

## JEWS IN AMERICA SYLLABUS

### The COLONIAL PERIOD 1492-1803

There will be a short introduction to the style of Historical research termed the MR FM SPECLT, standing for:

Military

Religious

Fine Arts

Mathematical

Sociological

Economic

Chronological

Linguistic

Technological

Method by which we will examine the different eras in Jewish American History.

We will discuss the European events that led to the settlement of Jews in America, such as the Spanish Inquisition, the settlement of Brazil by the Dutch, as well as the personalities involved such as Christopher Columbus, and Peter Stuyvesant. First person accounts, diaries and letters, etc. will be used as well as analysis by other scholars. Then our discussion will continue with the colonial period's leaders and their relationship to Jews focusing on the Christian

community's view of Jews, the Hebrew Scriptures and the concept of Deism, in the struggle for independence. The centers of Jewish settlement in the new world as well as the unusual occupations of Jews of those places, will be examined as well.

### THE FIRST EXPANSION 1803-1860

We will explore and discuss the role of the French Revolution, Napoleon, the Congress of Vienna, 1848, the year of evolution, and their influence on Jews and Judaism, as well as the beginnings of the Reform movement in Germany.

In regards to the United States of America, we will discuss the expansion of America from the Eastern seaboard to the Mississippi River and beyond, especially the Jewish immigration to the Ohio Valley and to states such as Arkansas and Texas. We will discuss varied populations of Jews both the older Sephardic Generations, and the new German, French and other European immigrants.

### CIVIL CONFLICT 1850-1881

The conflict over states' rights and slavery explodes throughout America, both colonial and the new territories/states. We will discuss further expansion of America

to the West coast as well as look at the Gold Rush and the Kansas-Nebraska Act the Missouri compromise, and the Dredd Scott Decision. Then we will view the War Between the States and the roles prominent Jews, and others, played in the struggle. General Grant's infamous Order 11 will be looked at from different viewpoints.

Further discussion will include the Reconstruction of America, the start of Hebrew Union College, the Supreme Court Separate but Equal decisions and their effect upon Americans.

### The GREAT INDUSTRIAL IMMIGRATION 1881-1924

The face of American Jewry changes greatly with the immigration from territories under the control of the Czars and tyrants of a similar bent in Eastern Europe. We will discuss the Ellis Island experience which altered America. The rise of Lassiez –Faire Capitalism and the Union movement as well as Federal legislation regarding, monopolies, child labor, workers' rights, especially the Triangle Shirt Waist fire, will be analyzed.

The second wave of Jewish immigration to Texas, at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century will be discussed. The start of the Conservative movement and of Reconstructionist Judaism will also be discussed.

### The 20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY EXPERIENCE -1925-2000

The ever growing population of American born Jews saw their entrance into mainstream Jewish life. American Jewish athletes, Crime, Prohibition, Music, Speakeasies, and Murder

incorporated, set the stage for Jewish life in the Great Depression set the stage for the Great Depression.

Large scale Anti-Semitism, World War Two, the G.I.Bill and American support and/or non- Support of Israel as well as the Civil Rights movement of the 1960's all effected the Judaism of today. Further we will examine the later immigrations of Jews from Israel, Iran and the Soviet Union as to how they have altered the Jewish Communities and how the Jews of America have altered them.

We will analyze how the Jews in America have "made it' and how America has made them.