

## 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

- Gartner, Lloyd P. *History of the Jews in Modern Times* (Oxford University Press, 2001). Ebook edition available, entire class.
- Marrus, Michael. *The Holocaust in History* (Key Porter Books, 2000). March and April.
- Mendelsohn, Ezra. *On Modern Jewish Politics* (Oxford University Press, 1993). January.
- Mendes-Flohr, Paul and Reinharz, Jehuda. *The Jew in the Modern World: A Documentary History* (Oxford University Press, 1995). Readings are keyed to the 2nd edition in 1995 - new third edition and ebook edition issued in 2010, entire class.
- Sachar, Howard. *A History of Israel: From the Rise of Zionism to Our Time* (Alfred A. Knopf, 1996)  
**OR** Shapira, Anita. *Israel: A History* (Brandeis University Press, 2012) - also available in ebook edition. February-March and May.
- Sarna, Jonathan. *American Judaism: A History* (Yale University Press, 2004). Ebook edition available, December, April-May
- Stillman, Norman. *The Jews of Arab Lands in Modern Times* (Jewish Publication Society, 2003). March-April.
- Yerushalmi, Yosef Hayim. *Zakhor: Jewish History and Jewish Memory* (University of Washington Press, 1996). Ebook edition available, October.

### AND Choose ONE of

- Kamenetz, Roger. *The Jew in the Lotus* (Harper San Francisco, 1994).
- Levi, Primo. *Survival in Auschwitz* (any edition).
- Plaskow, Judith. *Standing Again at Sinai: Judaism from a Feminist Perspective* (Harper, 1990).

*Recommended for general context:*

Sachar, Howard M. *The Course of Modern Jewish History* (Vintage, 1990)

Wine, Sherwin. *A Provocative People: A Secular History of the Jews* (IISHJ, 2012) ch. 8-10.

### COURSEPACKET (will be provided by IISHJ)

“Modernity as the Universalization of Heresy” in Berger, Peter. *The Heretical Imperative: Contemporary Possibilities of Religious Affirmation* (Anchor, 1979).

“The Ideal of a Secular Jewish Culture; Its Relationship to Jewish Literature and Historiography” in Seltzer, Robert. *Jewish People, Jewish Thought* (Macmillan, 1980).

Wine, Sherwin. *A Provocative People: A Secular History of the Jews* (IISHJ, 2012). Selections from Chapter 10 and Epilogue.

**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.

**October 18** - Roots of Modern Judaism, Spinoza, Hasidism, Urbanization, Non-Jewish Enlightenment, and Science. *Fiddler on the Roof* discussion.

#### **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**

*The Jewish Encyclopedia*, "Haskalah" <http://www.jewishencyclopedia.com/articles/7318-haskalah>

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

Sarna, *American Judaism*, Introduction, ch. 1-5

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

1999 Pittsburgh Platform of Reform Judaism: <http://ccarnet.org/rabbis-speak/platforms/statement-principles-reform-judaism>

Commentary to 1999 Pittsburgh Platform: <http://ccarnet.org/rabbis-speak/platforms/commentary-principles-reform-judaism>

“Secular Jewishness: What’s Jewish About It?” <http://www.csjo.org/resources/essays/secular-jewishness-whats-jewish-about-it/>

## **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

Varieties of Orthodox Judaism: [http://people.ucalgary.ca/~elsegal/363\\_Transp/08\\_Orthodoxy.html](http://people.ucalgary.ca/~elsegal/363_Transp/08_Orthodoxy.html)

Conservative Judaism: Covenant and Commandment: available at  
<http://www.rabbinicalassembly.org/about-us/conservative-masorti>

## **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

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

V “Modern Jewish Studies”

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 - Yevseksia

43) Birobidzhan: Jewish Autonomous Region

X “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 - Borochoy

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

Stillman, *Jews of Arab Lands*, Part I ch. 1-5 – browse primary sources from Part II, sections 1-5.

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

Stillman, *Jews of Arab Lands*, Part I, ch. 6-7 – browse primary sources from Part II, sections 6-7.

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, Kamenetz

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>

“FAQs on Reconstructionism” - <http://www.jewishrecon.org/resource/faqs-reconstructionist-approaches-jewish-ideas-and-practices>

“FAQs about Jewish Renewal” - <https://www.aleph.org/faq.htm>

“Aleph Statement of Principles” - <http://ohalah.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2010/12/AlephStatementOfPrinciples.pdf>

“The First Jewish Catalog – Contents” (image to be sent)

“Havurot Within the Synagogue” - <http://resources.havurah.org/2009/12/restructuring-the-synagogue-the-creation-of-havurot-within-the-synagogue/#more-72>

## **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

“About Secular Humanistic Judaism” - <http://iishj.org/about-secular-humanistic-judaism.html>

“Choosing to Live as a Secular Humanistic Jew” - <http://www.ifshj.net/id48.html>