Students will write a critical paper which will be corrected so that they can learn effective writing.
Students will discuss the readings in class critically analyzing primary sources.
Students will have to analyze demographic charts and changes in population.
Students will be asked to read and discuss divergent methodological approaches.
Students will be comparing cultures of the Middle East, Asia and Latin America.
Through studying the cultures of the Middle East, Asia and Latin America they will gain respect for diversity.
Through studying the cultures of the Middle East, Asia and Latin America they will learn to interact in a pluralistic society.
Through studying the cultures of the Middle East, Asia and Latin America students will develop an understanding of other cultures and globalization.

Bibliography:
1. Required Texts:

   Packet of readings.
2. Selected Bibliography


Chasteen, Born in Blood and Fire.


Hobsbawm, The Age of Extremes


Scheindlin, ch. 9, 10, 11

Schirokauer, A Brief History of Chinese Civilization.


