

The Jewish World in the Modern Era

Professor Robert Rockaway

Fall Semester 2020

Carter Building 219; Office hours by appointment or use email to contact me

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Course Credits: 3 TAU Semester Credits

For course times/days and location, please visit the TAU International web site (Study Abroad Course Offerings and Schedules). Please note that all information below is subject to change and/or adjustment as necessary.

Course Description

This course is an introductory survey of the major currents in Jewish culture and society from the late eighteenth century to the present and presupposes no previous background in modern Jewish history. The course focuses on the history of the Jews in Europe, with an emphasis on Central and Eastern Europe and also includes lectures on major themes in American Jewish history. Topics include the social consequences of emancipation, the emergence of modern varieties of Judaism; the rise of modern anti-Semitism; Zionism, the Holocaust, and the establishment of the State of Israel.

Course Requirements and Expectations

The course consists of lectures, readings, and selected documents. The readings are taken from the following books:

Lloyd P. Gartner, *History of the Jews in Modern Times* (2001)

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

H.H. Ben-Sasson, editor, *A History of the Jewish People* (1976)

Gerald Sorin, *Tradition Transformed: The Jewish Experience in America* (1997)

Students will also read a number of primary documents. The assigned readings and documents are listed under the topic headings. The documents are taken from *The Jews in the Modern World: A Documentary History*, 3rd edition, edited by Paul Mendes-Flohr and Jehuda Reinharz (2011)

Evaluation Criteria

Each student will be required to write a research paper on any subject, theme, topic or period covered in the readings or lectures. The paper should be double spaced, 4-5 pages in length, and contain source notes and a bibliography. During the first three weeks of class, students must inform me in person or by e-mail about the subject of their paper and the sources they intend to

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use. The paper must be turned in before the last week of class. Further details about the paper will be given in class.

The final grade is based on a mid-semester exam, the research paper, attendance and participation. The percentage of the grade is based on the following breakdown.

Attendance = 10%

Mid-term exam = 40%

Research paper = 50%

Absence Policy

See end of syllabus for detailed absence policy.

Course Schedule

1. October 19

The Jews in Central and Western Europe before Emancipation
(Ben-Sasson, 777-789; Gartner, 1-25)

Emancipation of the Jews in Western Europe
(Gartner, 128-161)

2. October 26

The Impact of Emancipation on the Jews II
(Ben-Sasson, pp. 825-840)

Document: Rahel Levin Varnhagen: "O how Painful to Have been Born a Jewess!"
(1795); "Deathbed Statement to Her Husband" (1834)

Modern Racial and Political Anti-Semitism

3. November 2

Russian Jewry: Nineteenth Century to the Russian Revolution
(Ben-Sasson, pp. 813-824; 881-890)

Document: The Pale of Settlement, 1835-1917.

The Rise of Zionism
(Ben-Sasson, 891-907)

Documents: "The Basle Program" (1897).

4. November 9

The Jews in America, 1776-1880
(Sachar, ch. 8)

Document: The Newport Congregation to George Washington and Washington's
Reply (1790)



American Jewry, 1881- 1914

(Sachar, ch. 15)

5. November 16

World War I and Its Impact on the Jews

(Ben-Sasson, pp. 939-948)

Document: "The Balfour Declaration" (1917)

The Jews of Germany between the World Wars, 1919-1939

(Ben-Sasson, pp. 979-988)

Document: "The Operation Against the Jews" (November 9-10, 1938)

6. November 23

The Jews of Eastern Europe between the World Wars, 1919-1939

(Ben-Sasson, pp. 949-963)

The Jews of the Soviet Union, 1917-1939

(Ben-Sasson, pp. 964-978)

7. November 30

MID-SEMESTER EXAM

The Zionist Movement and the Yishuv between the World Wars

(Ben-Sasson, 989-1016)

Document: The Peel Commission Report (July 1937)

8. December 7

American Jewry between the World Wars

(Sorin, 179-193)

European Jewry on the Eve of World War II

(Gartner, 294-318)

9. December 14

RESEARCH PAPER DUE

World War II and the Holocaust

(Ben-Sasson, pp. 1017-1039)

Document: Heinrich Himmler, "A Secret Speech on the Jewish Question"

(Oct. 8, 1943)

The Establishment of the State of Israel

(Ben-Sasson, pp. 1040-1062)

Document: "Proclamation of the State of Israel" (May 14, 1948)



Course Readings and/or Required Materials

Included above in weekly schedule. Readings will be made accessible to students on Moodle.

Instructor Biography

Robert Rockaway was born and raised in Detroit, Michigan. He received his Ph.D. in history from the University of Michigan in 1970. He taught at the University of Texas before moving to Israel in 1971. Since then, he has been a member of the Department of Jewish History at Tel-Aviv University, where he is a professor emeritus. Rockaway has authored *The Jews of Detroit, From the Beginning, 1760-1914* (1986); *Words of the Uprooted: Jewish Immigrants in Early 20th Century America* (1998); *But He Was Good to His Mother: The Lives and Crimes of Jewish Gangsters* (2000); a monograph, *The Jews Cannot Defeat Me: The Anti-Jewish Campaign of Louis Farrakhan and the Nation of Islam* (1995), as well as numerous articles on American history, American Jewish history, and modern Jewish history. Rockaway has been a visiting professor at Brandeis University, Boston University, San Diego State University, and George Washington University; as well as a visiting scholar and guest lecturer in Boston, Detroit, Cleveland, New York, Los Angeles, Seattle, San Diego, Miami, Washington, D.C., Toronto, Montreal, and Melbourne, Australia. He has appeared on radio and television in Israel and the United States. He appeared on the Arts and Entertainment series, American Justice ("The Rise and Fall of the Jewish Mobster"), and on American Biography ("Louis Lepke,"; and "Mickey Cohen"). A number of his writings are being made into feature films.

TAU International Academic Guidelines

Students may only attend classes which they are officially registered for. No auditing of courses is permitted. Students are responsible for reading and adhering to all policies and procedures in the TAU International Academic Handbook [posted here](#) at all times. Below is a summary of some of these relevant policies and procedures.

Learning Accommodations

In accordance to University guidelines, TAU International may be able to accommodate students with learning disabilities or accommodation requests if these requests are also honored at the student's home university or home school. To be considered, students must submit official documentation from their home school or university (if not in English, a notarized official copy translated into English is required) to TAU International in advance of arrival describing in detail any specific needs and how these are accommodated at the home school or university. Students must also bring a copy of this documentation with them on-site and give it to their faculty on the first day of class while introducing themselves so that the faculty know who they are and what sorts of needs or accommodations they may have. **Without official documentation from the home school submitted on or before the first day of courses, TAU will not be able to honor accommodation support.**

With supporting documentation and by following the correct procedure as outlined above, TAU International and its faculty will do the best it can to make any suitable accommodations possible. However, we cannot guarantee that all accommodations received at the home school can be similarly met at TAU. For example, TAU is usually not able to offer note-taking services in

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English, private testing rooms, or advance viewing of classroom presentations, exams, or assignments.

It may be an option to provide a student with additional tutoring or support outside the classroom as needed. Students should be aware that this additional support cannot be guaranteed and is based on teacher availability in the subject as well as the specific student level. If available, the cost of additional tutoring or support will be the sole responsibility of the student.

In-Class Exams

TAU does not permit, under any circumstances, taking any in-class (including mid or final) exams early or later than the scheduled exam day. When selecting courses, it is thus very important to note if there is an in-class midterm or final exam as this date/exam cannot be changed. It is also the student's responsibility to clarify exam dates with the professors at the beginning of a course, with the understanding that not all exam dates can be decided up front as it can sometimes depend on the pace of the course and class learning. It is the student responsibility to plan to be present for all courses including the final day of class for this reason. Early departures from the program are not approved, nor are early or exception in-class exams.

TAU International Absence Policy

Attendance is mandatory in all of the courses including Hebrew Ulpan. Faculty can and will take attendance regularly. Missing classes will be reflected in the final grade of the course. Up to three justified and properly documented absences from classes may be accepted (for example: emergency matter or illness, both of which will require a doctor's note). Such cases of absence should be reported to the faculty immediately and again, a doctor's note is required. Teachers are entitled to treat any lateness or absence without documentation as unexcused. Some of our courses such as Service Learning or the Internship Seminar require more practical in-class work; thus, attendance policies may be stricter in some courses and students then must adhere to the stricter attendance policy as outlined by the faculty/syllabus.

Students are required to arrive on time for classes. Teachers are entitled to treat any single case of lateness and/or repeated lateness as an unjustified absence.

Please note that according to official TAU Academic Policy, if a student's behavior or attendance during is disagreeable his/her course participation may be cancelled at the discretion of TAU with no due refund.

Grade Appeals

Students are responsible for checking grades once posted or distributed by faculty. The limited grade appeals window and the detailed procedure for appealing a grade – whether a graded assignment, exam or final grade – is outlined clearly in the policies and procedures in the TAU International Academic Handbook [posted here](#).

