

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
Department of History
Semester I, 2009

History 220/Jewish Studies 220
Tu,Th, 11-12:15
1080 Grainger

Professor David Sorkin
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Office Hours: T,TH 3:30-4:30
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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 minority group whose life in the diaspora, both prior to the establishment of the State of Israel and now outside of it, unfolded/unfolds in relationship to a majority society.

Many conventional accounts of Jews in 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 accordingly emphasize individuals. They include biography, autobiography, diaries, an autobiographical novel and an historical novel as well as numerous 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 twice weekly. The course will be conducted as a discussion. It is essential that you have prepared the assigned readings in advance and are ready to discuss them in class. It is also essential that you bring the appropriate readings to class so you can refer to them. ATTENDANCE 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. For the first paper you will meet with me: bring a thesis statement to the meeting so that we can discuss it.

We have the good fortune to have a Writing Fellow(s) assigned to the course. Writing Fellows are skilled undergraduate writers who have been specially selected and carefully trained to help you improve your writing. You will meet with the Writing Fellow in regard to your second and third papers. You will submit a draft of your paper in advance to the Writing Fellow and then meet with him/her to discuss it. You will then revise and submit the paper.

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 in a cover note what changes you have made and also clearly mark the changes you have made on the paper itself (highlighting is easiest to follow).

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 Glückel 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. 3 European Jewry, 1648: Multiple Points of Departure
Gartner, 1-25
Mendes-Flohr/Reinharz, 10-13 (Menasseh ben Israel), 17 (Holland), 18-20 (Wertheimer); 22-27 (Prussia, 1750)
Begin reading Memoirs of Glückel of Hameln
- Week 2
Sept. 8 & 10 Western & Central Europe: Identities Old and New
Gartner, 39-60
Memoirs of Glückel of Hameln (entire book)
Menkis, "Patriarchs & Patricians" in Profiles, 11-45
Mendes-Flohr/Reinharz, 28-36 (Dohm), 36-40 (Joseph II), 70-74 (Wessely), 114-118 (France)
- Week 3
Sept. 15 & 17 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)
161 (Hamburg Temple); 167-9 (Hamburg Court); 183-5 (Reform Conference); 194-7 (Frankel)
FIRST PAPER DUE: Monday SEPTEMBER 21st
- Week 4
Sept. 22 & 24 Eastern Europe
Gartner, 27-35, 36-9, 68-70, 77-83, 122-26, 162-190
Antin, Promised Land, 1-109
Bartal, "Mordechai Aaron Günzburg," 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), 169-73 (Hatam Sofer)
- Week 5
Sept. 29 & Oct. 1 Society, Economy and Politics
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); 233 (Reform, Geiger); 313-15 (Damascus Affair); 316-21 (Alliance); 144-45 (Riesser); 85-6 (Sulamith); 401-02 (Society for Promotion of Culture)

SECOND PAPER DUE: Monday OCTOBER 2nd

Unit II European Jewry, 1870-1945; The Second Transformation

- Week 6
Oct. 6 & 8 Mass Society: Migration, Urbanization & Antisemitism
Gartner, 212-38, 258-266
Mendes-Flohr/Reinharz, 380, 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. 13 & 15 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. 20 & 22 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. 27 & 29 The Final Solution
Gartner, 304-318, 349-70
Zapruder, Salvaged Pages, 13-36 (Klaus Langer), 37-62 (Elisabeth Kaufmann), 90-121 (Moshe Flinker), 122-59 (Otto Wolf), 190-225 (Yitskhok Rudashevski), 226-242 (anonymous, Lodz Ghetto), 301-328 (Elsa Binder), 329-360 (Ilya Gerber)
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 2nd

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

Week 10
Nov. 3 & 5 The Jews of Islam & the Encounter with Europe
Gartner, 35-6, 191-201
Rodrigue, "Abraham de Camondo of Istanbul," in Profiles, 46-56
Memmi, Pillar of Salt, 1-126

Week 11
Nov. 10 & 12 The Maghreb & the Middle East
Memmi, Pillar of Salt, 127-342

FOURTH PAPER DUE: MONDAY NOVEMBER 13th

Week 12
Nov. 17 & 19 The Old Yishuv & the New
Gartner, 333-346
Mendes-Flohr/Reinharz, 532 (Bilu), 556 (Hapoel Hazair), 577 (Hashomer Hazair)
Koestler, Thieves in the Night, 1-178

Week 13
Nov. 24 The British Mandate & the State of Israel
Gartner, 383-95
Koestler, Thieves in the Night, 179-end

FIFTH PAPER DUE: WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 25th

Unit IV The Jews of America

Week 14
Dec. 1 & 3 Foundations & the Great Migration
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
Dec. 8 & 10 From War I to the Present
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)

Dec. 15 Conclusion and review

FINAL ESSAY DUE: THURSDAY DECEMBER 17th, 9:30am