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Sephardic literatures

As an overview of the literature by Sephardic Jews between their expulsion from Spain, in 1492, to the present, we will read primary texts of oral and written literatures, including religious and secular poetry, exegesis, journalism, theater, music and translation. Texts will be read in English, but students are encouraged to read the accompanying original version as well. We will also watch videos and listen to music.

An important part of the course is an understanding of the history of the Judeo-Spanish language and the fate of its speakers. We will discuss the characteristics of the language, its present state, the genres that have marked it, and the contemporary works that deviate from its traditional genres.

We will also cover the important wave of modernization in the Sephardic world in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, and the impact it had on Sephardic culture. In addition, we will devote time to examining the representations and effects of the Shoah (Nazi genocide) upon the Sephardic community. We will read poems by contemporary authors such as Margalit Matitiah, Avner Perez and Clarisse Nicoïdski.

Students will be encouraged to work collaboratively. By the third week they should select a topic for a final in-depth project.

Readings are selections from:

Jane S. Gerber. *The Jews of Spain: A History of the Sephardic Experience*

Paloma Díaz-Mas. *Sephardim: The Jews from Spain*

Marc D. Angel. *Voices of Exile: A Study in Sephardic Intellectual History*

Norman A. Stillman. *The Jews of Arab Lands in Modern Times*

David M. Bunis. *Voices from Jewish Salonika*

David Biale. *Cultures of the Jews*

Ammiel Alcalay. *After Jews and Arabs: Remaking Levantine Culture*

Esther Benbassa and Aron Rodrigue. *Sephardi Jewry: A History of the Judeo-Spanish Community, 14th-20th Centuries*

Samuel G. Armistead and J.H. Silverman, eds. *Folk Literature of the Sephardic Jews*

Diane Matza, ed. *Sephardic-American Voices: Two Hundred Years of a Literary Legacy*

Isaac Jack Lévy. *And the World Stood Silent: Sephardic Poetry of the Holocaust*

Zion Zohar, *Sephardic and Mizrahi Jewry: From the Golden Age of Spain to Modern Times*

The Ladino Bible of Ferrara

Me'am Lo'ez