

**JEWES IN THE MODERN WORLD:  
HISTORY OF JEWISH CIVILIZATION III  
Spring 2015**

**History 141/Jewish Studies 158/Religious Studies 122/NELC 053**

INSTRUCTOR: Beth S. Wenger  
OFFICE HOURS: Tues. & Thurs.  
3:00-4:00 and by appt.

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course offers an intensive survey of the major currents in Jewish culture and society from the early modern period to the present. Focusing upon the different societies in which Jews have lived, the course explores the development of Jewish responses to the political, socio-economic, and cultural challenges of modernity. Topics will include Jewish enlightenment, emancipation, the Holocaust, Jewish politics, religious reform, modern orthodoxy, Zionism, and other forms of Jewish culture.

Curiosity about Jewish history and the desire to explore its drama and complexity are the only prerequisites for this course. No prior knowledge of the subject is assumed. The course will have lectures as well as time for discussion. During class discussions, students will examine readings in depth, and particularly, explore the assigned historical documents that demand close analysis and interpretation. Regular attendance at class sessions is expected and students will be asked to respond and raise questions about the readings; required readings should be completed prior to the class for which they are assigned. Students should be prepared to analyze and discuss the readings and primary documents assigned for each class.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

1. ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION IN CLASS, INCLUDING ACTIVE ENGAGEMENT IN STUDENT-LED DISCUSSIONS OF PRIMARY SOURCES.

2. MIDTERM EXAMINATION: In Class—Thurs., March 5th.

3. FINAL EXAMINATION: Scheduled Tues., May 12<sup>th</sup>—9:00 AM. Subject to change by registrar.

4. IN-CLASS DEBATES: All students will participate in one of three scheduled in-class debates. Students will assume the role of historic participants in debates about: Jewish emancipation, modern religious movements in Judaism, and Jewish political movements, including varieties of Zionism. Students will work in small groups to prepare for the

debates and will divide the various positions that each student will represent. There should be exchange and discussion among the groups in each debate.

5. **PRIMARY SOURCE ANALYSIS:** This 5-7 page paper should be a close historical analysis of a primary source--a memoir, political or religious tract, autobiography, or collection of documents. A list of suggested sources is available on Canvas under "Primary Source Assignment" at the bottom of the home page. Other research topics will be permitted with the permission of the instructor.

**PAPERS DUE IN CLASS ON APRIL 2.**

**GRADING:**

Midterm Exam	25%
Class debate	10%
Primary Source Analysis	25%
Final Exam	30%
Participation and student-led discussion	10%

**-LATE WORK WILL BE PENALIZED WITH A LOWER GRADE  
-NO EXTENSIONS WILL BE GRANTED**

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:** Penn's Code of Academic Integrity defines Plagiarism as using the ideas, data, or language of another without specific or proper acknowledgement. Standards of academic integrity will be strictly enforced.

**BOOKS AVAILABLE AT PENN BOOK CENTER** (34<sup>th</sup> and Sansom):

Paul Mendes-Flohr and Jehuda Reinharz, eds., *The Jew in the Modern World: A Documentary History*. Second Edition. New York: Oxford University Press, 2011.  
[**must be THIRD edition**]

Hasia R. Diner, *The Jews of the United States, 1654 to 2000*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2004.

David Engel, *The Holocaust, the Third Reich, and the Jews* Harlow, England; New York: Longman, 2000.

\*Books ordered for purchase will also be available at Rosengarten Reserve, Van Pelt Library.

- All other required readings for the course are available through Canvas:
  - Please look for the course under HIST141-401-15A

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

**Jan. 15**

**Introduction**

**Jan. 20 Harbingers of Modernity**

Dean Phillip Bell, *Jews in the Early Modern World*, pp. 93-141.

Mordechai Breuer, "The Early Modern Period," in Michael Meyer, ed., *German-Jewish History in Modern Times*, vol. 1., pp. 117-26 (begin on p. 117 with section on Court Jews).

**Documents:**

Paul Mendes-Flohr and Jehuda Reinharz, eds., *The Jew in the Modern World*, pp. 62-65.

**Jan. 22 – 27 Enlightenment and Haskalah**

Lois Dubin, "Enlightenment and Emancipation," in Nicholas De Lange and Miri Freud-Kandel eds., *Modern Judaism: An Oxford Guide*, pp. 29-37.

Nicholas De Lange, *The Illustrated History of the Jewish People*, pp. 199-209.

John Efron, Steven Weitzman, et. al, *The Jews: A History*, "The Haskalah in Western Europe," pp. 269 (bottom first column) –74 (bottom first column).

**Documents:**

Jan. 22: Mendes-Flohr and Reinharz, eds., *The Jew in the Modern World*, pp. 12-15, 27-36, 54-58.

Jan. 27: Mendes-Flohr and Reinharz, eds., *The Jew in the Modern World*, pp. 42-45, 73-77, 102-103.

**Jan. 29 – Feb. 3 Emancipation in Western Europe and the Reorganization of the Jewish Community**

De Lange, *The Illustrated History of the Jewish People*, pp. 210-16.

Michael Brenner, *A Short History of the Jews*, pp. 189-200.

Robert Liberles: "Emancipation and the Structure of Community in the Nineteenth Century," *Leo Baeck Institute Yearbook* 31 (1986), pp. 51-67.

**Documents:**

Jan. 29: Mendes-Flohr and Reinharz, eds., *The Jew in the Modern World*, pp. 123-30.

Feb. 3: Mendes-Flohr and Reinharz, eds., *The Jew in the Modern World*, pp. 148-59.

"Organic Ordinance" – on Canvas

**\*\*\* Class Debate #1 on Jewish emancipation on JAN. 29.**

**Feb. 5                                    The Social Consequences of Emancipation: Acculturation and Mobility**

Steven M. Lowenstein, "The Beginning of Integration 1780-1870," in Marion Kaplan ed., *Jewish Daily Life in Germany, 1618-1945*, pp. 93-171.

Marion Kaplan, "Tradition and Transition: Jewish Women in Imperial Germany," in Judith R. Baskin ed., *Jewish Women in Historical Perspective*, pp. 202-21.

**Documents:**

Mendes-Flohr and Reinhartz, eds., *The Jew in the Modern World*, pp. 115-120, 463.

**Feb. 10–12                            The Emergence of Modern Varieties of Judaism**

De Lange, *The Illustrated History of the Jewish People*, pp. 216-224.

Ismar Schorsch, "Zacharias Frankel and the European Origins of Conservative Judaism," *Judaism* 30:3 (Summer 1981), pp. 344-54.

Michael Meyer, "Jewish Religious Reform & Wissenschaft des Judentums . . .", *Leo Baeck Institute Yearbook* 16 (1971), pp. 19-41.

Moshe Samet, "The Beginnings of Orthodoxy," *Modern Judaism* 8:3 (Oct. 1988), pp. 249-69.

**Documents:**

Feb. 10: Mendes-Flohr and Reinhartz, eds., *The Jew in the Modern World*, pp. 182-92, 201-209.

Feb. 12: Mendes-Flohr and Reinhartz, eds., *The Jew in the Modern World*, pp. 240-45, 217-31.

**Feb. 17                                    Class Debate #2: Modern religious movements in Judaism**

**Feb. 19                                    East European Jewry and Its Traditional Cultures;  
Hasidism and Its Opponents**

De Lange, *The Illustrated History of the Jewish People*, pp. 224-33.

John Efron, Steven Weitzman, et. al, *The Jews: A History*," pp. 260-69 (until bottom first column).

Chava Weissler, "Prayers in Yiddish and the Religious World of Ashkenazic Women," in Judith Baskin, ed., *Jewish Women in Historical Perspective*, pp. 159-81.

**Documents:**

Hallo, et. al., *Heritage: Civilization and the Jews, Source Reader*, pp. 190-94 (on Canvas).

Mendes-Flohr & Reinharz, eds., *The Jew in the Modern World*, pp. 365-71.

**Feb. 24 – 26                      East European Jewry in the Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Centuries**

Israel Bartal, *The Jews of Eastern Europe, 1772-1881*, pp. 58-69.

Michael Stanislawski, *Tsar Nicholas I and the Jews*, pp. 49-154.

**Documents:**

Feb. 24: Mendes-Flohr and Reinharz, eds., *The Jew in the Modern World*, pp. 350-55, 359-65, 381-85.

Moses Leib Lilienblum, "Sins of Youth," in Dawidowicz, *The Golden Tradition*, pp. 119-29 (on Canvas).

Feb. 26: Mendes-Flohr and Reinharz, eds., *The Jew in the Modern World*, eds., pp. 356, 388-91, 397-402.

**Mar. 3                                      The Rise of Modern Anti-Semitism**

John Efron, Steven Weitzman, et. al, *The Jews: A History*, pp. 298 (middle first column) - 309 (middle first column).

**Documents:**

Mendes-Flohr and Reinharz, eds., *The Jew in the Modern World*, pp. 302-307, 317-22, 333-36, 339-42.

**Mar. 5                                      Midterm Exam**

**Mar. 17 – 19                      The Zionist Revolution**

Shlomo Avineri, *The Making of Modern Zionism: The Intellectual Origins of the Jewish State*, pp. 3-13.

David Biale, *Eros and the Jews: From Biblical Israel to Contemporary America*, pp. 176-203.

**Documents:**

Mar. 17: Arthur Hertzberg, *The Zionist Idea*, pp. 315-27, 369-86, 417-31 (on Canvas).

Mar. 19: Arthur Hertzberg, *The Zionist Idea*, pp. 200-30, 249-77 (on Canvas).

Mendes-Flohr and Reinhartz, eds., *The Jew in the Modern World*, pp. 588-89, 605, 622-23, 660, 888 (Table XVI).

**Mar. 24**                      **Class Debate #3: Jewish political movements, including varieties of Zionism**

**Mar. 26 – 31**              **The Rise of American Jewry**

Hasia R. Diner, *The Jews of the United States*, pp. 13-154.

**Documents:**

Mar. 26: Mendes-Flohr and Reinhartz, eds., *The Jew in the Modern World*, pp. 501-503, 517-18, 521-22, 525-26.

Mar. 31: Mendes-Flohr and Reinhartz, eds., *The Jew in the Modern World*, pp. 532-35, 537-41, 550-70.

**Apr. 2**                      **European Jewry in the Interwar Years**

John Efron, Steven Weitzman, et. al, *The Jews: A History*, pp. 338-57.

**Documents:**

Mendes-Flohr and Reinhartz, eds., *The Jew in the Modern World*, pp. 407-17, 422-23, 428-29, 660.

**Apr. 7 – 9**              **The Holocaust**

David Engel, *The Holocaust, the Third Reich, and the Jews*, pp. 1-87, (and documents, pp. 92-94).

**Documents:**

Apr. 7: Mendes-Flohr and Reinhartz, eds., *The Jew in the Modern World*, pp. 716-22, 729-31, 735-37, 751-54.

Apr. 9: Mendes-Flohr and Reinhartz, eds., *The Jew in the Modern World*, pp. 755-67, 787-88.

Songs of the Chelm and Bialystok Ghettos (1940s), in Lucy Dawidowicz, *A Holocaust Reader*, pp. 177 -78 (on Canvas).

The Political Underground: A Letter from the Bund (1942), in Dawidowicz, *A Holocaust Reader*, pp. 213-18 (on Canvas).

A Summons to Resistance in the Vilna Ghetto, (1942), in Dawidowicz, *A Holocaust Reader*, pp. 334-36 (on Canvas).

**Apr. 14**                    **SCREENING OF FILM: *Forget Baghdad*—to be scheduled outside of class.**

**\*Post 1-2 paragraph response to film on canvas discussion board by evening of Apr. 15.**

**Documents:**

Mendes-Flohr and Reinharz, eds., *The Jew in the Modern World*, pp. 485-86, 491-93, 497.

**Apr. 16 - 21**            **Israel and America: Two Centers of Jewish Culture**

Charles Liebman and Eliezer Don-Yehiya, *Civil Religion in Israel*, pp. 81-122.

Diner, *The Jews of the United States*, pp. 259-358.

**Documents:**

Apr. 16: Mendes-Flohr and Reinharz, eds., *The Jew in the Modern World*, pp. 694-99, 702-10, 713.

Apr. 21: Mendes-Flohr and Reinharz, eds., *The Jew in the Modern World*, pp. 570-72, 581-84, 875-78

**Apr. 23**                    **Visit to Rare Book Room at the Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies (420 Walnut St.)**

**Apr. 28**                    **Course Conclusions**

Moshe Rosman, “Defining the Postmodern Period in Jewish History,” in *Text and Context: Essays in Modern Jewish History and Historiography in Honor of Ismar Schorsch*, pp. 95-130.

**Documents:**

Mendes-Flohr and Reinharz, eds., *The Jew in the Modern World*, pp. 889-91 (Tables XVII- XIX), and pp. 866-70