

300:03 New York Jewry: History, Culture and Identity

This course will explore the history of New York Jewry from the colonial period through the present. We will begin with an examination of how New York City rose from one of several hubs of American Jewish life in the 18th and 19th centuries (alongside Philadelphia, Cincinnati and Charleston, for example) to become the central and single most important Jewish community in the U.S. in the 20th century. We will study the history of Jewish immigration to and settlement in the city, the task of shaping a "community" within the city's ethnic and religious diversity, the flavor of "Jewish neighborhoods" as part of the city's urban development, Jewish trade and economic activity, and the rise of a distinctively American Jewish culture centered in New York. Finally, note that the seminar will take advantage of our proximity to New York for excursions to the city to visit important cultural and religious institutions -this will require your ability to join such excursions on Wednesdays.