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 During class discussions, students will examine readings in depth, and particularly, explore the assigned historical documents that demand close analysis and interpretation.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 12th — 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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class debate</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Primary Source Analysis</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation and student-led discussion</td>
<td>10%</td>
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</tbody>
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-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 (34th and Sansom):


*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:
    o 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.


Documents:

Jan. 22 – 27  Enlightenment and Haskalah


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


Documents:


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.


Documents:


“Organic Ordinance” – on Canvas

*** Class Debate #1 on Jewish emancipation on JAN. 29. 
Feb. 5 The Social Consequences of Emancipation: Acculturation and Mobility


Documents:

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


Documents:


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

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


**Documents:**


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


**Documents:**


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


**Documents:**

**Mar. 5**  
**Midterm Exam**

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


**Documents:**


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

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


**Documents:**


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


**Documents:**

**Apr. 7 – 9**  
**The Holocaust**


**Documents:**

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

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


Documents:  


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

**Apr. 28**  
Course Conclusions


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