

**JEWS IN THE MODERN WORLD:
HISTORY OF JEWISH CIVILIZATION III
Spring 2019**

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

INSTRUCTOR: Beth S. Wenger
OFFICE HOURS: Tues. 3:00-4:30
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 During class discussions, students will examine readings in depth, and particularly, explore the assigned historical documents that demand close analysis and interpretation.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 DISCUSSIONS OF PRIMARY SOURCES.
2. MIDTERM EXAMINATION: In Class—Thurs., February 28th .
3. FINAL EXAMINATION: Scheduled 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

Jan. 24 – 29**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) –274 (bottom first column).

Documents:

Jan. 24: Mendes-Flohr and Reinhartz, eds., *The Jew in the Modern World*, pp. 12-15, 27-36, 54-58.

Jan. 29: Mendes-Flohr and Reinhartz, eds., *The Jew in the Modern World*, pp. 42-45, 73-77, 102-103.

Jan. 31 – Feb. 5**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. 31: Mendes-Flohr and Reinhartz, eds., *The Jew in the Modern World*, pp. 123-30.

Feb. 5: Mendes-Flohr and Reinhartz, eds., *The Jew in the Modern World*, pp. 148-59.

“Organic Ordinance” – on Canvas

***** Class Debate #1 on Jewish emancipation on JAN. 31.****Feb. 7****The Social Consequences of Emancipation: Acculturation and Mobility**

Richard Cohen, “Jewish Culture in Western and Central Europe in the Modern Age,” in David Biale, *Cultures of the Jews* vol. 3, pp. 9-40, 62-74.

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. 12–14 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. 12: Mendes-Flohr and Reinhartz, eds., *The Jew in the Modern World*, pp. 182-92, 201-209.

Feb. 14: Mendes-Flohr and Reinhartz, eds., *The Jew in the Modern World*, pp. 240-45, 217-31.

Feb. 19 Class Debate #2: Modern religious movements in Judaism

**Feb. 21 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 & Reinhartz, eds., *The Jew in the Modern World*, pp. 365-71.

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

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

Documents:

Mendes-Flohr and Reinhartz, 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. 28 Midterm Exam

Mar. 12 East European Jewry in the Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Centuries II

Michael Stanislawski, *Tsar Nicholas I and the Jews*, pp. 69-122.

Documents:

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

Mar. 14 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 Reinhartz, eds., *The Jew in the Modern World*, pp. 302-307, 317-22, 333-36, 339-42.

Mar. 19 - 21 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. 19: Arthur Hertzberg, *The Zionist Idea*, pp. 315-27, 369-86, 417-31 (on Canvas).

Mar. 21: 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. 26 Class Debate #3: Jewish political movements, including varieties of Zionism

Mar. 28 The Rise of American Jewry I

Beth S. Wenger, *The Jewish Americans: Three Centuries of Jewish Voices in America*, pp. 1-23.

Documents:

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

Apr. 2 The Rise of American Jewry II

Wenger, *The Jewish Americans*, pp. 87-113.

Documents:

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

Apr. 4 European Jewry in the Interwar Years

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

Documents:

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

- **PRIMARY SOURCE ANALYSIS DUE IN CLASS TODAY.**

Apr. 9 - 11 The Holocaust

David Engel, *The Holocaust, the Third Reich, and the Jews*, pp. 1-98.

Documents:

Apr. 9: Mendes-Flohr and Reinharz, eds., *The Jew in the Modern World*, pp. 716-22, 729-31, 735-37, 751-54.

Apr. 11: Mendes-Flohr and Reinharz, 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. 16 Middle Eastern Jewry**SCREENING OF FILM EXCERPTS: *Forget Baghdad*****Documents:**

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

Apr. 18 The Creation of Israel

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

Documents:

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

Apr. 23 Visit to Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies

Apr. 25: Post-World War II American Jewry

Beth S. Wenger, *The Jewish Americans: Three Centuries of Jewish Voices in America*, pp. 283-306.

Documents:

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

Apr. 30 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 Reinhartz, eds., *The Jew in the Modern World*, pp. 889-91 (Tables XVII- XIX), and pp. 866-70.