

**HEJS 3298-001**  
**SOCI 3998**

Ethiopian Jews In Ethiopia And  
Israel: The Contested Nature Of  
Ethnic Differences And National  
Belonging

Topics To Be Covered:

- Ethiopian Jewishness and Religious Boundaries in Ethiopia
- Sociological literature on the Making of Ethnic and Racial Categorization
- Immigration and Contemporary Social Problems in Israel

The course is interdisciplinary in its readings and approach, and is relevant for students of Judaic Studies, Africana Studies, History, Sociology, and Anthropology.

MWF 10:10AM-11:00AM.  
Adane Zawdu

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TODAY!**

Special Offering...

SPRING  
2016

## Ethiopian Jews in Ethiopia and Israel



In 1867, Joseph Halévy, the French Jewish scholar, met members of the Beta Israel community in northern Ethiopia for the first time. Upon being identified as European, he replied: *“Oh, my brothers, I am not just a European, but an Israelite, like you.”* Halévy’s interlocutors turned to look at one another, wondering how to make sense of such a claim?

In this course we will follow such moments in the history of Ethiopian Jews (Beta Israel) - and the broader social context in which they are embedded - from the 19th century, through the great migration to Israel to contemporary Israel. Looking at the social trajectory of Ethiopia Jews, we will examine more broadly the contingent and contested nature of categorical membership along racial, ethnic and religious lines, and across different cultural, temporal and national contexts.

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