

Jews in the Modern World

SPRING 2013: HIST 39001 ~ MWF 10:30-11:20 UNIV 301

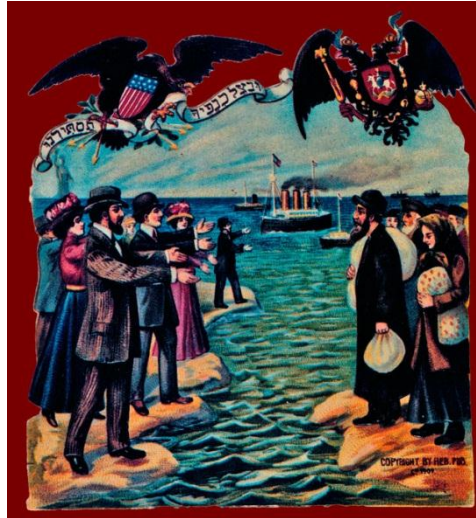
The modern history, politics, and society of a people in motion

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What does it mean to be a Jew in the modern world? Are Jews a religious, ethnic, or national group? How have Jews dealt with catastrophe, relations with non-Jews, the challenges of assimilation, of anti-Semitism? What is Zionism, and how did it develop? This survey of Jewish history examines Jewish responses to modernity with special attention to the Jewish relationship with the state and with the surrounding non-Jewish society, Jewish cultures, and the diversity of the modern Jewish experience. Special attention will be given to strategies of survival, modernization, and dissent in the Jewish and non-Jewish world using a variety of primary and secondary sources, including memoirs, film and music.

Required Texts:

- John EFRON, et al, *The Jews. A History*. [known in the syllabus as EFRON]
- ALL OTHER READINGS, MEDIA LINKS POSTED ON BLACKBOARD

Attendance:

Attendance at all class sessions is mandatory. Arrive on time. An attendance sheet will be passed around to sign at the beginning of class. More than four (4) absences will result in a grade penalty (1/2 of a letter grade) for each subsequent unexcused absence. Unexcused means undocumented by a doctor's note, or other valid form of documentation. If there is an occasion where you must leave early, notify me before class starts and sit near an exit. Be courteous. Do not disrupt the professor or your fellow students. The use of electronic devices is not permitted during class without my expressed permission.

Exams:

There will be a first, second, and final exam, each covering material from one-third of the semester. The exams will consist of identification and essay questions. You will receive a study guide one week in advance of each exam. The exams are not cumulative, except for one thematic question on the final to be announced in advance. You will be allowed the opportunity to take one and only one make-up exam in the case of a documented emergency. **Each exam is worth 100 points, for 300 points total.**

Projects:

The Great Greater Lafayette Jewish Scavenger Hunt: You will each receive a clue sheet of places and objects pertaining to the Jewish history, society, and culture of the Greater Lafayette area. You will identify, explain, and document (ex/ a photo, thumbnail sketch, tombstone rubbing) each item on the list in a paper or power point presentation **due the last day of class April 26th**. You will hunt in teams, but the end result is yours alone. More details about this project to follow in class! **The project is worth 100 points.**

The Council on Jewish Affairs: You will represent a position - randomly assigned early in the semester - on the broad spectrum of Jewish responses to Theodore Herzl's 1896 proposal for the creation of a Jewish state in a lively, fictional "Council on Jewish Affairs" set at the turn of the 20th century. You will research and write a 3-page individual position brief due at the opening of deliberations on **April 5th**, as well as energetically participate in the debate itself. More details to follow in class! **The paper and participation in the debate is worth 100 points.**

Grading Policies:

- Written work for this course must be typed and adhere to the following format: double-spaced, one-inch margins, in 12 point Times New Roman font, paginated, proofread, and including footnotes.
- Assignments are due at the beginning of class, no late papers will be accepted for full credit. No email attachments.
- Keep all graded assignments until you have received your final grade. In this way, if there are grade discrepancies, you will have the original document in your possession for consideration of official grade adjustment.
- Remember: failure to complete any of the assignments may result in a failing grade for the course.

Important Notes:

- **Cheating / Plagiarism:** refers to the reproduction of another's words or ideas without proper attribution. Cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty are serious offenses, and will result in a failing grade and notification of the Dean of Students Office. Don't do it.
- **Course Evaluations:** During the fifteenth week of classes, you will receive an official email from evaluation administrators with a link to the online evaluation site. You will have two weeks to complete this evaluation. Your participation in this evaluation is an integral part of this course. Your feedback is vital to improving education at Purdue University. I strongly urge you to participate in the evaluation system.

Disclaimer:

In the event of a major campus emergency, the above requirements, deadlines and grading policies are subject to changes that may be required by a revised semester calendar. Any such changes in this course will be posted on Blackboard once the course resumes or can be obtained by contacting the professor via email.

- Week One: M, 1/7: Introduction and Overview
 • EFRON, "Preface," pp.xiii-xv
- W, 1/9: The Aftermath of Expulsion from Spain
 • EFRON, pp.174-183
 • Samuel USQUE, *Consolations for the Tribulations of Israel*, pp.38-40*
 • GITLITZ, *Secrecy and Deceit: The Religion of the Crypto-Jews*, pp.135-138*
- F, 1/11: Kabbalah at Safed
 • EFRON, pp.183-193
 • Mark MAZOWER, *Salonica. City of Ghosts: Christians, Muslims and Jews, 1430-1950*, pp.46-63*
- Week Two: M, 1/14: Invitation to Poland: The Beginnings of East European Jewry
 • EFRON, pp.204-211
 • *The Charter of Boleslaw the Pious**
- W, 1/16: Early Modern Ashkenazi Culture
 • EFRON, pp. 211-213
 • Diagram of a page of Talmud with RaSHI and Tosafot*
- F, 1/18: The Chmielnicki Massacres and the Deluge
 • EFRON, pp.209-211
 • Nathan of Hannover, *The Abyss of Despair*, pp.50-61*
- Week Three: M, 1/21: Martin Luther King Day – NO CLASS
- W, 1/23: Of False Messiahs: Shabbatai Zvi
 • EFRON, pp. 227-229
 • Sir Paul RYCAUT, excerpts from *History of the Turkish Empire**
- F, 1/25: The Ghetto and the Kehilla: Jewish Communal Autonomy
 • EFRON, pp.193-198, 200-202
 • *The Constitution of the Jewish Community of Franconia**
 • Jacob KATZ, *Exclusiveness and Tolerance*, pp.37-47*
- Week Four: M, 1/28: Early Modern Jewish/Gentile Relations
 • EFRON, pp. 213-214
 • *The Autobiography of a Seventeenth-Century Venetian Rabbi* [excerpts]*
 • *The Memoirs of Glückl of Hameln* [excerpts]*
- W, 1/30: The Money Economy & Development of West European Jewry
 • EFRON, pp.213-217
 • *JMW, How Profitable the Nation of the Jews Are*, pp.10-13*
 • *JMW, Reasons for Naturalizing the Jews in Great Britain*, pp.13-17*
- F, 2/1: New Jews and Transforming Jewish Identity in Amsterdam
 • EFRON, pp.217-223

Week Five: M, 2/2: Religious and Philosophic Skepticism in 17th century Amsterdam
 • EFRON, pp.223-226

W: 2/6: Spinoza: The First Secular Jew
 • *JMW, The Writ of Excommunication against Baruch Spinoza*, p.57*
 • *JMW, Letter to Albert Burgh*, pp.58-60*

F: 2/8: **FIRST EXAM!!**

Week Six: M, 2/11: I Want Moshiach Now!! The Rise of Hasidism
 • EFRON, pp.260-265
 • *JMW, The New Hasidim*, pp.387-390*

W, 2/13: Hasidic Culture in Stories and Music: featuring Matisyahu
 • "The Water Carrier in the Wilderness," *Jewish Folktales*, p.351*
 • *In Praise of the Ba'al Shem Tov*, pp.26-31, 80-87*
 • Matisyahu clip, "King without a Crown"

F, 2/15: The Mitnagdim (Opponents)
 • EFRON, pp. 265-268
 • *JMW, Excommunication of the Hasidim*, pp.390-391*

Week Seven: M, 2/18: Toward Toleration: The European State and the Jews
 • EFRON, pp.231-240
 • *JMW, The Charter Decreed for the Jews of Prussia*, pp.22-27*
**Council on Jewish Affairs Positions

W, 2/20: Changing Perceptions: The European Enlightenment
 • EFRON, pp.240-244
 • *JMW, Concerning the Amelioration of the Civil Status of the Jews*, pp.28-36*
 • *JMW, Edict of Tolerance*, pp.36-41*
 • *JMW, An Essay on the Physical, Moral, and Political Reformation of the Jews*, pp.49-53*

F, 2/22: The Haskalah (Jewish Enlightenment)
 • EFRON, pp.269-275
 • *JMW, Words of Peace and Truth*, pp.70-74*
 • *JMW, Judaism as Revealed Legislation*, pp.97-99*

Week Eight: M, 2/25: Jews, States, and Citizenship: Paths of Emancipation I
 • EFRON, pp.244-253
 • *JMW, Debate on the Eligibility of Jews for Citizenship*, pp.114-116*
 • *JMW, Answers to Napoleon*, pp.128-133*

W, 2/27: Jews, States, and Citizenship: Paths of Emancipation II
 • *JMW, Emancipation in Prussia*, pp.141-143
 • Leo Landman, [excerpts] "Modern Questions of *Dina D'Malkhuta Dina*"*

F, 3/1: Patterns of Religious Adjustment: Reform

- EFRON, pp.282-288
- *JMW, Constitution of the Hamburg Temple*, p.161*
- *JMW, The Question of Patriotism*, pp.177-178*
- *JMW, The Question of Messianism*, pp.183-185*

Week Nine: M, 3/4: Patterns of Religious Adjustment: Orthodoxy

- EFRON, pp.288-293
- *JMW, A Reply Concerning the Question of Reform*, pp.169-173*
- *JMW, Religion Allied to Progress*, pp.197-202*
- *JMW, An Ultra-Orthodox Position*, pp.202-205*

W, 3/6: **SECOND EXAM!!**

F, 3/8: Lafayette Jewish Cemetery Trip (to be scheduled) – NO CLASS

Week Ten: M, 3/11; W, 3/13; F, 3/15: Spring Break – NO CLASS

Week Eleven: M, 3/18: Russian Jewry and the Tsars

- EFRON, pp.253-258
- *JMW, Statutes Regarding the Military Service of the Jews*, pp.377-378*
- *JMW, Delineation of the Pale of Settlement*, p.379 & map*
- *JMW, The May Laws*, p.380*

W, 3/20; F, 3/22: Migration and Modernity: And/or Coming to America

- EFRON, 294-298, 326-332
- *JMW, "The Demography of Modern Jewish History,"* pp.701-721 [charts] *
- *JMW, Jewish Immigration into the United States*, p.472*
- *JMW, The Russian Jew in America*, pp.474-476*

**in-class viewing of *Hester Street*

Week Twelve: M, 3/25: Urbanization and Jewish Culture

- EFRON, 294-298

W, 3/27: Modern Antisemitism: Germany & Austria

- EFRON, 298-304
- *JMW, The Question of the Jew is a Question of Race*, pp.333-334*

F, 3/29: Modern Antisemitism: France & Russia

- EFRON, 304-313
- *JMW, Jewish France*, pp.339-340*
- *JMW, The Massacre of the Jews at Kishinev*, p.409*

Week Thirteen: M, 4/1: Modern Jewish Politics

- EFRON, 313-324
- *JMW, No Room in My Heart for Jewish Suffering*, pp.261-262*

W, 4/3: Modern Jewish Politics
 • EFRON, 316-332

F, 4/5: COUNCIL ON JEWISH AFFAIRS – & position papers due

Week Fourteen: M, 4/8: The Jewish Experience of the First World War
 • EFRON, pp.334-338
 • film clip, "Jewish Soldiers in the Austro-Hungarian Army"

W, 4/10: Jews and the End of Empires
 • EFRON, pp.338-340
 • *JMW, Emancipation by the March Revolution*, pp.432-433
 • *JMW, The Liquidation of Bourgeois Jewish Institutions*, pp.433-436
 • *JMW, The Balfour Declaration*, p.582
 • *JMW, Minorities Treaty*, pp.437-439

F, 4/12: Discussion: "Taibele and Her Demon," short story by I. B. Singer*

Week Fifteen: M, 4/15; W, 4/17; F, 4/19: Expansion of the Diaspora Between the World Wars
 • EFRON, pp. 338-372

Week Sixteen: M, 4/22; W, 4/24: GGLJSH
 THE GREAT GREATER LAFAYETTE JEWISH SCAVENGER HUNT

F, 4/26: Wrap-Up and Concluding Discussion
 • Michael MEYER, "Where Does the Modern Period in Jewish History Begin?"*
 • GGLJSH projects due!!

FINAL EXAM TBA

Grade scale

100-98 = A+
 97-93 = A
 92-90 = A-
 89-88 = B+
 87-83 = B
 82-80 = B-
 79-78 = C+
 77-73 = C
 72-70 = C-
 69-68 = D+
 67-63 = D
 62-60 = D-
 59-0 = F