Shulamit Magnus  Oberlin College  Spring, 2011

Jewish Studies/ History 132

**Jewish History: Spanish Expulsion to the Present**

Tu Th 11-12:15  King 221

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Office hours: Tu, Th 3-4:30 by self-sign up on sheets on my office door weekly, and by appointment.
Jewish History, Spanish Expulsion to the Present

This is an introduction to modern Jewish history. No prior background is assumed or required. This course gives 3 SS credits in JWST, HIST, or both, as well as CD and WR credit.

The course surveys Jewish history from the Spanish expulsion (1492) to the present, covering major developments in Jewish society and culture in eastern and western Europe, England, the Middle East, and the US. Its major themes are the challenges, impact, and meaning of modernity for Jews; how Jews were transformed and re-created themselves in modernity.

Topics include: defining "Jewish modernity" by looking at events historians consider turning points between "medieval" (or "traditional") and "modern" Jewish history; changed attitudes and policies toward Jews in European societies and the connection between debates about the "Jewish question" and larger European political and social questions; the end of Jewish autonomy and new Jewish civil status in modernizing states; social and economic change in Jewish societies, including in family and gender roles; acculturation, assimilation, and secular Jewishness; varieties of religious expression (Hasidism, Reform, Neo-Orthodoxy, Positive Historical [Conservative] Judaism); political ideologies and movements (Zionism; socialism); Jew-hatred and Jewish responses; the Shoah (Holocaust); creation of the State of Israel; the contemporary Jewish world.

This syllabus gives much information for which students are responsible. It is available on the JWST and HIST websites, from which you can make replacement hard copies, if needed.

Course Requirements:

ATTENDANCE: Attendance, except for illness or emergency, is expected, will be noted, and counts in your final grade. Students are responsible for obtaining notes and explanation of them, and any handouts and/or announcements, from other
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JWST/ HIST 132

JEWS HISTORY: SPANISH EXPULSION- PRESENT

1. Introductory: Defining Jewish "modernity"  2/8

In class:

Mendes-Flohr, Reinhartz (HENCEFORTH: MF/R), Appendix, pp.701-709 and following


In class document study and comparison: Mendes-Flohr/R Reinhartz, p. 257

Group A: politics

Group B: religion

2. Marranos, Marranism as Harbinger of Modernity 2/10

Efron et. al. (HENCEFORTH: EFRON), The Jews, pp.178 (box), 179-183, 217-225

Yosef Yerushalmi, From Spanish Court to Italian Ghetto, pp.1-50 (*at least 1/3 of these pages are notes; focus on the text and Yerushalmi’s argument)


MF/R, p.57

3. **Ottoman Jewry; Law and Mysticism: Karo; Lurianic Kabbalah**  2/15

Efron, pp.183-193


Gershom Scholem, *Major Trends in Jewish Mysticism*, pp.244-86

Leadoff:

4. **Modernity? Jews in Renaissance Italy and Reformation Germany**  2/17

Efron, pp.174-178, 193-202


IN CLASS: music of Salomone di Rossi

Leadoff:

5. **Central Europe: Expulsions, Court Jews, Resettlement—Economics, Jewish Status, and-- Modernity?**  2/22

Efron, 213-217

MF/R, 10-13 ** Please BRING THIS BOOK TO CLASS whenever it is assigned


Leadoff:

6. **False Messiah: Sabbetai Zevi and Sabbatianism**  2/24

Efron, pp.225-229

Scholem, *Major Trends*, pp.287-324

Isaac Bashevis Singer, *Satan in Goray*, a short novel by a master (Nobel winner) Yiddish writer about Sabbatianism in a Polish town; read any 25 pages, and more as you wish!

Leadoff:
7. Eastern Europe: Economics, Community, Piety 3/1

Efron, pp.204-213

Jacob Katz, Tradition and Crisis, chps.9, 10, 13, pp.79-102, 122-134


Leadoff:


First essay / ID assignment distributed. Due MONDAY 3/14 by noon.

Efron, pp.260-265

Arthur Green, "Teachings of the Hasidic Masters," in Barry Holtz, Back to the Sources, pp.361-399 (this book is a self-guide to text study—read actively!)

Scholem, Major Trends, pp.325-350

MF/R, pp.390-393

IN CLASS TAPE: A Hasidic master (Chabad) communes with God (and his disciples)

Leadoff:

9. Western Europe: Tolerance, Enlightenment; Mendelssohn, Haskalah 3/8

Efron, pp.231-240, 269 (bottom first column)-274 (bottom first column)

Katz, Out of the Ghetto, chp.4, pp.29-56

MF/R, pp. 13-17, 22-26, 61-67, 68 (bottom)-74, 80-85, 87-89

Leadoff:


Efron, pp.240-252

Katz, Ghetto, chp. 5, pp. 57-79

MF/R, pp. 28-40, 42-44, 114-121, 123-126, 128-133, 135-136, 139-143, 150-1,153
Leadoff:

**FIRST ESSAY ASSIGNMENT (sessions 1-8) DUE MON. 3/14 BY NOON**

**11. Social Emancipation: Acculturation and Mobility** 3/15

Katz, *Ghetto*, chps. 11-12, pp.176-219


MF/R, pp.256-261

Leadoff:


Efron, pp.282-293 (top)

MF/R, pp.155-161, 167-169, 177-202

**13. East European Jewry in the Nineteenth Century** 3/22

Second Essay/JD Assignment (sessions 9-17) distributed; due Mon. 4/11 by noon

Efron, pp.253-258, 268-269 (Musar movement), 275-282

Lucy Dawidowicz, *The Golden Tradition*, pp.6-42

MF/R, pp.375-379 and map of Pale of Settlement (following p.379), 381-386


Leadoff:

**14. Tradition and Upheaval in the Russian Jewish Pale** 3/24

* Today's reading is all primary sources: memoirs; letters; poems. How would you construct history using such sources? Can they be taken at face value; as factual; representative? If not, how can they be used?

MF/R, pp.394-398, 400-404


Leadoff:
SPRING BREAK 3/28-4/3

Heads up, plan ahead: there will be no classes on 4/19 and 4/26.

**In lieu of 4/19 class:** Required film “Hester Street” and 2-page write-up: the film must be viewed by 4/5, when you must bring to class and at its close, submit, a two-page, typed, double-spaced review of main impressions you take from the film and ways it amplified, modified, enhanced your reading for session #16. Be prepared to discuss your comments in class. We will do a make up session for the 4/26 class—REQUIRED; likely a second session at 4:30 on 4/7 (relatively light reading for the second session). See sessions 16 and 17, below.

15. **American Jewry: Origins and Development** 4/5


MF/R, pp.452-454, 456-459, 463-468

Leadoff:

REQUIRED FILM “Hester Street” must be viewed by/ for next class; 2-page write up brought to and submitted after class.

16. **Mass Immigration; Cultural, Family, and Gender Dislocation** 4/7 *N.B.: second make up session(#17), today

Diner, chp. 3, pp.71-111


MF/ R, 472-476, 481-485

Discussion of film, “Hester Street.” Submit your write-up at end of class.

Leadoff:

17. **American Jews and Judaism** 4/7 *make up class at 4:30

Diner, chp. 4, pp.112-154

MF/R, pp.463-465, 468-472, 486, 490, 492-495

Leadoff presenter:

SECOND ESSAY ASSIGNMENT DUE Mon. 4/11 by noon

Efron, pp.294-313

Jacob Katz, From Prejudice to Destruction, chps. 8, 15, 24, pp.107-118, 195-202, 292-300


Leadoff:

19. Jewish Reactions to Antisemitism: France, Germany 4/14

Efron, pp.324 (bottom, second column)-326 (mid-first column)


Ismar Schorsch, Jewish Reactions to German Anti-Semitism, 1870-1914, chp. 5, pp.117-148


Leadoff:

No class 4/19

20. Rejecting Exile: Zionist Ideas and Movement 4/21

Efron, pp.316-324

Arthur Hertzberg, The Zionist Idea, pp.181-198, 204-226, 262-269

MF/R, pp.540-543, 547-549, 552-555

(Recommended: Dawidowicz, Golden, pp.50-58)

Leadoff:

No class 4/26

21. Jewish Socialism 4/28

Efron, pp.314-316 (top)

Nora Levin, While Messiah Tarried, pp.219-249, 261-279 (recommended: 280-320)
MF/R, pp.419-423, 425-432

(Recommended: Dawidowicz, Golden, pp.58-63)

Leadoff:

22. Modernity and Middle Eastern Jewry  5/3

Efron, pp.252 (second column)-253 (top)

Norman Stillman, The Jews of Arab Lands in Modern Times, pp.3-64 (*about 1/3 of these pages are Notes)

Stillman, The Jews of Arab Lands, A History and Source Book, pp.328, 354-361, 393-398, 401-402 (if you read this on ERES, do take the book off the shelf and see the photo section).

Leadoff:

23. Shoah: First Phases and Beginning of World War II  5/5

In class: film clip: "Jud Suss" (1940)

David M. Crowe, The Holocaust: Roots, History, and Aftermath, pp. 105-145

Efron, photos, pp.376, 379, 385

MF/R, 640-647, 649, 651-653, 655, 659-660

Leadoff:

24. The War Against the Jews: Perpetrators, Bystanders, Victims  5/10

Efron, pp.386-404


Lucy Dawidowicz, A Holocaust Reader, p. 296-297

Leadoff:

25. Lead up to and Creation of a Jewish State: Israel; Post War Jews and Realities  5/12

Efron, pp.357 (bottom second column, almost end of the page)-372 (text in boxes on pp. 358-359, optional; text on bottom of these pages, required), 406-441