Non-Latin Communities in Latin America: Jews and Other Minorities
Dr. Margalit Bejarano

The course analyzes patterns of communal organization of Jewish, Christian and Moslem immigration groups coming from the same countries in Central and Eastern Europe and from the Middle East. The course examines the social and religious frameworks, the educational networks and the patterns of cultural continuity and their confrontation with assimilation processes in Argentina, Brazil, Mexico and Cuba. The course deals with the image of the non-Latin immigrants in the eyes of the majority society and examines the relationship between Jews and gentiles from the same countries of origin.

Objectives: To analyze the patterns of Jewish communal organization with respect to Christian and Moslems immigration groups that arrived from the same countries – in Central and Eastern Europe as well as in the Middle East. The course analyzes the social and religious frameworks, the private educational networks and the organizations that preserve and transmit the cultural patterns of the communities of origin, and examines their contest with the processes of integration in the majority societies in Argentina, Brazil, Mexico and Cuba. The course deals with the relations between Jewish and non-Jewish immigrants from Eastern Europe and the Middle East and with the image of the non-Latin immigrant in the eyes of the majority societies.

Assignments: Active participation in class and reading of bibliography. Each student has to give a lecture (referat) as an assignment of the first semester and to write a paper comparing two groups of immigrants – Jews and non-Jews (or to prepare a seminar paper) in the end of the year. The course is also open to students who do not read Spanish or Portuguese.

Program of the course:
Introduction: The map of immigration to Latin America
- Latin American countries as recipients of immigrants
- Causes of immigration from non-Latin countries
- Comparison between patterns of immigration of Jews and non-Jews

Agricultural immigration (colonies)
The enterprise of Baron Hirsch and the JCA colonies in Argentina
Agricultural colonies of Poles in Brazil

Organization of minorities’ communities
Urban immigration and the foundation of organizational infrastructure
Communal organization and religious life
Defense against discrimination

Educational networks of minorities

Journalism and cultural life

Mixed marriages (immigrants and natives of the countries)

Political organization – mutual relations with the countries of origin
Beginnings of Communist organization
The Zionist organization
The rise of Fascism and the attitudes towards it
The reflection of the Middle East conflict
The rise of Communism in Eastern Europe and its impact

The development of means to transmit identity
The problem of assimilation

General Bibliography


Estudios Latinoamericanos, Universidad de Varsovia.


Jews in Latin America

Annotated bibliography (1970-86):
Website with bibliography up to 1996: www2.h-net.msu.edu/~latam/bibs/lajsbib2.htm


Moraglia Barrot, "Msóhened ale Yekhiva osef Yishuv ha-yishuv bi-amerike ha-nutzit: ha-dorot ha-shelufim", Kibbutz ha-Tenuah, Me’ah 5764, 63-76.


Immigrants from Eastern and Central Europe


Estudios Hispanoamericanos.

Immigrants from the Middle East


Estudios Migratorios Latinoamericanos.


