Modern Jewish History (JH 531-532) 2012-2013
Faculty: Rabbi Adam Chalom, Ph.D.

These seminars explore the experience of the Jewish people in modern times. From the transformative period of the Enlightenment and Emancipation in Western Europe, through the periods of migration and change between the old world and the new, to the radical changes wrought by the traumas and triumphs of the twentieth century, the Jewish world has changed more in the past three hundred years than it did in the previous six hundred. This course will also explore the origins and basic ideologies of contemporary movements in Judaism.

Sessions will be offered online via WebEx conferencing (technical information to follow) on selected Thursday evenings from 4:30pm-7:30pm Central US time from October 2012 through June 2013. Participation in presentations and discussions are required, as is completing reading in a timely manner.

REQUIRED READING

AND Choose ONE of

Recommended for general context:

COURSEPACKET (will be provided by IISHJ)
Pre-Course Assignment - viewing and notes on *Fiddler on the Roof* (1971 film).

Course Completion:

1) **JH 531 Paper**: Students should complete one 10-20 page paper (12 point font, double-spaced, 1 inch margins) on a topic to be determined in consultation with the instructor, related to material covered in JH 531 (October through March 7).

2) **JH 532 Paper**: Students should complete one 10-20 page paper (12 point font, double-spaced, 1 inch margins) on a topic to be determined in consultation with the instructor, related to material covered in JH 532 (March 14 through June).

Course Outline and Syllabus

**Modern Jewish History I (JH 531)**

**OCTOBER**

October 11 – Course Introduction. What is Modern/Post modern/Medieval etc. Jewish life in “Pre-Modern” Times.


**READING**

Gartner, *History of the Jews*, ch. 1-3  
Yerushalmi, *Zakhor*, all  
Berger, “Modernity”  
Mendes-Flohr/Reinharz, *Jew in the Modern World*

I. "Harbingers of Political and Economic Change" – Introduction
   1) How Profitable the Nation of Jews Are - Menasseh ben Israel  
   6) The Charter Decreed for the Jews of Prussia - Frederick II  
   7) The Jew Bill - Parliament  
   8) Civil Status of the Jews - Von Dohm  
   11) Response to Dohm - Mendelssohn

II. “Harbingers of Cultural and Ideological Change" – Introduction
   1) Spinoza Excommunication

VII. - #1 - "Jews" - Voltaire  
VIII. - #10 "New Hasidim", #11 "Excommunication of Hasidim"
**NOVEMBER**

**November 1** - The Enlightenment Experience – Haskalah

**November 15** - The Emancipation Experience - Process and Results

**READING**

Gartner, *History of the Jews*, ch. 4-5

Mendes-Flohr/Reinharz, *Jew in the Modern World*

II - "Harbingers of Cultural and Ideological Change"

7) Right to be Different - Mendelssohn
8) Words of Peace and Truth - Wessely
17) Search for Light and Right
19) Judaism is the Cornerstone of Christianity - Mendelssohn
20) Judaism as Revealed Legislation - Mendelssohn

III - "Political Emancipation in Western Europe" – Introduction

2) Eligibility of Jews for Citizenship - French National Assembly
6) Letter of a Citizen to his Fellow Jews - Berr
11) Napoleon's Instructions to Assembly of Notables
13) Answers to Napoleon
19) Emancipation in Prussia - Frederick William III
24) Jewish Relief Act - Parliament

**DECEMBER**

**December 6** – European Jewry, West and East: 1800-1875

**December 13** - American Jewry: 1654-1875, Reform Judaism

**December 20** - American Jewry-1875-1939, Secular Jewishness

**READING**


Gartner, *History of the Jews*, ch. 6-7


Mendes-Flohr/Reinharz, *Jew in the Modern World*

IV – "Patterns of Religious Adjustment"

1) Constitution of the Hamburg Temple
3) Words of the Covenant
7) Hebrew as the Language of Jewish Prayer
8) Question of Messianism
12) Changes in Judaism - Frankel
13) Religion Allied to Progress - Hirsch

V "Modern Jewish Studies" – Introduction

4) Science of Judaism - Wolf
5) Rabbinic Literature - Zunz

VI "Jewish Identity Challenged and Redefined" – #1 Emergence from Talmudic Darkness - Maimon, #6 Ticket of Admission - Heine

VII "Antisemitism" - #12 On the Jewish Problem - Marx

VIII “East European Jewry” – Introduction
2) Statutes Concerning the Organization of the Jews - Alexander I
3) Statutes Regarding Military Service of Jews - Nicholas I
7) Awake My People! - Gordon
8) Jewish Program for Russification - Maskilim
18) Yiddish is a Jargon - Levinsohn
19) Hebrew: Our National Fortress - Smolenskin
20) My Soul Desired Yiddish - Sforim

IX "The American Experience" – Introduction
1) Petition to Exile the Jews - Stuyvesant
2) Reply to Stuyvesant
7) Welcome to George Washington
8) Reply to Hebrew Congregation of Newport
12) Manhattan Beach Affair
14) Pittsburgh Platform of Reform Judaism
16) Concordance of Americanism and Judaism - Kohler
17) Jewish Immigration into the United States
18) Russian Jew in America - Cahan
24) German and Russian Jews - Friedlaender
25) American Jewish Committee - Marshall
28) Our Future in America - Zhitlowsky
29) English and Hebrew - Schechter
31) Zionism is Consistent with Jewish Patriotism
34) Beginnings of Secular Jewish Schools
36) Statement of Policy - Anti-Defamation League
37) Suspension of Immigration - Congress
38) International Jew - Ford
41) Columbus Platform of Reform Judaism
43) Statement of Policy - American Council for Judaism


JANUARY
January 3 – Orthodox, Conservative and Haredi Judaism, Jewish Politics
January 31 - European Jewry-West 1875-1939

READING
Gartner, History of the Jews, ch. 8
Mendelssohn, On Modern Jewish Politics, all
Mendes-Flohr/Reinharz, Jew in the Modern World,
IV "Emerging Patterns"
14) Ultra-Orthodox Position - Schlesinger

VII "Antisemitism" - Introduction
14) Victory of Judaism - Marr
24) Foundations of the Nineteenth Century - Chamberlin
26) Protocols of the Elders of Zion

IX “The American Experience”
15) Orthodox Union
32) Catholic Israel


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**FEBRUARY**

February 21 - European Jewry-East 1875-1939
February 28 - Zionism 1875-1939

**READING**

Gartner, *History of the Jews*, ch. 9
Sachar, *History of Israel*, ch. 1-9
  12) Documenting Jewish History in Eastern Europe – Dubnow et al.
VI “Jewish Identity”
  3) My Father’s Bourgeois Judaism
  9) No Room in My Heart for Jewish Suffering - Luxemburg
  11) Non-Jewish Jew - Deutscher
  17) Address to Society of Bnai Brith - Freud
  22) Portrait of a Jew - Memmi

VIII “East European Jewry”
  25) City of Slaughter - Bialik
  26) Beilis Trial
  30) Autonomism - Dubnow
  31) Nationality Question - Bund
  33) Czernowitz Conference on Yiddish
  34) Woman in the Bund
  38) Liquidation of Bourgeois Jewish Institutions - Yevsektsia
  43) Birobidzhan: Jewish Autonomous Region

IX “Zionism”– Introduction
  1) Manifesto - Bilu
  2) Solution of the Jewish Question - Herzl
  3) Protest Against Zionism - protestrabbiner
  4) Basle Program
  5) First Zionist Congress – Ahad Ha’am
  8) Jewry of Muscle - Nordau
  12) Proletarian Zionism - Borochov
  15) Our Goal – Hapoel Hazair
  17) The Collective - Shohat
  21) Our World View – Hashomer Hazair
  23) Balfour Declaration
  27) Mandate for Palestine – League of Nations
  28) What Zionist Revisionists Want - Jabotinsky
  30) Worker’s Wife: A Public Trial
31) On the Arab Question – Ben Gurion
32) Jewish Needs vs. Arab Claims - Jabotinsky
33) Peel Commission Report
34) White Paper of 1939

**MARCH**
March 7 - Zionism Continued

**Modern Jewish History II (JH 532)**

**MARCH**
March 14 - Sephardic Jewry 1500-1939
March 21 – Holocaust: Modern Anti-Semitism/Hitler to 1939

**READING**
- Gartner, *History of the Jews*, ch. 10
- Marrus, *Holocaust in History*, ch. 1-2
- Mendes-Flohr/Reinharz, *Jew in the Modern World*
  - VII - #8 The Damascus Affair
  - XI “The Holocaust” – Introduction
    - 2) Mein Kampf - Hitler
    - 3) Wear the Yellow Badge with Pride - Weltsch
    - 7) Law for Protection of German Blood – Nuremberg Laws
    - 8) Reich Citizenship Law – Nuremberg Laws
    - 16) Decree for Elimination of the Jews
    - 19) Prophecy of Jewry’s Annihilation - Hitler
    - 20) Plight of the Refugees
- Marrus, *Holocaust in History*, ch. 3-9

**APRIL**
April 4 - Holocaust and WWII-Events
April 18 - Holocaust and WWII-Aftermath
April 25- Post-war European and Sephardic Jews, Latin American Jewry

**READING**
- Gartner, *History of the Jews*, ch. 11-12
- Sarna, *American Judaism*, ch. 6
- Mendes-Flohr/Reinharz, *Jew in the Modern World*
  - XI “The Holocaust”
    - 22) Protocols of Wannsee Conference
    - 26) Call to Resistance – Jewish Fighting Organization
    - 27) Last Communication – Anielewicz
    - 28) Last Letter from Warsaw - Ringelblum
    - 29) Jewish Warsaw is No More - Stroop
    - 31) Where is the World’s Conscience - Zygelboym
    - 32) Secret Speech - Himmler
    - 34) Deportation of Children - Rumkowski
    - 36) Estimated Number of Jews Killed
**MAY**
May 2 - Postwar American Judaism - Comfort and Discomfort
May 9 - Reconstructionist, Havurah and Renewal Judaism
May 16 - Israel, Founding to 2000
May 23 - Issues in Modern Judaism: Antisemitism Jewish Studies “Tradition”
	Feminism Intermarriage Israel and Diaspora Denominations

**READING**
Choice Readings: Levi, Plaskow, Kamenz
Sarna, *American Judaism*, Conclusion
Sachar, *History of Israel*, ch. 10-34
Mendes-Flohr/Reinharz, *Jew in the Modern World*
	IX – “The American Experience”
	33) The Reconstruction of Judaism - Kaplan
	44) An Exchange of Views – Ben Gurion/Blaustein
	X – “Zionism”
	40) Resolution on Palestine – United Nations
	41) Proclamation of the State of Israel
	42) Address to the Knesset on the Law of Return
	43) The Law of Return

“Reconstructionism on One Foot” - [http://www.jewishrecon.org/resource/reconstructionism-one-foot](http://www.jewishrecon.org/resource/reconstructionism-one-foot)
“FAQs about Jewish Renewal” - [https://www.aleph.org/faq.htm](https://www.aleph.org/faq.htm)
“The First Jewish Catalog – Contents” (image to be sent)

**JUNE**
June 20 - Jewish world today: Israel, Europe, America-Snapshot Demographics, Secular Humanistic Judaism
June 27 - Looking forward - the Jewish Future

**READING**
Sachar, *History of Israel*, ch. 35
Seltzer, “Secular Jewish Culture”
Wine, *Real History of the Jews*, excerpt
Mendes-Flohr/Reinharz, *Jew in the Modern World*, Appendix
Sarna, *American Judaism*, appendix

“Choosing to Live as a Secular Humanistic Jew” - [http://www.ifshj.net/id48.html](http://www.ifshj.net/id48.html)