

A HISTORY OF JEWISH CIVILIZATION: FROM THE LATE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY TO THE PRESENT

History 141/JWST 158/ RELS 122/NELC 053/ NELC 453

DO YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT THE BIRTH OF ZIONISM, JEWISH SOCIALISM, AND LIBERALISM?

DO YOU WANT TO KNOW HOW REFORM, ORTHODOX AND CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM AROSE?

DO YOU WANT TO LEARN ABOUT THE HOLOCAUST AND THE CREATION OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL?

DO YOU WANT TO UNDERSTAND HOW JEWS WERE EMANCIPATED AND HOW THEY CREATED A JEWISH ENLIGHTENMENT?

DO YOU WANT TO LEARN ABOUT THE BIRTH OF THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMUNITY?

THEN, THIS IS THE COURSE FOR YOU!

FULFILLS HISTORY AND TRADITION REQUIREMENT

WHAT FOLLOWS BELOW IS A BASIC SYLLABUS FOR THIS COURSE, WITHOUT SPECIFIC DATES LISTED. READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS MAY CHANGE

A HISTORY OF JEWISH CIVILIZATION: FROM THE LATE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY TO THE PRESENT

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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. Lectures are intended to clarify, supplement, or engage the readings but not to duplicate them. During class discussions, students will examine readings in depth, and particularly explore the assigned historical documents that demand close analysis and interpretation.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; 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 Web Page: The web page address is:

<http://www.history.upenn.edu/coursepages/hist141/>

USER NAME: hist141

PASSWORD: jhist

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Attendance and participation in class

TWO short papers (5-7 pages each):

1. ISSUE PAPER: All students will write a paper based on an issue that will be debated in class during the three scheduled in-class debates. Each student will participate in only one debate. Students will be assigned a position to represent during these debates, centering on the issues of Jewish emancipation, modern movements in Judaism, and Jewish political movements. Students will work in small groups in preparing for the debates, but will write their own papers. The paper will be due at the class meeting following each debate. Students will be allowed to express a preference for which issue they would like to debate, but are not guaranteed to receive their first choice. The position that you represent in the debate need not be the position that you take in the paper. Debates and paper due-dates are as follows:

2. SOURCE PAPER: This 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 will be distributed in class and is available on the History 141 web page. Other research topics will be permitted with the permission of the instructor.

Midterm ExaminationFinal Examination**GRADING:**

Midterm Exam	20%
Issue Paper	20%
Source Paper	20%
Final Exam	25%
Participation in Discussion	15%

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

BOOKS AVAILABLE AT PENN BOOK CENTER (34th 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, 1995.
[must be second edition]

Michael Meyer, *The Origins of the Modern Jew: Jewish identity and European culture in Germany, 1749-1824*. Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 1967.

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.

* A packet of all other required readings for the course is available at Wharton Reprographics, Suite 400, Ground Floor of the Wharton School, Locust Walk.

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

Class 1 Introduction

Class 2 Harbingers of Modernity

Mordechai Breuer, "The Early Modern Period," in Michael Meyer, ed., *German-Jewish History in Modern Times*, vol. 1., pp. 81-164.

Classes 3 and 4 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.

Michael Meyer, *The Origins of the Modern Jew*, pp. 8-56.

Documents:

Paul Mendes-Flohr and Jehuda Reinharz, eds., *The Jew in the Modern World*, pp. 13-17, 28-44, 49-53, 68-69, 70-74, 96-99.

Classes 5 and 6 Emancipation in Western Europe and the Reorganization of the Jewish Community

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

Michael Meyer, *The Origins of the Modern Jew*, pp. 57-143.

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

Documents:

Mendes-Flohr and Reinharz, *The Jew in the Modern World*, pp. 105-111, 114-121, 123-35.

***** Class Debate #1 – this week**

Class 7 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 & Transition: The Acculturation, Assimilation, and Integration of Jews in Imperial Germany - A Gender Analysis," *Leo Baeck Institute Yearbook*, 27 (1982), pp. 3-35.

Classes 8 and 9 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:

Mendes-Flohr & Reinhartz, *The Jew in the Modern World*, pp. 161-73, 178-85, 194-202, 205-206, 215-30.

Class 10 Class Debate #2

**Class 11 East European Jewry and Its Traditional Cultures;
Hasidism and Its Opponents**

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

Gershon Hundert, *Jews in Poland-Lithuania in the Eighteenth Century: A Genealogy of Modernity*, pp. 160-210.

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.

Mendes-Flohr & Reinhartz, *The Jew in the Modern World*, pp. 387-93

**Classes 12 and 13 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:

Pauline Wengeroff, "Memoirs of a Jewish Grandmother," in Lucy Dawidowicz, *The Golden Tradition*, pp. 160-68.

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

Mendes-Flohr & Reinharz, *The Jew in the Modern World*, pp. 375-80, 384-97, 408-409, 417-423.

Class 14 Midterm Exam

Class 15 The Rise of Modern Anti-Semitism

Ismar Schorsch, *Jewish Reactions to German Anti-Semitism, 1870-1914*, pp. 117-48.

Documents:

Mendes-Flohr & Reinharz, *The Jew in the Modern World*, pp. 327-34, 339-50, 356-59, 363-67.

Classes 16 and 17 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:

Arthur Hertzberg, *The Zionist Idea*, pp. 200-30, 249-77, 315-27, 369-86, 417-31.

Mendes-Flohr & Reinharz, *The Jew in the Modern World*, pp. 532-33, 540-41, 548-49.

Class 18 Class Debate #3

Classes 19 and 20 The Rise of American Jewry

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

Documents:

Mendes-Flohr & Reinharz, *The Jew in the Modern World*, pp. 452-57, 463-76, 478-88, 496-512.

Class 21 European Jewry in the Interwar Years

Steven Aschheim, *Brothers and Strangers: The East European Jew in German and German Jewish Consciousness, 1800-1923*, pp. 215-45.

Documents:

Mendes-Flohr & Reinharz, *The Jew in the Modern World*, pp. 428-48.

Class 22 Film: *Image Before My Eyes* (90 minutes)

Classes 23 and 24 The Holocaust

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

Documents:

Mendes-Flohr & Reinharz, *The Jew in the Modern World*, pp. 636-42, 645-47, 651-53, 662-79, 696.

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

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

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

Classes 25 and 26 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:

Mendes-Flohr & Reinharz, *The Jew in the Modern World*, pp. 617-19, 622-33, 524-28.

Class 27 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.

David Ellenson, "Judaism Resurgent?: American Jews and the Evolving Expression of Jewish Values and Jewish Identity," in *After Emancipation: Jewish Religious Responses to Modernity*, pp. 27-50.

Arthur Hertzberg, "Zionism In A Multiethnic World." *Moment*, February 28, 1998, p. 52. <http://proxy.library.upenn.edu:2100/> (accessed December 9, 2007).

Documents:

Mendes-Flohr & Reinharz, *The Jew in the Modern World*, Appendix Table XVIII