

## Thought Essay on Medieval Egyptian Jews

### Sources for Your Paper

For this assignment, please use the text *Heresy and the Politics of Community* by Marina Rustow. Remember to cite all sources properly.

### Paper Content

Please respond to this deceptively straightforward prompt:

Marina Rustow's text explores the political, religious, economic, and social relationship between the Rabbanite and Qaraite Jews of medieval Egypt. Overall, the evidence she presents suggests that these two distinctive Jewish sectarian communities were incredibly distinct from each other – in fact – ***it can be argued that the only relationship they shared was their common belief in Judaism.*** Please state why or why not you agree with this statement and support your position with multiple (at least three) specific cases derived from the book. In your essay, be sure to discuss what distinguished these two sects of Judaism as well any commonalities. Where possible, indicate how Christians and Muslims interacted with these communities and if this has any bearing on how these Jewish sects related to each other. That is, did one Jewish sect have closer relations with Christians or Muslims and did this exacerbate tensions between the two Jewish communities?

### Preparing and Formatting of Your Essay

- Your essay should be four to five pages long. (Longer papers are acceptable.)
- You should argue a position in your essay, i.e., use a thesis statement.
- Use 11 or 12 point font, 1 inch margins, double-spacing, and page numbering.
- Use a topic sentence to start each paragraph, so that the reader knows what you intend on arguing within it.
- Use a proper introduction, body (several paragraphs), and a brief conclusion in your paper. Indent the start of each paragraph.
- You should use and/or quote specific examples from the reading to support your thoughts. Use *The Chicago Manual of Style* to footnote your sources. See Dr. Martinez's Writing Resources for Students at <http://bit.ly/16tj9SV>. Please use a Works Cited/Bibliography page, especially if you are referencing other material not being used in this class.
- Please staple your paper together and attach a copy of the grading rubric to the back of your paper.

HIST 4130: Medieval Mediterranean  
Grading Rubric for a Thought Essay on

*Medieval Egyptian Jews*

Minimum Requirements (All aspects must be fulfilled to receive a grade of “B minus” or better):

Requirements	Yes	No
1. Is this rubric stapled/attached to their paper?		
2. Does the paper utilize a proper introduction, body, and conclusion?		
3. Does this paper present a topic sentence that argues their position?		
4. Does the paper reference at least three examples to prove their position?		
5. Does the paper use footnotes properly?		
6. Is the paper at least four pages in length?		
7. Is there a works cited/bibliography included?		

Stylistic Considerations (To earn an “A” or “B,” all considerations must be rated “Very Good” or better):

Issues	Needs Work	Displays Basic Competence	Better Than Average	Very Good	Excellent
1. No grammatical errors, writing mistakes, awkward phrases, run-on sentences, or fragments.					
2. No spelling mistakes or uses of a word incorrectly.					
3. No slang or overly “conversational” text.					
4. Definitely uses topic sentences to start each paragraph.					
5. Definitely uses examples and cites where those examples appear in the text correctly. Definitely quotes some text and paraphrases other portions of the text.					
6. Definitely completes all aspects of the assignment.					

Argument/Content Considerations (To earn an “A” or “B,” all considerations must be rated “Very Good” or better):

Does this paper...?	Needs Work	Displays Basic Competence	Better Than Average	Very Good	Excellent
1. Make compelling points in reference to the prompt?					
2. Use evidence effectively to prove their position?					

**Three Overall Comments on Your Paper:**

**Letter Grade:**