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Fall 2010
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NEJS 146a: WORLD JEWRY SINCE 1945

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

a. Regular attendance

b. Required Reading – sometimes accompanied by requests for 1 page brief papers

c. Required Papers (see below)

book report (5 pages) - Due October 6, 2010; get book approved by Sept. 20th.

- research paper (8-15 pp.) on approved theme – Approval needed by Oct 20; due Nov 24th; automatic extension to Nov 29th if needed.

d. Final exam - take home – December 6 (distributed) due by noon on December 13th.

Grading is based upon: class participation (10%); book report (20%); research paper and final exam (higher grade is 40%, lower is 30%.)

ATTENTION

If you are a student with a documented disability on record at Brandeis University and wish to have a reasonable accommodation made for you in this class, please see me immediately.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS

1. **Book report:** Read one scholarly monograph (not a broad survey) dealing with some aspect of "World Jewry Since the Holocaust," and write a critical book review in which you summarize and critique the volume. Your review should be on the model of a review in the *Jewish Review of Books*, *New York Review of Books*, the *New York Times Book Review*, *Reviews in American History* or some similar publication. Your review should be footnoted as necessary, and you are encouraged to consult other reviews of your volume before composing your own. You must obtain prior written approval of your book from the instructor. Books required for this course may *not* be selected, but starred (*) recommended volumes can be. You should select your book and have it approved by **September 20th**; book reviews are due by **October 6th**.

2. Research Paper: Write a small research paper (8-15 pp.) on a critical issue facing Contemporary Jewry (e.g. intermarriage, antisemitism, culture, Jewish education, relations with Israel, immigration, interreligious issues etc.) These papers should be comparative analyses of the issue selected and include information on at least two countries besides US & Israel (which may also be included). You are strongly encouraged to consult the new archive of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency for primary source information (details in class), the online Berman Jewish Policy Archive for sources (www.bjpa.org) and also to use journalistic sources like the *London Jewish Chronicle* [<http://archive.thejc.com>, or ask library] *American Jewish Year Book* (www.ajcarchives.org), *Jerusalem Report* (online in library), and the *New York Times* (online), in addition to secondary sources. Submit your topic for approval by **October 20th**. Due date is **November 24th** with automatic extension until **November 29** (Monday after Thanksgiving) for those who need it.

COURSE OUTLINE

Major Texts:

AJYB = *American Jewish Year Book*

Peter Novick, *The Holocaust in American Life*

Bernard Wasserstein, *Vanishing Diaspora: The Jews in Europe Since 1945*

Robert S. Wistrich, *Terms of Survival: The Jewish World Since 1945* [Selections on Latte - no need to buy]

* = for additional reading

Latte=electronic reserve

I. MAJOR CENTERS - CENTRAL THEMES

8/30, 9/1 Overview

Sergio DellaPergola et al "Contemporary Jewish Diaspora in Global Context: Human Development Correlates of Population Trends," *Israel Studies* 10 (Spring 2005): 61-95 [Latte]

"World Jewish Population, 2007" *AJYB* 107 (2007), available online at http://www.ajcarchives.org/AJC_DATA/Files/AJYB727.CV.pdf

Wasserstein, *Vanishing Diaspora*, preface, esp. p.viii.

9/6, 8 The Impact of the Holocaust

Y.Bauer, "Aftermath and Revival," *A History of the Holocaust* (1982), 337-349 [Latte]

U.O.Schmelz, "The Demographic Impact of the Holocaust," in Wistrich, *Terms of Survival*, pp.44-58 [Latte]

Wasserstein, *Vanishing Diaspora*, 1-35

9/13 Holocaust Commemoration

James E. Young, *The Changing Shape of Holocaust Memory* [pamphlet] [Latte]

*James E. Young, *The Texture of Memory: Holocaust Memorial and Meaning*

9/15, 20 The Longterm Impact of the Holocaust - US

Peter Novick, *The Holocaust in American Life*

Write a short (1 page) response to Novick. Is his account persuasive? Why or why not? What generalizations might apply to other countries? For a different view, see Hasia Diner, *We Remember With Reverence and Love*.

Remember that your book review book should be chosen and approved by 9/20!

9/22, 27 America & Israel: The New Centers

AJYB 53 (1952), 564-68 "The Ben Gurion - Blaustein Exchange" [Latte]

Zvi Ganin, *An Uneasy Relationship* (2005), 81-104 [[Latte]

*Jonathan D. Sarna, *American Judaism: A History*, 272-374

9/29 Conflicting Zionist Ideologies

Gideon Shimoni, "The Zionist Idea Since the Establishment of the State of Israel," in Carol Diamant, *Zionism: The Sequel*, pp.3-44 [Latte]

Write a paragraph on your view of the actual and ideal role of Israel in Diaspora Jewish Life.

10/4 Exodus: The Movie

Prior to class, watch Otto Preminger's *Exodus* (1960), which is in the Library reserve room: [[Main Library - ReserveDesk PN1997 .E95 1992](#)] Be prepared to discuss the film. For background, see:

Deborah Dash Moore, "Exodus: Real to Reel to Real," in J. Hoberman & J. Shandler, *Entertaining America* (2003), pp.207-219 [Latte]

*S. Whitfield, "Israel as Reel: The Depiction of Israel in Mainstream American Films," in *Envisioning Israel* (1996), ed Allon Gal, 293-316.

10/6, 11 The changing image of Israel

Wasserstein, *Vanishing Diaspora*, 85-102

J. Wertheimer, "American Jews and Israel: A 60 Year Retrospective," *American Jewish Year Book* 109 (2009)

T. Sasson, "Mass Mobilization to Direct Engagement: American Jews' Changing Relationship to Israel," *Israel Studies* 15 (Summer 2010), 173-195 [also available at: <http://www.bjpa.org/Publications/details.cfm?PublicationID=5240>]

Book Review Due

II. THE CHANGING FACE OF DIASPORA JEWRY: CASE STUDIES

10/16 Introduction

David Graham, "European Jewish Identity at the Dawn of the 21st Century: A Working Paper" A report for the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee and Hanadiv Charitable Foundation, May 2004 (download from: http://www.jpr.org.uk/communities/index_communities.htm; or <http://www.bjpa.org/Publications/details.cfm?PublicationID=4334>)

10/18, 20 Former Soviet Union: The Origins, Meaning & Implications of Revival

Wasserstein, *Vanishing Diaspora*, 36-57, 180-205

Betsy Gidwitz, "Jewish Life in Independent Ukraine Fifteen Years After the Soviet Collapse (Parts 1 & 2)" Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs - <http://www.jcpa.org/JCPA/Templates/ShowPage.asp?DRIT=0&DBID=1&LNGID=1&TMID=111&FID=623&PID=0&IID> and http://www.jcpa.org/JCPA/Templates/ShowPage.asp?DRIT=0&DBID=1&LNGID=1&TMID=111&FID=623&PID=0&IID=1567&TTL=Jewish_Life_in_Independent_Ukraine:_Fifteen_Years_after_the_Soviet_Collapse_%28Part_2%29

*S.Ilan Troen (ed.), *Jewish Centers and Peripheries*, 101-125.

*Larry Tye, *Home Lands*, 59-98

Submit Paper topics for Approval

10/25, 27 South Africa Jewry & Its Diaspora

Gideon Shimoni, *Community and Conscience: The Jews in Apartheid South Africa*
{selections on Latte)

M.Shain and S. Frankenthal, "Community With A Conscience: Myth or Reality,"
Modern Jewish Mythologies, ed. Glenda Abramson , pp.57-67 [Latte]

Chaya Herman, "The Jewish Community in the Post-Apartheid Era"
[https://repository.up.ac.za/upspace/bitstream/2263/5090/1/Herman_Jewish%282007%29.pdf]

*M. Shain, "South African Jewry: Emigrating? At Risk? Or Reconstructing the Future?"
In Leslie Stein and Sol Encel (eds.) *Continuity, Commitment and Survival: Jewish Communities in the Diaspora* (2003).

11/1, 3 Great Britain and Ireland: Leaner -- and Meaner?

Wasserstein, *Vanishing Diaspora*, 58-84, 227-52

*Geoffrey Alderman, *Modern British Jewry*, 321-378

**Jews in Britain: A Snapshot from the 2001 Census*
[http://www.jpr.org.uk/downloads/2001_census.pdf]

*S.Ilan Troen (ed.), *Jewish Centers and Peripheries*, 227-302

*Tye, *Home Lands*, 193-217

**Long-term planning for British Jewry: final report and recommendations* (Institute for Jewish Policy Research, 2003) downloadable from:
http://www.jpr.org.uk/communities/index_communities.htm

11/ 8, 10 France: Immigration and Islamization

Paula Hyman, *The Jews of Modern France*, pp.193-214 [Latte]

Shmuel Trigano, "How French Society Views the Jews," *Changing Jewish Communities* 51 (2009)

http://www.jcpa.org/JCPA/Templates/ShowPage.asp?DRIT=4&DBID=1&LNGID=1&TID=111&FID=614&PID=0&IID=3193&TTL=How_French_Society_Views_the_Jews

Fernanda Eberstadt, "A Frenchman or a Jew?" *New York Times Magazine*, February 29, 2004, pp.48-61. [Latte]

"The Best of Times, the Worst of Times," *Jerusalem Report*, June 26, 2006, pp.46-51

* Judith Friedlander, *Vilna on the Seine: Jewish Intellectuals in France Since 1968* (1990)

*Larry Tye, *Home Lands*, 218-240

11/15, 17 Germany: The Fastest Growing Jewish Community in Europe

Wasserstein, *Vanishing Diaspora*, 159-179

Susanne Urban, "The Jewish Community in Germany," *Jewish Political Studies Review* 21 (Fall 2009)

http://www.jcpa.org/JCPA/Templates/ShowPage.asp?DRIT=4&DBID=1&LNGID=1&TID=111&FID=614&PID=0&IID=3183&TTL=The_Jewish_Community_in_Germany:_Living_with_Recognition,_Anti-Semitism_and_Symbolic_Roles

*S.Ilan Troen (ed.), *Jewish Centers and Peripheries*, 303-321]

* Larry Tye, *Home Lands*, 13-58

*Michael Brenner, *After the Holocaust: Rebuilding Jewish Lives in Germany*

*AJYB annual articles on German Jewry

11/22, 24 Latin American Jewry: Antisemitism, Assimilation and Revitalization

AJYB 85 (1985), 3-102, online at

http://www.ajcarchives.org/AJC_DATA/Files/1985_3_SpecialArticles.pdf

Dana Evan Kaplan, "The Jews of Cuba Since the Castro Revolution," *AJYB* 101 (2001), 21-87 online at

http://www.ajcarchives.org/AJC_DATA/Files/2001_3_SpecialArticles.pdf

*Larry Tye, *Home Lands*, 159-192

11/24, 29 PAPERS DUE

III. Issues Facing World Jewry

11/29 Intermarriage

Jewish Intermarriage Around the World eds. Shulamit Reinharz and Sergio DellaPergola (2009)

“Intermarriage in America: The Jewish Experience in Historical Context,” *Ambivalent Jew: Charles Liebman in Memoriam*, eds. Stuart Cohen and Bernard Susser (New York: Jewish Theological Seminary, 2007), 125-133.

12/1 The New Antisemitism

French Anti-Semitism: A Barometer for Gauging Society's Perverseness
An Interview with Shmuel Trigano (<http://www.jcpa.org/phas/phas-26.htm>)

[more to come]

12/6 - Envisioning the Future

Wasserstein, *Vanishing Diaspora*, 280-290

Moment 23 (February 1998), 41-51 [Latte]

Sergio DellaPergola, Uzi Rebhun and Mark Tolts, "Prospecting the Jewish Future: Population Projections, 2000-2080," *AJYB* 100 (2000), 103-146

Online at http://www.ajcarchives.org/AJC_DATA/Files/2000_3_SpecialArticles.pdf

12/6 – Final Exam distributed; must be returned by 12/13 at noon