

המכון הבינלאומי לגנאלוגיה יהודית ומרכז פאול יעקבי, ירושלים



## INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR JEWISH GENEALOGY AND PAUL JACOBI CENTER

AT THE JEWISH NATIONAL AND UNIVERSITY LIBRARY, JERUSALEM

Jewish Genealogy and Family History Course  
for BA students  
- 1-Semester Program ©

### Preliminary Notes ©

1. The aim of the course is to teach Jewish genealogy (JG) as an academic subject at the university level, and not to replicate simple “how-to” courses for beginners that are readily available on the Internet or offer in Jewish community centres, etc.

2. The full “Academic Guidelines” are designed as a “platform” which can be scaled down for BA students (either as an introductory 1-semester course or as a 2-semester course, divided into "Jewish Genealogy 101" and "Jewish Genealogy 201" or, alternatively, developed into a full MA course for students, possibly leading to certification as qualified Jewish genealogists.

However configured, the course is conceived as being open to students majoring in other areas, such as minority studies, demography, anthropology, etc.

3. It is assumed that the 1-semester BA course will be given to 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> year students, allowing room for recommended prerequisites for participation in the course, such as some basic course-work in Jewish History, Jewish Religion and Practice, Demography, Anthropology, etc.

The course instructor will wish to make his/her determinations on this point in the light of the availability of course options available at the teaching institution.

4. The Synoptic Index sets out the topics addressed in the Academic Guidelines in a logical order but does not ascribe importance to any given topic. The instructor may wish to re-arrange the topics as suits his/her purposes and give each of them the appropriate “weight” in the light of the time at his/her disposal.

5. For the purposes of a 1-semester course ("Jewish Genealogy 101"), the all the practical (“how to”) segments in the 2-semester course have been set aside, making it purely academic. Other segments will clearly have to be telescoped (e.g. “Special Branches” and “Fringe Groups”) or set aside entirely (e.g. “Myths, Legends, Polemics and Abuses in JG”), as the instructor sees fit.

6. It is assumed that if a 2<sup>nd</sup> "Jewish Genealogy 201" course is to be offered, participation in "Jewish Genealogy 101" will be a pre-requisite for attendance in the second course.

7. Given that at various points in the course Jewish Genealogy is discussed in conjunction with other branches of the social sciences (onomastics, demography for example), it is recommended that the instructor offers some brief background on the related field, as required.

8. The Academic Guidelines are attached.

9. Bibliography

A bibliography is also attached. It is somewhat lengthy because an effort has been made to provide at least three or four references for each segment of the course. While it aims to be scholarly, in gearing it to the BA student user certain compromises have necessarily been made (such as confining it, almost entirely, to works in English).

10. Recommended Textbook:

Mills, Elizabeth Shown (ed.), *A Manual for Researchers, Writers, Editors, Lecturers and Librarians* (2001 [reprinted 2009])

11. Recommended Course Reader:

Sallyann Amdur Sack and Gary Mokotoff (eds.) *Avotaynu Guide to Jewish Genealogy*, (Bergenfeild NJ, 2004)

\*\*\*\*\*