COURSE DESCRIPTION:
Iranian civilization is enriched by a long history that reflects the participation of ethnicities and divergent cultural patterns. Jews, in spite of their official minority status in Iran, have contributed greatly to Iranian civilization throughout the ages.

This course is designed to introduce students to the political, intellectual, cultural, and socioeconomic realms of Iranian Jewish life. The course explores the history of Iranian Jews from ancient through modern times, with a focus on the latter half. Class discussions will include, but not be limited to, the following: identity and status; religious tolerance versus forced conversion; emancipation; and the dynamic, symbiotic relationship between Iranian Jews and other Iranians.

There are no prerequisites for the course. All required readings are in English. Class lectures are accompanied by Power Point presentations.