

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
Department of History  
Semester I, 2007

History 220/Jewish Studies 220  
MWF, 2:25-3:15  
1641 Humanities

Professor David Sorkin  
4117 Humanities  
Office Hours: MW 3:30-4:00  
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INTRODUCTION TO MODERN JEWISH HISTORY

This course traces the history of the Jews since the 17th century. This is the history of a diaspora minority group whose life, prior to and outside the State of Israel, unfolded/unfolds in relationship to a majority society.

Conventional accounts of the modern period employ the category of "assimilation" and lament the supposed decline of Jewish identification and collective life. In contrast, this course emphasizes the multiple transformations of Jewish self-understanding evidenced in the constant creation and re-creation of identity. It does so by focusing on individuals. We study the major developments in Jewish history through the experience of individuals, asking how history shaped individual identity yet also enabled individuals to shape their identity.

The readings for the course emphasize individuals. They include biography, autobiography, diaries, an autobiographical novel and an historical novel as well as documents from the time.

The course attempts to account for the geographical sweep of Jewish history. It is divided into four units: Europe (two units); Middle East, North Africa & Israel (one unit); America (one unit).

The course meets four times per week. Lectures are on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. The discussion section is devoted to readings and documents. It is essential that students bring the appropriate readings to discussions. ATTENDANCE AT LECTURES AND DISCUSSIONS IS REQUIRED.

This course intends to teach writing skills and is an officially designated "writing intensive course." There are four 2-3 page papers (for the first and third units of the course), one 4-5 page paper (for the second unit of the course) and a final 6-8 page paper. Students will be required to meet with their discussion section instructor to discuss the thesis and outline of the first and final papers.

Students will have the opportunity to re-write all papers. Rewrites are due one week after the paper has been returned. The rewrite must be accompanied by the original paper and the instructor's comments. You must also indicate clearly what changes you have made to the paper (highlight; italics; brackets; marks in margins). Submit all rewrites to Professor Sorkin.

Required Reading:

Books:

- Lloyd Gartner, History of the Jews in Modern Times (Oxford)
- Paul Mendes-Flohr & Jehuda Reinharz, The Jew in the Modern World: A Documentary History (Oxford)
- The Memoirs of Gluckel of Hameln (Schocken)
- Frances Malino & David Sorkin, Profiles in Diversity: Jews in a Changing Europe, 1750-1870 (Wayne State)
- Alexandra Zapruder, Salvaged Pages: Young Writers' Diaries of the Holocaust (Yale)
- Albert Memmi, Pillar of Salt (Beacon)
- Arthur Koestler, Thieves in the Night (photocopy)
- Mary Antin, The Promised Land (Penguin)

Unit I European Jewry, 1648-1870: The First Transformation

- Week 1  
Sept. 4-7 European Jewry, 1648: Multiple Points of Departure  
Gartner, 1-25  
Memoirs of Gluckel of Hameln (entire book)  
Mendes-Flohr/Reinharz, 17, 18; 22-27 (Prussia, 1750)
- Week 2  
Sept. 10-14 The Autonomous Community & its Transformation (Western & Central Europe)  
Gartner, 39-60  
Menkis, "Patriarchs & Patricians" in Profiles, 11-45  
Mendes-Flohr/Reinharz, 28-36 (Dohm), 36-40 (Joseph II), 70-74 (Wessely), 114-118 (France)
- No Class Friday September 14th: Rosh Hashanah*
- Week 3  
Sept. 17-21 Emancipation & Cultural/Religious Change  
Gartner, 83-94, 95-121, 128-49  
Malino, "The Right to be Equal" in Profiles, 85-106  
Black, "Anglicization of Orthodoxy," in Profiles, 295-313  
Mendes-Flohr/Reinharz, 123-135 (Paris Sanhedrin), 141-45/150-153 (Germany), 146-50 (England/Macaulay)  
**FIRST PAPER DUE: Monday SEPTEMBER 24th**
- Week 4  
Sept. 24-28 Jews in Eastern Europe  
Gartner, 27-35, 36-9, 68-70, 77-83, 122-26, 162-190  
Antin, Promised Land, 1-109  
Bartal, "Mordechai Aaron Guenzburg," Profiles, 126-47  
Katz, "Towards a Biography of the Hatam Sofer" Profiles, 223-266  
Mendes-Flohr/Reinharz, 390-93 (Hasidism), 375-79 (legislation), 381-86, 402-03 (Haskalah)
- Week 5  
Oct. 1-5 Society, Economy and Assimilation  
Gartner, 149-161  
Endelman, "The Chequered Career of Jew King," Profiles, 151-181  
Loewenstein, "Jewish Upper Crust," Profiles, 182-201  
Mendes-Flohr/Reinharz, 256-61 (conversion)  
**SECOND PAPER DUE: Monday OCTOBER 8th**
- Unit II European Jewry, 1870-1945; The Second Transformation
- Week 6  
Oct. 8-12 Mass Society: Migration, Urbanization & Antisemitism  
Gartner, 212-38, 258-266  
Mendes-Flohr/Reinharz, 413-416; 705 (table), 708 (table)  
Burns, "Majority Faith," in Profiles, 57-82  
Antin, The Promised Land, 110-142  
Mendes-Flohr/Reinharz, 331-33 (Marr); 334-6 (Toussenel); 340-2 (Stoecker); 343-46 (Treitschke); 350 (Fritsch)
- Week 7  
Oct. 15-19 The Revolution in Jewish Politics  
Gartner, 238-58  
Mendes-Flohr/Reinharz, 417-19 (Autonomism); 419-23 (Bund); 262-5 Eduard Bernstein; 532 (Bilu); 533-38 (Herzl); 538-40 ("Protestrabbiner")
- Week 8  
Oct. 22-26 World War I, Inter-war Europe, Weimar & Hitler's Ascent  
Gartner, 267-76, 281-94  
Mendes-Flohr/Reinharz, 432 (Russian Revolution), 582 (Balfour); 430-32 (Stalin), 432-33 (emancipation), 433-36 (Jewish sections); 437-39 (Minorities Treaty), 440-42 (Constitution of Poland), 442-46 (Minorities Bloc)
- Week 9  
Oct. 29-Nov. 2 The Final Solution  
Gartner, 304-318, 349-70  
Zapruder, Salvaged Pages, 13-36, 37-62, 90-121, 122-59, 190-225, 226-242, 301-328, 329-360  
Mendes-Flohr/Reinharz, 636-9 (Hitler); 645-47, 649

(Nuremberg laws); 651-53 (Kristallnacht); 656-58 (prophecy of annihilation); 662-665 (Wannsee); 696 (statistics)

**THIRD PAPER DUE: MONDAY NOVEMBER 5th**

Unit III North Africa, the Middle East and the State of Israel

Week 10                    The Jews of Islam & the Encounter with Europe  
Nov. 5-9                    Gartner, 35-6, 191-201  
                                  Rodrigue, "Abraham de Camondo of Istanbul," in Profiles,  
                                  46-56  
                                  Memmi, Pillar of Salt, 1-126

Week 11                    The Maghreb & the Middle East  
Nov. 12-16                Memmi, Pillar of Salt, 127-342

**FOURTH PAPER DUE: MONDAY NOVEMBER 19th**

Week 12                    The Old Yishuv & the New  
Nov. 19-23                Gartner, 333-346  
                                  Mendes-Flohr/Reinharz, 532 (Bilu), 556 (Hapoel Hazair), 577  
                                  (Hashomer Hazair)  
                                  Koestler, Thieves in the Night, 1-178

Week 13                    The British Mandate & the State of Israel  
Nov. 26-30                Gartner, 383-95  
                                  Koestler, Thieves in the Night, 179-end

**FIFTH PAPER DUE: MONDAY DECEMBER 3rd**

Unit IV The Jews of America

Week 14                    Foundations & the Great Migration  
Dec. 3-7                    Gartner, 126-7, 201-212  
                                  Antin, The Promised Land, 143-286  
                                  Mendes-Flohr/Reinharz, 452-54 (New Amsterdam); 457-9 (George  
                                  Washington); 468-9 (Pittsburgh Platform); 469-70 (Orthodox  
                                  Union)

Week 15                    From War I to the Present  
Dec. 10-14                Gartner, 276-80, 322-333  
                                  Mendes-Flohr/Reinharz, 472 (table); 481-2 (sweatshops); 483-  
                                  4 (economic conditions), 486-7 (German and Russian Jews),  
                                  515-17 (educational change), 517-19 (Columbus Platform)

**MEET WITH TA TO DISCUSS THESIS STATEMENT & PAPER OUTLINE**  
**FINAL ESSAY DUE: Wednesday DECEMBER 19, 12:25 pm**