

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
Department of History

Semester II Year 86/87

<u>COURSE NO.</u>	<u>COURSE TITLE</u>	<u>INSTRUCTOR</u>
572 -004	The Age of Tolerance and the Jewish Question in Germany (1700-1815)	Berghahn

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course deals with the age of Enlightenment and the Jewish question. Tolerance, not emancipation, is the key word of Enlightenment, when it comes to the "Jewish Question". During the ensuing public debate hundreds of pamphlets and essays were written. These discussions paved the way all over Europe for reforms that followed slowly. Out of the tolerance debate grew the necessity for the civil improvement of the situation of the Jews. Three phases which correspond to three basic attitudes toward the Jews can be distinguished:

Tolerance toward the "good" Jew (educated and rich) as an exception.  
Tolerance as respect for and as understanding of the other, which came about through a historical understanding of Judaism and through the debate on natural religion.

Tolerance leading to emancipation: equal obligations, equal rights.  
With the edicts of tolerance ("Jew Bill" in England (1753) and in Austria (1781)) and with the civil acts (in France 1791 and in Prussia 1812) the Jews began to live in society but still were considered outsiders. Indeed, the civil improvement of their situation led to a new wave of anti-Semitism, when the hope for integration into society reached its peak in 1815.

LECTURES

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS and EXAMINATIONS

Each student has to give a report on one important aspect of the tolerance debate or on one author, and write a paper.

GRADING SYSTEM

Standard A-F

REQUIRED READINGS

The Jew in the Modern World. A Documentary History. Ed. by P.R.Mendes-Flohr and J. Reinharz, New York/Oxford: Oxford University Press 1980.  
L. Paliakov: The History of Anti-Semitism (From Voltaire to Wagner)  
J. Katz: Out of the Ghetto. The Social Background of Jewish Emancipation.  
J. Katz: From Prejudice to destruction. Anti-Semitism 1700-1933.  
H. Arendt: The origins of Totalitarianism: Anti-Semitism.  
T.Adorno/M.Horkheimer: Dialectics of Enlightenment: Anti-Semitism.