HIST 248-Jewish History: From the Spanish Expulsion to Jon Stewart

Magda Teter, Allbritton 203, Office Hours, T: 10:30-12, Wed: 9-11.45, or by appointment: mteter@wesleyan.edu

This course explores Jewish history on the eve of modernity and during the modern era. Modern Jewish experience has often been characterized as an era of increasing participation of Jews in the civil society, and was juxtaposed to the "premodern" era of the ghettos. This course will explore these dichotomous stereotypes, and introduce students to the complexity of the Jewish experience, their active involvement in the political and cultural processes that were taking place in the "non-Jewish" environment both before and during the modern times. We will see Jews as a part of the social and cultural fabric, rather than an "alienated minority" whose history is separate from that of their surroundings. We will explore the transformations from a traditional society, defined by religious identities, into a modern society, of complex religious, ethnic, political identities. We will look at the acceptance of and resistance to the new ideas brought by the Enlightenment, and explore the consequences of secularization of the society, including the rise of modern anti-Semitism, Jewish nationalism, Zionism, the Holocaust, questions of women and gender, migrations, religious fundamentalism, and American Jewish culture etc.

Course Readings

Books for purchase:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>ISBN</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Herzl</td>
<td>Jewish State</td>
<td>9780486258492</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mendes-Flohr</td>
<td>Jew in Modern World</td>
<td>9780195389067</td>
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<td>Marcus</td>
<td>Jew in Medieval World: Source Book</td>
<td>9780878202171</td>
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<td>Mendelssohn</td>
<td>Jerusalem</td>
<td>9780874512649</td>
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<tr>
<td>FRAM</td>
<td>IDEALS FACE REALITY (P)</td>
<td>9780878204205</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hyman</td>
<td>Gender &amp; Assimilation in Modern Jewish History</td>
<td>9780295974262</td>
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<tr>
<td>Masters</td>
<td>Christians &amp; Jews in Ottoman Arab World</td>
<td>9780521005821</td>
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CLASS SCHEDULE

1. Thursday. 01/22 Introduction: From medieval times to modernity, the Geography of Jewish Settlements.
**Early modern period:**

2. Tuesday 01/27  **New Era of Printing: Impact of Print on Jewish Culture: ERESERVES:**

   - Michael Gullick "How Fast Did Scribes Write? Evidence from Romanesque Manuscripts" in *Making the Medieval Book: Techniques of Production*;
   - Natalie Zemon Davis: "Printing and the People" in *Society and Culture in Early Modern France: 189-227*;
   - Primary text: *Jew in the Medieval World*, chapter 82;
   - *Book of Women's Commandments (Seder Mizvot Nashim, 1577)* on www.earlymodern.org
   - *Organizing Jewish Books: The Book of the Sleeping (Sefer Siftei Yashanim 1630)*

3. Thursday. 01/29  **After the Expulsion: Historiography, Kabbalah, and Messianic Expectations**

   - **Gershom Scholem Major Trends in Jewish Mysticism lectures 7: "Isaac Luria and His School"**
   - Yerushalmi *Zakhor* ch. 3;
   - Texts by Hayim Vital, Yehuda Hayat (read the introduction and the text under "English", *Isaac de Lattes on the printing of the Zohar* on www.earlymodern.org

4. Tuesday. 02/03  **Visit to Special Collections for Group 1, and Endnote/Library Resources Workshop for Group 2.**  Group 1 will meet at the Olin Library Special Collection. Group 2 in PAC 100

5. Thursday 02/05  **After the Expulsion: Messianic Expectations and Messianic Movements:**

   - **Gershom Scholem Major Trends in Jewish Mysticism lecture 8: "Sabbatianism and Mystical Heresy";**
   - J. Marcus *Jew in the Medieval World* chs. 35, 51, 52, 53
   - *Shabbatai Zvi in Lawrence Fine, Judaism in Practice, 470-482*

6. Tuesday 02/10  **Visit to Special Collections for Group 2, and Endnote/Library Resources Workshop for Group 1.**  Group 2 will meet at the Olin Library Special Collection, Group 1 in PAC 100.
LIBRARY AND BIBLIOGRAPHIC ASSIGNMENT POSTED

7. Thursday 02/12 Jewish Life and Culture:
   • Leon Modena in Lawrence Fine, Judaism in Practice, 453-467
   • Glickl of Hamlin in Lawrence Fine, Judaism in Practice, 484-497
   • Edward Fram, Ideals Face Reality, 15-37, 48-64;
   • Joseph Davis "The Reception of the Shulhan `Aruk" in AJR Review 26 no. 2 (2002);
   • Jew in the Medieval World, chapters 42, 77-III, 84;
   • and a selection from the Shulhan Arukh.

Further recommended reading: Fram, Ideals Face Reality, 67-105

8. Tuesday 02/17 Protestant Reformation, Counter-Reformation and the Jews.
   • J. Marcus Jew in the Medieval World ch.33-34;
   • Thomas Kaufmann "Luther and the Jews"
   • Achim Detmers, "Calvin, the Jews, and Judaism."
   • K. Stow "The Burning of the Talmud in 1553,

9. Thursday 02/19 Intellectual crisis and the emergence of a new world view: Spinoza
   • Spinoza Theological-Political Treatise, Preface, chapters:1-8, 11-17, 19-20 (on Moodle).
   • Marcus Jew in the Medieval World, ch.69; Jew in the Modern World pp. 57-58)

10. Tuesday 02/24 Jews in Muslim Lands
    • Mark Cohen, "Islam and the Jews: Myths, Counter-Myths, History" in Jews among Muslims: Communities in Precolonial Middle East (NYU Press, 1996);
    • Bruce Masters, Christians and Jews in the Ottoman Arab World (Cambridge University Press, 2004), 1-40;
• J. Marcus *Jew in the Medieval World* ch. 83)

**The Modern Period**

11. Thursday 02/26  **The Meaning of Modernity and Social and Legal Changes:**
   
   - M. Meyer "Where Does the Modern Period of Jewish History Begin?", *Judaism 24* (1975),
   
   
   - Masters, *Christians and Jews*, 41-97;
   

12. Tuesday 03/03  **The Enlightenment: Moses Mendelssohn and the Berlin Haskalah vs. the Enlightenment in the East:**
   
   - Moses Mendelssohn *Jerusalem* (33-75, 77-139),
   

13. Thursday. 03/05  **Revolution and Emancipation.**
   
   
   - FINAL LIBRARY ASSIGNMENT DUE FRIDAY 03/06 at 4:30 pm.

**SPRING BREAK: 03/07-03/23**

14 Tuesday 03/24  **Responses to Modernity I: Religious Reform**
   
   - *Jew in the Modern World* pp. 84-90, 182-189; 201-202; 207--211;
   
   - M. Meyer *Origins of the Modern Jew* p. 115-144)
   
   - MIDTERM DUE Wednesday 03/24, 4.30 PM

15. Thursday 03/25  **Responses to Modernity II: Orthodoxy East vs. West**
   
   - *Jew in the Modern World* pp.189-201; 220-231, 365-377
   
16. Tuesday 03/31 **Responses to Modernity III: Acculturation, Conversions, and the Science of Judaism**

- *Y.H. Yerushalmi Zakhor "Modern Dilemmas: Historiography and Its Discontents"*
- *M. Meyer The Origins of the Modern Jew p. 85-115, 144-183*; (optional)
- **Second Paper Assignment Announced.**

17. Thursday 04/02 **Responses to Modernity IV: Jews in Arab Lands:**

- Bruce Masters, *Christians and Jews*, 130-199

18. Tuesday 04/07 **Jewish Women and Modernity.**

- P. Hyman, *Gender and Assimilation* 10-92;

**MONDAY 04/13, 8PM LECTURE: Marianne Szegedy-Mazak**


20. 04/16 **Jewish Nationalism: Zionism**

- *Jew in the Modern World*, 588-598; 606-610, 613, 616-617, 660


22. Thursday 04/23 **Migrations**


- P. Hyman *Gender and Assimilation* 93-133

**Paper Drafts Due Monday 04/27, 9am.**

23. Tuesday 04/28 **The Interwar Period**

• *Jew in the Modern World*, 411-433


• Amos Oz, *A Tale of Love and Darkness*, 81-106

• *Awakening Lives*, ch. 12 "Esther"


**MONDAY:** Film Screening, "Wooden Gun" TBA,

25. Tuesday 05/05 **Israel-A Modern State:**

• *Jew in the Modern World*, 603-633

26. Thursday 05/07 **Modern Jewish Identity**

• *Jew in the Modern World* p. 861-878

• Jeremy Gillick and Nonna Garilovskaya, "Meet Jonathan Stuart Leibowitz (aka) Jon Stewart"

• "Who is a Jew? Let the Civil Court Decide" Haaretz 09/07/2009

• “A Passover Toast to a Rabbi Known for Social Activism, and for Kosher Coca-Cola,” NYTimes, April 11, 2011

• “All the Young Jews: In the Village of Kiryas Joel, New York, the Median Age Is 13,” The Village Voice, Nov 12, 2014.

**PAPERS DUE FRIDAY, 05/08 AT 4 pm**

**FINAL EXAM WILL BE A TAKE HOME EXAM DUE AT THE REGISTRAR’S SCHEDULED TIME**
COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

_all work in the course is done under the Honor Code._ Cases will be brought to the Honor Board, should questions concerning potential or actual violation of the Honor Code arise

- One short paper, including a detailed bibliography, based on a source in the special collection.
- One short paper based on a primary text related to the class and period (list with suggested sources will be provided)
- Take-home midterm and final exams
- 4 response paper on the readings (two in each half of the semester).
- Filling out a short survey after each class (like absences below, 3 missed surveys are allowed)
- Class attendance (3 unexcused absences allowed, 4+ will entail grade penalty)
- Excessive lateness (more than 15 minutes) counts as absence.
- Sleeping in class also counts as absence.
- **Class participation:** the success of this class depends on our mutual involvement and therefore your participation in class discussions is crucial. Participation in discussions, posting on the class forums in response to the readings, and post-class survey form count as class participation. There will be a grade bonus for class participation.

Students' Rights:

- To express their ideas freely, while being respectful to others.
- To meet with me during office hours to discuss issues related to the course or students’ performance in the classroom.
- To make an appointment outside office hours (via email).
- To know their current grade at any give time during the semester.
- To give me feedback throughout the duration of the semester (in fact, you are encouraged to do so).
- To receive accommodation for registered learning or other disabilities. They must be registered with the Dean's Office.
Written assignments:

• There are writing fellows available at the Writing Center, you can approach them on your own, or you may be referred to them, should the need arise.

• All written assignments are due on the day noted in the syllabus through Moodle. No extensions will be given. There will be a grade penalty for lateness (1 grade per day).

• Papers are graded based on: clarity of writing; evidence provided to support the claim; insight; argument; spelling and punctuation; proper use of sources (footnotes and their formatting, proper acknowledgment of ideas and sources).

• Footnoting should follow the Chicago 15th A style, available through the EndNote Program, or given in Mary Rampolla’s book Mary Lynn Rampolla A Pocket Guide to Writing in History (Boston, New York: Bedford/St. Martin’s Press). You can also use these guidelines: How to Cite Sources. Improper footnoting will result in grade penalty and/or referring the case to the Honor Board.

Plagiarism is one of the most serious academic offenses a student can commit at Wesleyan.

• Instances of plagiarism:
  
  o submitting essays or portions of essays written by other people as one’s own;
  
  o failing to acknowledge, through footnotes and bibliographical entries, the source of ideas that are essentially not one’s own; and the source of primary sources, e.g. if you find a reference to the primary source in a secondary source, you must show where you found it;
  
  o failing to indicate paraphrases or ideas or verbatim expressions not one’s own through proper use of quotations and footnotes;
  
  o submitting an essay written for one course to a second course without having sought prior permission from both instructors (self-plagiarism).

Grading:

• Special Collection assignment: first draft 10%, bibliography 5%, final draft 15%

• Second assignment: first draft 10%, final draft 15%

• Four responses to texts: 5% (total)
• Midterm exam 10%
• Final exams 20%
• class participation 10% (46 points)
• Bonus of up to 1/3 grade: 100% class participation, 100% rate of attendance; all responses;

Penalties: missing more than 3 classes, missing the assignment deadline; missing more than 3 responses

**Policy on Religious Holidays and Disabilities**

a) Religious Observance:

The absence due to religious observance will not count toward your 3 unexcused absences. If you need to miss a class due to religious observance, you are still responsible for the readings and should contact your classmates about the material we discussed during class. You are also welcome to meet with me to discuss the material.

b) Accommodation for Disability:

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, Wesleyan University has a policy of accommodating learning and other disabilities. If you identify as disabled, or are chronically ill, although the requirements of this course remain the same, you are eligible for accommodation and/or assistance. If you believe that you need accommodations for a disability, please contact Dean Patey in Disability Resources, located in North College, Room 021, or call 860-685-2332 for an appointment to discuss your needs and the process for requesting accommodations. You should also talk to me so that we can make sure that your needs are accommodated.