

Final Paper (or) Digital Humanities Project
History 74A: Jewish Life in North Africa and the Middle East
Winter 2016
Due in class, Friday, March 11, 2016
30% of grade

Choose **one** of the following memoirs to read closely and carefully:

- Lucette Lagnado, *The Man in the White Sharkskin Suit* (Egypt)
- Albert Memmi, *The Pillar of Salt* (Tunisia)
- Nissim Rejwan, *The Last Jews in Baghdad* (Iraq)

Each is available for purchase in the Bay Tree Bookstore as well as on reserve in the library. Select which memoir you would like to read based on your area of geographic interest. Based on your reading of this memoir, please write a paper **or** create a digital humanities project. Details for both are listed below.

Whichever format you choose, construct an original argument based on primary source evidence and secondary reading from the class. I strongly suggest you speak with me in office hours regarding your thesis statement and how you will support it.

Consider the following questions when crafting your thesis:

- How does the individual narrative intersect with the broader political events of the national context in question?
- How does the individual narrative intersect with broader Jewish historical trends and events within the region, and outside the region?
- Is the narrative exemplary or exceptional? Why or why not?
- What are the social circles the protagonist belongs to, how do they relate to their families, their national communities, and their co-religionists?
- How do themes of the colonial and the post-colonial figure into the memoir?
- Where does the protagonist go, and why? Is this surprising? Why or why not?

Option 1: Paper

After a close, careful reading of one of the above listed memoirs, write an 8-10 page, double spaced paper. Submit a printed, hard copy in class, 2pm on 3/11/16. Papers will receive a letter grade (A, A-, B+, B ... etc).

Papers **must**:

- Include at least five primary sources, properly cited (Chicago style) and contextualized – primary sources can be drawn from anything previously assigned in the course

- Include at least two secondary sources, properly cited and contextualized – secondary sources can be drawn from anything previously assigned in the course
- Present an original argument
- Bibliography (Chicago style)

Option 2: Digital Humanities Project

After a close, careful reading of one of the above listed memoirs, create an Omeka website to present a digital exhibit. Finalized website due via electronic submission (the site must be “shared” with me via my Omeka account) by 2pm on 3/11/16. Do not make your website public. Projects will be evaluated out of 100 points and translated into a letter grade.

Projects **must** include:

- At least one map, with at least three points to indicate author’s birthplace and other significant sites in the memoir– this will be on a separate page. Each point should include a two to three sentence description. (10 pts)
- At least one embedded video of a location relevant to the memoir – this will be on a separate page and must have a description of why it is relevant. (10 points)
- An original argument – you are still presenting a thesis grounded in historical and literary evidence, you are just presenting in a visual format complementary to a written description. This should be stated clearly in the introduction.
- Style (5 points)
- Proper citations for each item, e.g. a video from YouTube, a photograph, etc -- include the citation in the metadata of each item.
- A total of six “items,” in addition to the specific map and video pages listed above – each item should have about a paragraph of analysis explaining the significance to the argument (each “item” will be evaluated out of 10 points)
- An introduction (10 points) and a conclusion (5 points)
- Consider including quotes from the memoir you choose in addition to primary source material from the course reading