

המכון הבינלאומי לגנאלוגיה יהודית ומרכז פאול יעקבי, ירושלים



INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR JEWISH GENEALOGY AND PAUL JACOBI CENTER

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Jewish Genealogy and Family History Course
for BA and MA students
- 2-Semester (1-year) Program ©

Teaching Notes ©

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

Hence, the larger part of the course (over 2 semesters) is devoted to academic aspects of JG and about one-quarter of it deals with “practical matters”. The latter are to be found in the 2nd half of the 2nd Semester.

The instructor may wish to change the balance and order of the academic and practical components according to his purposes and the students’ needs.

2. The course is designed for BA and/or MA students, primarily majoring in Jewish Studies. At the same time, it is conceived as being open to students majoring in other areas, such as minority studies, demography, anthropology, etc.

3. It is assumed that the BA course will be given to 2nd or 3rd year students, allowing room for 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 may wish to make his/her determinations on this point in the light of the availability of course options available at the teaching institution.

4. Additional assumptions:

a. The BA course extends for one year and is composed of 2 semester-long modules that will be given consecutively in the fall and spring.

b. There are 14 weeks in a semester and 2 double lecture sessions a week (i.e. 56 hours of instruction per semester).

c. If the number of teaching hours per semester is more or less than 56 hours, the amount of material to be imparted in the various segments will have to be adjusted accordingly.

d. Participation in the first semester module is a pre-requisite for attendance at the second.

5. The Academic Guidelines for the 1st Semester focus on the “essentials” of Jewish Genealogy (JG), while those for the 2nd Semester address wider topics and, as indicated, certain practical aspects of JG.

6. The Synoptic Index sets out the topics addressed in the Academic Guidelines in a logical order but does not seek to determine the order or ascribe importance to any given topic.

7. The instructor is expected to regard to the Academic Guidelines for what they are - namely, guidelines. He/she will wish to select the topics as suits his/her purposes and give each of them the “weight” seen as appropriate.

8. Given that at various points in the course JG 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.

9. The Academic Guidelines for both semesters are attached.

10. Bibliography

A bibliography has 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).

11. Recommended Textbook:

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

12. Recommended Course Reader:

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