

Second Exam – Jews in the Medieval World
Jewish Studies / History 270
Fall 2016

You may use the class texts and lecture notes in completing this exam, but you may **NOT** discuss the exam with any other class members. Exams should be typed in 12-point Times New Roman type and double spaced with standard one-inch margins. All exams are due back in hard copy to Prof. Goldstein in class on Tuesday, November 1.

Part I – Term Pairs/Trios (40%):

Define **five** of the following term pairs or trios and explain how the terms are different from each other or how they relate to one another. In other words, do **NOT** just give the simple definition of the terms, but be sure to also provide the larger **historical context** (you will probably have to write at least a paragraph or two for each set). **You must do the first one**, but you may choose any four of the remaining five.

Pact of Umar/Doctrine of the Witness

rationalism/mysticism

antisemitism/anti-Judaism

Crusades/Reconquista

patriarch/exilarch

ritual murder/well poisoning/host desecration

Part II - Essay Question (60%):

“While Jewish historians have, in the past, often described the Middle Ages as nothing but a long line of anti-Jewish persecutions, in fact medieval Jewish society was characterized by a high degree of cultural flourishing, religious creativity, autonomy, and diversity.”

In an essay of about three pages, analyze this proposition, arguing for it, against it, or reformulating it to make a unique argument of your own. In making your case, you need to assess the opposing viewpoint and discuss why it is incorrect or at least partially incorrect. In crafting your answer, be sure to use examples from the class materials (readings and/or the film) as evidence in making your case. Be sure to discuss trends in both the Muslim and Christian worlds.