

PROGRAM SCHEDULE – SUMMER 2026

(June 1–26)

	Courses	Topics Covered
1	Sephardi History & Society	“Jewish Iberia”, from the early Middle Ages to the Expulsion from Spain and to Modernity: Key Figures & Events: Al Andalus & Catalunya, Judaism between Christianity and Islam, Conversos and crypto-Jews, Social aspects: Gender, Economy etc. myths & politics, research trends, Cartography of Sephardi dispersion. “Maghreb” and “Mashriq”, Jewish-Arab culture, Jewish Languages: Ladino, Haquetia,
2	Sephardi Thought & philosophy	From Middle Ages to the present - Key Figures & Texts: Havruta study of Sephardi Textual Masterpieces: Yehudah Halevi, Ibn Gabirol, Maimonides, Nachmanides, Rashba, Kabbalah & Hasidut. Modern and contemporary Sephardi Thought: Levantine/Mediterranean thought, Post/Colonialism East & West, Sephardi Modernities. “Wissenschaft des Judentums”, “Sefarad” as a “traveling concept”.
3	Sephardi Cultural Heritage	Sephardi Tangible & Intangible Heritage - Key sites & Events: Urban and Landscape Hermeneutics, Cultural identity, heritage recovery Dilemmas and Critical Theory. Excursions (Field Studies) on the “European Routes of Jewish Heritage”: Catalunya (2026): Barcelona, Girona, Port Bou.
4	Sephardi Culture & Art	Sephardi Culture and art From Middle Ages to the present - Key concepts & aspects: Sephardi Arts, Crafts, Architecture and Folklore, Sephardi Musical Traditions, Poetry and Piyyut, Sephardi cuisine, Sephardi Cinema, Sephardi contemporary culture. “Sephardim”, “Mizrahim” & Israel, Trends in Jewish and Sephardi Studies. Sephardi education and Cultural Activism, Sephardi culture and identity - Dilemmas & Vocations

The program may be subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances

Week 1 - Sefarad: History and Identity

Week - 1	Monday 1/6	Tuesday 2/6	Wednesday 3/6	Thursday 4/6	Friday 5/6
09:30-11:30	Reception & registration	Sephardi History & Society: Introduction	Sephardi History & Society: Al Andalus	Sephardi History & Society: Catalunya	Sephardi History & Society: Research Presentations
11:30-12:00	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break
12:00-14:00	Program Introductions	Sephardi Thought And philosophy introduction	Sages of Sefarad: ibn Gabirol	Sages of Sefarad: ibn Paquda	Colloquium
14:00-16:00	Lunch Break	Lunch Break	Lunch Break	Lunch Break	Lunch Break
16:00-18:00	Urban Heritage El Call BCN1	Cultural Heritage Preservation as Critical Theory	Urban Heritage BCN Cathedral Archive	Sephardi Arts, Crafts & Architecture	
18:00-18:30	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break
18:30-20:30	Urban Heritage El Call BCN2				Sephardi cuisine Workshop: Medieval Sefarad & Catalunya
20:30-21:30					Shabbat Dinner

Week 2 – From the The Goden-Age to modernity

Week - 2	Monday 8/6	Tuesday 9/6	Wednesday 10/6	Thursday 11/6	Friday 12/6
09:30-11:30	Sages of Sefarad: Rihai	Sages of Sefarad: Maimonides	Sages of Sefarad: Nachmanides	Medieval Jewish Women: Society, Law, and Culture	Sages of Sefarad: Rashba
11:30-12:00	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break
12:00-14:00	Beit Midrash Convivencia: Interfaith text study1	Beit Midrash Convivencia: Interfaith text study2	Beit Midrash Convivencia: Interfaith text study3	Conversos & crypto-Jews: After the Expulsion	Colloquium
14:00-16:00	Lunch Break	Lunch Break	Lunch Break	Lunch Break	Lunch Break
16:00-18:00	Heritage & Activism: Project Montjuïc	Beit Midrash Convivencia: Interfaith study4		Conversos & crypto-Jews: A Contemporary Phenomenon	
18:00-18:30	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break
18:30-20:30	Heritage & Activism: Project Montjuïc			Conversos & crypto-Jews: Film presentation	Sephardi cuisine Workshop: Crypto cuisine & Inquisition
20:30-21:30					Shabbat Dinner

Week 3 – Heritage, Kabbalah and Diaspora

Week - 3	Monday 15/6	Tuesday 16/6	Wednesday 17/6	Thursday 18/6	Friday 19/6
09:30-11:30	Kabbalah workshop: Introductions	Kabbalah workshop: Research Presentations	Heritage Route: Journey to Port Bou	Sephardi Diaspora: Cartography	Sages of Sefarad: From the Ari to Spinoza
11:30-12:00	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break
12:00-14:00	Kabbalah workshop: Keynote1	Kabbalah workshop: Research Presentations	Càtedra Walter Benjamin	Sephardi Diaspora: Languages: Ladino & Haketia	Colloquium
14:00-16:00	Lunch Break	Lunch Break	Lunch Break	Lunch Break	Lunch Break
16:00-18:00	Heritage Route Journey to Girona	Heritage Route Call de Girona	Heritage Route Journey to BCN	Sephardi Diaspora: Identities	
18:00-18:30	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break
18:30-20:30	Hitbodedut Exercise	Kabbalah workshop: Keynote2			Sephardi cuisine Workshop: Diasporic Heritage Food & Identity
20:30-21:30	Communal Dinner	Communal Dinner			Shabbat Dinner

Week 4 – Contemporary Sefarad: Culture, Art and Politics

Week - 4	Monday 22/6	Tuesday 23/6	Wednesday 24/6	Thursday 25/6	Friday 26/6
09:30-11:30	Contemporary Sephardi Thought & Postcolonialism	Contemporary Sephardi Thought & the Levantine	Contemporary Sephardi Thought: Heritage & Enlightenment	Introduction to Sephardic music	Course Summaries
11:30-12:00	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break
12:00-14:00	Between Ashkenaz and Sepharad	Contemporary Sephardi Art1	Contemporary Sephardi Art2	The Art of Piyyut Text/Singing workshop	Colloquium
14:00-16:00	Lunch Break	Lunch Break	Lunch Break	Lunch Break	Lunch Break
16:00-18:00	Sefarad & Israel The Mizrahi Movement	Contemporary Sephardi Cinema		The Art of Piyyut Keynote	
18:00-18:30	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break
18:30-20:30				El Piyyut – sacred music festival Concert1	El Piyyut – sacred music festival Concert1
20:30-21:30					