

History 141/JWST 158/ RELS 122/
NELC 053/ NELC 453

Spring 2008
Mon-Wed: 12-12:50
plus weekly recitation

**A HISTORY OF JEWISH CIVILIZATION: FROM THE LATE SEVENTEENTH
CENTURY TO THE PRESENT**

INSTRUCTOR: Beth S. Wenger
OFFICE HOURS: Mon. 1:30-3:00
and by appointment

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OFFICE HOURS: Wed. 11-12 and by appt.
Williams Hall Café

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course offers an intensive survey of the major currents in Jewish culture and society from the early modern period to the present. Focusing upon the different societies in which Jews have lived, the course explores the development of Jewish responses to the political, socio-economic, and cultural challenges of modernity. Topics will include Jewish enlightenment, emancipation, the Holocaust, Jewish politics, religious reform, modern orthodoxy, Zionism, and other forms of Jewish culture.

Curiosity about Jewish history and the desire to explore its drama and complexity are the only prerequisites for this course. No prior knowledge of the subject is assumed. Each week students will attend two lectures and one recitation. Lectures are intended to clarify, supplement, or engage the readings but not to duplicate them. Recitations provide students with a forum where they can discuss the readings in depth, especially historical documents that demand close analysis and interpretation. Regular attendance at class sessions is expected; required readings should be completed prior to the class for which they are assigned. Students should be prepared to analyze and discuss the readings and primary documents assigned for each class. Participation in recitation sections is mandatory and will be considered as part of the final grade in the course.

Course Web Page: The web page address is:
<http://www.history.upenn.edu/coursepages/hist141/>

USER NAME: hist141
PASSWORD: jhist

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Attendance and participation in class and recitation sections

TWO short papers (5-7 pages each):

1. ISSUE PAPER: All students will write a paper based on an issue that will be debated in class during the three scheduled in-class debates. Each student will participate in only one debate. Students will be assigned a position to represent during these debates, centering on the issues of Jewish emancipation, modern movements in Judaism, and Jewish political movements. Students will work in small groups in preparing for the debates, but will write their own papers. The paper will be due at the class meeting following each debate. Students will be allowed to express a preference for which issue they would like to debate, but are not guaranteed to receive their first choice. The position that you represent in the debate need not be the position that you take in the paper. Debates and paper due-dates are as follows:

Debate #1: Feb. 4	----	Paper Due: Feb. 11
Debate #2: Feb. 20	----	Paper Due: Feb. 25
Debate #3: Mar. 26	----	Paper Due: Mar. 31

2. SOURCE PAPER: This paper should be a close historical analysis of a primary source--a memoir, political or religious tract, autobiography, or collection of documents. A list of suggested sources will be distributed in class and is available on the History 141 web page. Other research topics will be permitted with the permission of the instructor. All students should confirm paper topics with the instructor or teaching assistant no later than April 2. Papers are due in class on **April 14**.

Midterm Examination

Final Examination

GRADING:

Midterm Exam	20%
Issue Paper	20%
Source Paper	20%
Final Exam	25%
Participation in Discussion	15%

**-LATE WORK WILL BE PENALIZED WITH A LOWER GRADE
-NO EXTENSIONS WILL BE GRANTED**

BOOKS AVAILABLE AT PENN BOOK CENTER (34th and Sansom):

Paul Mendes-Flohr and Jehuda Reinharz, eds., *The Jew in the Modern World: A Documentary History*. Second Edition. New York: Oxford University Press, 1995.
[must be second edition]

Michael Meyer, *The Origins of the Modern Jew: Jewish identity and European culture in Germany, 1749-1824*. Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 1967.

Hasia R. Diner, *The Jews of the United States, 1654 to 2000*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2004.

David Engel, *The Holocaust, the Third Reich, and the Jews* Harlow, England; New York: Longman, 2000.

* A packet of all other required readings for the course is available at Wharton Reprographics, Suite 400, Ground Floor of the Wharton School, Locust Walk.

*Books ordered for purchase will also be available at Rosengarten Reserve, Van Pelt Library.

Jan. 16 Introduction

Jan. 23 Harbingers of Modernity

Mordechai Breuer, "The Early Modern Period," in Michael Meyer, ed., *German-Jewish History in Modern Times*, vol. 1., pp. 81-164.

Jan. 28 - 30 Enlightenment and Haskalah

Lois Dubin, "Enlightenment and Emancipation," in Nicholas De Lange and Miri Freud-Kandel eds., *Modern Judaism: An Oxford Guide*, pp. 29-37.

Nicholas De Lange, *The Illustrated History of the Jewish People*, pp. 199-209.

Michael Meyer, *The Origins of the Modern Jew*, pp. 8-56.

Documents:

Paul Mendes-Flohr and Jehuda Reinharz, eds., *The Jew in the Modern World*, pp. 13-17, 28-41, 49-53, 68-69, 96-99.

**Feb. 4- 6 Emancipation in Western Europe and the
Reorganization of the Jewish Community**

De Lange, *The Illustrated History of the Jewish People*, pp. 210-16

Michael Meyer, *The Origins of the Modern Jew*, pp. 57-143.

Robert Liberles: "Emancipation and the Structure of Community in the Nineteenth Century," *Leo Baeck Institute Yearbook* 31 (1986), pp. 51-67.

Documents:

Mendes-Flohr and Reinharz, *The Jew in the Modern World*, pp. 105-111, 114-121, 123-35.

***** Class Debate #1 -- on Feb. 4**

Feb. 11 The Social Consequences of Emancipation: Acculturation and Mobility

Steven M. Lowenstein, "The Beginning of Integration 1780-1870," in Marion Kaplan ed., *Jewish Daily Life in Germany, 1618-1945*, pp. 93-171.

Marion Kaplan, "Tradition & Transition: The Acculturation, Assimilation, and Integration of Jews in Imperial Germany - A Gender Analysis," *Leo Baeck Institute Yearbook*, 27 (1982), pp. 3-35.

Feb. 13 - 18 The Emergence of Modern Varieties of Judaism

De Lange, *The Illustrated History of the Jewish People*, pp. 216-224

Ismar Schorsch, "Zacharias Frankel and the European Origins of Conservative Judaism," *Judaism* 30:3 (Summer 1981), pp. 344-54.

Michael Meyer, "Jewish Religious Reform & Wissenschaft des Judentums . . .", *Leo Baeck Institute Yearbook* 16 (1971), pp. 19-41.

Moshe Samet, "The Beginnings of Orthodoxy," *Modern Judaism* 8:3 (Oct. 1988), pp. 249-69.

Documents:

Mendes-Flohr & Reinharz, *The Jew in the Modern World*, pp. 161-73, 178-85, 194-202, 205-206, 215-30.

Feb. 20 Class Debate #2

Feb. 25 East European Jewry and Its Traditional Cultures; Hasidism and Its Opponents

De Lange, *The Illustrated History of the Jewish People*, pp. 224-33.

Gershon Hundert, *Jews in Poland-Lithuania in the Eighteenth Century: A Genealogy of Modernity*, pp. 160-210.

Chava Weissler, "Prayers in Yiddish and the Religious World of Ashkenazic Women," in Judith Baskin, ed., *Jewish Women in Historical Perspective*, pp. 159-81.

Documents:

Hallo, et. al., *Heritage: Civilization and the Jews, Source Reader*, pp. 190-94.

Mendes-Flohr & Reinharz, *The Jew in the Modern World*, pp. 387-93

Feb. 27 – Mar. 3 East European Jewry in the Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Centuries

Israel Bartal, *The Jews of Eastern Europe, 1772-1881*, pp. 58-69.

Michael Stanislawski, *Tsar Nicholas I and the Jews*, pp. 49-154.

Documents:

Pauline Wengeroff, "Memoirs of a Jewish Grandmother," in Lucy Dawidowicz, *The Golden Tradition*, pp. 160-68.

Moses Leib Lilienblum, "Sins of Youth," in Dawidowicz, *The Golden Tradition*, pp. 119-29.

Mendes-Flohr & Reinharz, *The Jew in the Modern World*, pp. 375-80, 384-97, 408-409, 417-423.

Mar. 5 Midterm Exam

Mar. 17 The Rise of Modern Anti-Semitism

Ismar Schorsch, *Jewish Reactions to German Anti-Semitism, 1870-1914*, pp. 117-48.

Documents:

Mendes-Flohr & Reinharz, *The Jew in the Modern World*, pp. 327-34, 339-50, 356-59, 363-67.

Mar. 19 - 24 The Zionist Revolution

Shlomo Avineri, *The Making of Modern Zionism: The Intellectual Origins of the Jewish State*, pp. 3-13.

David Biale, *Eros and the Jews: From Biblical Israel to Contemporary America*, pp. 176-203.

Documents:

Arthur Hertzberg, *The Zionist Idea*, pp. 200-30, 249-77, 315-27, 369-86, 417-31.

Mendes-Flohr & Reinharz, *The Jew in the Modern World*, pp. 532-33, 540-41, 548-49.

Mar. 26 Class Debate #3

Mar. 31 - Apr. 2 The Rise of American Jewry

Hasia R. Diner, *The Jews of the United States*, pp. 13-154.

Documents:

Mendes-Flohr & Reinharz, *The Jew in the Modern World*, pp. 452-57, 463-76, 478-88, 496-512.

Apr. 7 European Jewry in the Interwar Years

Steven Aschheim, *Brothers and Strangers: The East European Jew in German and German Jewish Consciousness, 1800-1923*, pp. 215-45.

Documents:

Mendes-Flohr & Reinharz, *The Jew in the Modern World*, pp. 428-48.

Week of April 7 - 10 FILM SCREENING

**** Day and Time of Screening To Be Scheduled**

Film: *Image Before My Eyes* (90 minutes)

[This is a mandatory make-up session for the classes that will be missed on Passover--April 21.]

Apr. 9 - 14 The Holocaust

David Engel, *The Holocaust, the Third Reich, and the Jews*, pp. 1-87, (and documents, pp. 92-94).

Documents:

Mendes-Flohr & Reinharz, *The Jew in the Modern World*, pp. 636-42, 645-47, 651-53, 662-79, 696.

Songs of the Chelm and Bialystok Ghettos (1940s), in Lucy Dawidowicz, *A Holocaust Reader*, pp. 177 -78.

The Political Underground: A Letter from the Bund (1942), in Dawidowicz, *A Holocaust Reader*, pp. 213-18.

A Summons to Resistance in the Vilna Ghetto, (1942), in Dawidowicz, *A Holocaust Reader*, pp. 334-36.

Apr. 16 - 23 Israel and America: Two Centers of Jewish Culture

Charles Liebman and Eliezer Don-Yehiya, *Civil Religion in Israel*, pp. 81-122.

Diner, *The Jews of the United States*, pp. 259-358.

Documents:

Mendes-Flohr & Reinharz, *The Jew in the Modern World*, pp. 617-19, 622-33, 524-28.

[* NOTE: There will be NO CLASS on Mon. Apr. 21 due to the Passover holiday. We will make-up this class with the screening of the film "Image Before My Eyes."]

Apr. 28 Course Conclusions

Moshe Rosman, "Defining the Postmodern Period in Jewish History," in *Text and Context: Essays in Modern Jewish History and Historiography in Honor of Ismar Schorsch*, pp. 95-130.

David Ellenson, "Judaism Resurgent?: American Jews and the Evolving Expression of Jewish Values and Jewish Identity," in *After Emancipation: Jewish Religious Responses to Modernity*, pp.. 27-50.

Arthur Hertzberg, "Zionism In A Multiethnic World." *Moment*, February 28, 1998, p. 52. <http://proxy.library.upenn.edu:2100/> (accessed December 9, 2007).

Documents:

Mendes-Flohr & Reinharz, *The Jew in the Modern World*, Appendix Table XVIII

