HIST 282/JWST 234
History of the Jews I:
Bible to the End of the Middle Ages
Fall 2006

Introduction to the Course

- Professor and TAs
- Basic bookkeeping
- Major themes of the course

Professor and TAs

- Professor:
  Hayim Lapin, Dept of History
  Office Hours M 2-3, 2101Q FSK
- TAs
  Jeremy Best (best@umd.edu)
  Sections: 0102, 0103, 0106, 0108,
  Brian Phelan (slavirish@yahoo.com)
  (**note change)**
  Sections: 0101, 0104, 0105, 0107
Basic Bookkeeping

- Website
- Electronic reserves
- HIST282H/JWST234H
- Discussion Sections

Website

- www.history.umd.edu/Faculty/HLapin/
  Follow the link to this course
- Updated syllabus
- Where possible, downloadable assignments, handouts, lecture notes

Electronic Reserves

Navigate to: http://catalog.umd.edu
Password: hist282lap (to be confirmed)

Discussion Sections

- Readings for section listed in syllabus for each week (right-hand column)
- Be prepared with the readings
- Quiz approximately weekly
- First session: Bring Barnavi Atlas with to discussion
Major Themes of the Course

- A diaspora history
- A history with political dimensions
- A history with cultural dimensions

Diaspora History

An Expanding World:
A View from a Map of 1500
http://www.euratlas.com/big/big1500.htm
Political History

- “External”: empires, states and kingdoms
- “Internal”: factional struggles for influence and control

Cultural and Social History

- How did Jews live?
- How did they marry? Reproduce? Die?
- How did they understand their world? Their history?
- Unity and diversity, “essentialism” and context
- Ultimately: Who were Jews? What was Judaism?

The assigned books

- Historical Atlas of the Jewish People
- Jewish Women in Historical Perspective
- Early Judaism
- Oxford Jewish Study Bible
- Under Crescent and Cross