

Contemporary Antisemitism: Same old or something new?

Tel Aviv International Spring Semester, 2025

Instructor: Dr Katherine E. Aron-Beller

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Office Hours: By appointment

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 (Summary)

The transformation from Anti-Judaism to modern Antisemitism and now current day Anti-Zionism provide evidence for the adaptability of this longest hatred.

How should this contemporary Antisemitism be explained?

In 1948, three years after the end of World War II and the Holocaust (and the same year as the establishment of the State of Israel), the French philosopher Jean Paul Sartre published his famous “Reflections on the Jewish Question”. He noted that if the Jews did not exist, the anti-semitic would invent him. Therefore antisemitism was not – and is not only a Jewish problem. It is a problem for non-Jews too. While many theorized (and hoped) that antisemitism would end after the Holocaust, today it extends across dozens of countries on different continents, takes many different forms, and current trends reveal rising levels. In the last few years alone, Jews have been purposefully targeted and killed once again in the heart of Europe, in France, Belgium and Denmark and now the USA. Nor is the United States immune to antisemitism – most religiously-motivated hate crimes take place against Jews. What our nation witnessed Charlottesville in the summer of 2017 is a stark reminder of this fact. What are we going to do about it?

The course will address major issues in the history of Antisemitism in the last seventy years. Topics will include: origins of modern Antisemitism and its difference from older

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theological forms of Anti-Judaism; variations in Anti-Semitic patterns in Eastern, Central and Western Europe; Anti-Zionism and the de-legitimization of the State of Israel; Antisemitism in music, literature and cinema; Jewish self-hatred and the internalization of Anti-Semitic stereotypes by Jews; patterns of post-Holocaust Antisemitism in America; Holocaust denial; the ambiguous religious connection between evangelical Christian pro-Zionism and Antisemitism; Antisemitism on the Internet; and contemporary debates on the persistence and new forms of Antisemitism. A strong emphasis will also be put on the Jews' political, social and ideological responses to this hatred.

Course Requirements and Expectations

Regular Attendance and Participation in lectures, a short written test in session five, a midterm exam in class, and a final essay which must be completed by all students. This final paper (10–12 pages) will analyze a primary text or an issue of dispute among historians, the topic to be chosen by the student from a list to be distributed or in consultation with the instructor.

No cell phones are allowed in class. Please keep them in your bags. Computers may be used for note-taking only during class.

Learning Outcomes

To enable students to be fully conversant in the complex issues of contemporary antisemitism and to become competent ambassadors to combat this irrational illegitimate hatred on return to their home universities.

Evaluation Criteria

1. Regular Attendance and Participation in lectures (10% of final grade)
2. Midterm (40% of final grade).
3. Final paper, which must be completed by all students (50% of final grade).

This final paper (10–12 pages) will analyze a primary text or an issue of dispute among historians, the topic to be chosen by the student from a list to be distributed or in consultation with the instructor.

The paper is due one week after the last day of term – 28th May 2025.

Absence Policy

Please note the TAU International Absence Policy as outlined on the next page. If your course has additional requirements (or a stricter policy) beyond what we specify, you should list this information here.

Course Schedule

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DEFINITIONS

1. Monday 10th March: Antisemitism and the Problems of its Definition

Sources: Joseph Jacobs "On the Racial Characteristics of Modern Jews," The Journal of the Anthropological Institute of Great Britain Vol. 18 (1886) 23-62.

Secondary Literature:

Denis MacShane, *Globalising Hatred: The New Antisemitism* (London: Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 2008) 1-19.

Kenneth L. Marcus, "The Definition of Antisemitism" in Charles A. Small (ed.) *Global Antisemitism: A Crisis of Modernity* Volume I: Conceptual Approaches (Leiden: Brill, 2013), 99-113.

https://www.holocaustremembrance.com/sites/default/files/memo-on-spelling-of-antisemitism_final-1.pdf

STARTING POINTS FOR OUR NARRATIVE?

2. Wednesday 12th March: The Origins of Contemporary Antisemitism: When does it really start?

Sources:

Excerpts by Wilhelm Marr, Karl Eugen Dühring, Eduard-Adolphe Drumont, Adolf Stöcker in Paul Mendes-Flohr & Jehuda Reinharz, ed., *The Jew in the Modern World* (Oxford, 1995), pp. 331-334, 339-343.

Excerpts from sources from Marvin Perry and Frederick M. Schweitzer *Antisemitic Myths: A Historical and Contemporary Anthology* (Indiana, 2008) "The Myth of an International Jewish Conspiracy," 138-155.

Secondary literature:



David Patterson, *Antisemitism and Its Metaphysical Origins*, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2015), 1-54. 135- 164.

David Engels, "Away from a Definition of Antisemitism" in Jeremy Cohen and Murray Jay Rosman, eds., *Rethinking European Jewish History* (Oxford ; Portland, Or.: Littman Library of Jewish Civilization, 2009), pp.30-53.

3. Monday 17th March: Different patterns of hatred? Pogroms and East European Antisemitism

Sources:

Excerpts of sources from Paul Mendes-Flohr & Jehuda Reinharz, ed., *The Jew in the Modern World* (Oxford, 1995), pp. 377-380, 380-381 (May Laws), 385, 408-409 (Awaiting a Pogrom), & 410-11 (Bialik, "The City of Slaughter")

Excerpts from sources from Marvin Perry and Frederick M. Schweitzer *Antisemitic Myths: A Historical and Contemporary Anthology* (Indiana, 2008) "Persecutions and Pogroms in Tsarist Russia," 126-137. "Antisemitism in the Soviet Union and the New Russia," 247-263.

Secondary literature:

Michael Aronson "The Anti-Jewish pogroms in Russia in 1881", in John Klier and Shlomo Lambroza, eds., *Pogroms: Anti-Jewish Violence in Modern Russian History* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1992), pp. 39-61.

Jonathan Frankel, *Prophecy and Politics: Socialism, Nationalism, and the Russian Jews, 1862-1917* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1984):chaps. 1-2.

4. Wednesday 19th March: Holocaust and Holocaust Denial

Sources:

"Institute for Historical Review Online." *Institute for Historical Review* www.IHR.org

Bradley Smith, "Committee for Open Debate on the Holocaust" www.CODH.com

"The Holocaust Was a Hoax," <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3X2vUMh9Hr0>

Secondary Literature:



Deborah Lipstadt, *Denying the Holocaust: The Growing Assault on Truth and Memory* (reprint: London Penguin, 2016)

David Patterson, *Antisemitism and Its Metaphysical Origins*, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2015) , 165-193.

Raphael Cohen-Almagor, "Hate in the Classroom: Free Expression, Holocaust Denial, and Liberal Education," *American Journal of Education* 114, no. 2 (2008): 215-241.

5. Monday 24th March: Anti-Zionism and the De-Legitimization of Israel

Sources:

Alvin H. Rosenfeld, *Progressive Jewish Thought and the New Antisemitism* (American Jewish Committee, 2006)

Secondary literature:

David Patterson, "Anti-zionist Antisemitism," *Antisemitism and Its Metaphysical Origins*, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2015), 195-221.

Jonathan Figchel "The Jihad Flotilla to Gaza: Provocative: Antisemitic and Not Humanitarian," in Charles A. Small (ed.) *Global Antisemitism: A Crisis of Modernity* (Leiden: Brill, 2013)

6. Wednesday 26th March: The Islamization of Antisemitism

Primary Source:

Hamas charter 1988 at http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/hamas.asp

Secondary literature:

Bassam Tibi "From Sayyid Qutb to Hamas: The Middle East Conflict and the Islamization of Antisemitism, in Charles A. Small (ed.) *Global Antisemitism: A Crisis of Modernity* (Leiden: Brill, 2013) Vol. IV Islamism and the Arab World (Leiden; Brill, 2013) 21-46.

Menahem Milson "Arab and Islamic Antisemitism," in Charles A. Small (ed.) *Global Antisemitism: A Crisis of Modernity* (Leiden: Brill, 2013)

Matti Bunzl, *Antisemitism and Islamophobia : Hatreds Old and New in Europe* (Chicago: Prickly Paradigm Press, 2007).



CHRISTIANITY AND ANTISEMITISM: CATHOLICS AND PROTESTANTS

7. Monday 30th March: The Popes and the Jews

Sources:

“The Catholic Church Confronts its Antisemitic Past,” in Marvin Perry and Frederick M. Schweitzer *Antisemitic Myths: A Historical and Contemporary Anthology* (Indiana, 2008) 219-235.

Secondary Literature:

David Patterson, *Antisemitism and Its Metaphysical Origins*, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2015), 55-79.

John Pawlikowski and Jon Nilson, *Restating the Catholic Church's Relationship with the Jewish People: The Challenge of Super-sessionary Theology* (Edwin Mellen, 2013)

Mark Weitzman “Artisans... for Antichrist: Jews, Radical Catholic Traditionalists, and the Extreme Right,” in Charles A. Small (ed.) *Global Antisemitism: A Crisis of Modernity* (Leiden: Brill, 2013)

8. Wednesday 2nd April: Evangelical Christian pro-Zionism: Philo-Semitism

Sources:

“Protestant Churches confront their Antisemitic Past,” in Marvin Perry and Frederick M. Schweitzer *Antisemitic Myths: A Historical and Contemporary Anthology* (Indiana, 2008) 236-245.

Secondary literature:

Alan Levenson, "Philo-Semitic Discourse in Imperial Germany," *Jewish Social Studies* 2 (1996), 25-53.

Jonathan Karp and Adam Sutcliffe “Introduction: A Brief History of Philo-Semitism,” in Karp and Sutcliffe (eds) *Philo-Semitism in History* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2011) 1-28.



Yaakov Ariel "Its All in the Bible,": Evangelical Christians, Biblical Literalism and Philosemitism in Our Times," in Jonathan Karp and Adam Sutcliffe *Philosemitism in History* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2011) 257-289.

NATIONAL TRENDS: ANTISEMITISM BY COUNTRIES

9. Monday 7th April: Germany: Its Post- Holocaust existence

Sources: Marvin Perry and Frederick M. Schweitzer *Antisemitic Myths: A Historical and Contemporary Anthology* (Indiana, 2008) 264-271 ("The Lingering Appeal of Nazism in Germany").

Secondary Literature

William I. Brustein and Louisa Roberts *The Socialism of Fools? Leftist Origins of Modern Antisemitism* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press) 83-138.

Michael Brenner, *After the Holocaust: Rebuilding Jewish Lives in Postwar Germany* (Princeton, 1997) 152-159.

Stephan Grigat "Delegitimizing Israel in Germany and Austria: Past Politics, the Iranian Threat and Post national anti-Zionism," , *Deciphering the New Antisemitism* (Indiana University Press, 2015) 454-482.

<https://www.dw.com/en/antisemitism-in-germany-jewish-life-under-threat-says-charlotte-knobloch/a-41967491>

10. Monday 21st April: Preparation for Midterm

11. Wednesday 23rd April: MIDTERM IN CLASS

12. Monday 28th April: Antisemitism in modern day Poland

Gross, Jan T. *Fear: Antisemitism in Poland after the Holocaust* (Princeton, 2006)

David Engel, "On Continuity and Discontinuity in Polish-Jewish Relations: Observations on *Fear: Antisemitism in Poland after Auschwitz—An Essay in Historical Interpretation* by Jan T. Gross. New York: Random House, 2006". *East European Political Society* 2007 : 21 (3): 534–548.



Difficult Questions in Polish-Jewish Dialogue : How Poles and Jews See Each Other: A Dialogue on Key Issues in Polish-Jewish Relations (Warsaw: Jacek Santorski and Co.2006)

Jan Blonski, "The Poor Poles look at the Ghetto," in *My Brother's Keeper? Recent Polish Debates on the Holocaust* ed. Antony Polonsky ed. (Routledge Oxford, 1990) 34-52.

13. Monday 5th May: Antisemitism in France

Source:

Emile Zola, "J'accuse" in Paul Mendes-Flohr & Jehuda Reinharz, ed., *The Jew in the Modern World* (Oxford, 1995), pp. 351-355.

24 Days (French: **24 jours, la vérité sur l'affaire Ilan Halimi** — lit. *24 Days: The True Story of the Ilan Halimi Affair*), a French drama film directed by Alexandre Arcady (2014).

Secondary Literature:

Bruno Chaouat, "Good News from France: "There is No New Antisemitism," Alvin H. Rosenfeld, *Deciphering the New Antisemitism* (Indiana University Press, 2015) 179-206.

Michel Wieviorka, *The Lure of Antisemitism: Hatred of Jews in Present-Day France* (Leiden: Brill, 2007)

Maud S. Mandel, *Muslims and Jews in France: History of a Conflict* (Princeton, 2014)

14. Wednesday 7th May: Post Holocaust Antisemitism in America

Kenneth Stern, *Antisemitism Today: How It Is The Same, How It Is Different, And How To Fight It* (New York: American Jewish Committee, 2006), pp. 148-152

Martin Durham, *White Rage*, (New York: Routledge, 2007) chapter on Race and Religion, pp. 66-82.

Josef Joffe, *Nations We Love to Hate : Israel, American and the New Antisemitism* (Jerusalem: Vidal Sassoon International Center for the Study of Antisemitism, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, 2005).



Sina Arnold, "From Occupation to Occupy: Antisemitism and the Contemporary Left in the United States," Alvin H. Rosenfeld, *Deciphering the New Antisemitism* (Indiana University Press, 2015), 375-404.

CULTURAL ANTISEMITISM

15. Monday 12th May: Antisemitism in Music, Film and Literature

Sources:

Richard Wagner, "Judaism in Music (*Das Judentum in Der Musik*; 1850)," in

Richard Wagner, *Judaism in Music and Other Essays*, Ellis, William Ashton (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1995).

Heinrich von Treitschke, "Our Views" (1879) in Richard S. Levy (ed.), *Antisemitism in the Modern World: An Anthology of Texts* (Lexington, Mass., and Toronto: D.C. Heath, 1991), pp. 69-73.

Secondary literature:

Patricia Erens, *The Jew in American Cinema* (Bloomington, University of Indiana Press, 1984)

Gentleman's Agreement (1947)
(American Drama film based on Laura Z. Hobson's best selling novel. It concerns a journalist (played by Gregory Peck) who poses as a Jew to research an exposé on antisemitism in New York City and the affluent community of Darien, Connecticut.)

Alain Finkielkraut *The Imaginary Jew* (University of Nebraska Press, 1994) .

16. Wednesday 14th May: Viewing of Film: Antisemitism in Film

Sources:

Mel Gibson, *The Passion of the Christ*.

Nosferatu: Eine Symphonie Des Grauens (*Nosferatu: A Symphony of Horror*; 1921),
Directed by Friedrich W. Murnau

Der Ewige Jude (*The Eternal Jew*; 1940), Directed by Fritz Hippler .

Jud Süß (*Jew Suss*; 1940), Directed by Veit Harlan.

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Secondary literature:

Patrick Colm Hogan, "Narrative Universals, Nationalism, and Sacrificial Terror: From *Nosferatu* to Nazism," *Film Studies*, 8 (2006), pp. 93-105.

Terry Charman, "Veit Harlan's *Jud Süß*," and/or "Fritz Hippler's *The Eternal Jew*," in *Holocaust and the Moving Image : Representations in Film and Television since 1933*, eds. Toby Haggith, and Joanna Newman (London: Wallflower, 2005), 76-84& 85-92.

THE JEWS' RESPONSE: FROM THE CST TO THE SELF-HATING JEW

17. Monday 19th May: The Self-Hating Jew

Sources:

Karl Marx, "On the Jewish Question (*Zur Judenfrage*; 1843)" available online at <http://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1844/jewish-question/>

Otto Rank , "The essence of Judaism" (unpublished 1905 manuscript) as quoted in Secondary Literature:

Otto Weininger, *Sex and Character : An Investigation of Fundamental Principles*, Translated by Ladislaus Löb, edited by Daniel Steuer and Laura Marcus (Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 2005) .

Secondary Literature:

Sander L. Gilman, *Jewish Self-Hatred : Antisemitism and the Hidden Language of the Jews* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1986):

FIGHTING ANTISEMITISM ON CAMPUSES: THE NEW AMBASSADORS

18. Wednesday 21st May: Antisemitism on University campuses and Social Media

Sources:



Film: *Crossing the Line* (a film about antisemitism on Campus) on you tube US and UK versions.

Secondary Literature:

Robert Wistrich “Antisemitism and the American College Campus: A Historian Examines a Persistent Problem,” *The Forward*, June 29, 2011
<http://www.forward.com/articles/139195/>

Kenneth Stern, *Antisemitism Today: How It Is The Same, How It Is Different, And How To Fight It* (New York: American Jewish Committee, 2006), pp. 118-135.

Deborah Lipstadt, Samuel G. Friedman, Chaim Seidler-Feller, “American Jewry and the College Campus: Best of Times or Worst of Times?” (New York: American Jewish Committee, 2005)

Van Court, Elisa Narin. “Invisible in Oxford: Medieval Jewish History in Modern England,” *Shofar: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Jewish Studies*, Spring 2008 vol 26 Issue 3, p1-20.

Instructor Biography

Originally from London, Katherine Aron-Beller is lecturer of Jewish History both in the Rothberg International School of the Hebrew University and Overseas Students Program at Tel Aviv University. Her books include *Jews on Trial: The Papal Inquisition in Modena 1598-1638* (Manchester University Press, 2011); an edited book with Christopher Black called *The Roman Inquisition; Centre versus Peripheries* (Brill, 2018) and most recently *Christian Images and their Jewish Desecrators: The History of an Allegation 400-1700* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2024). Her areas of expertise are medieval Jewish history, early modern Jewish-Christian relations, the early modern Inquisition and antisemitism through the ages. In 2007-8 she was a Visiting Assistant Professor at the George Washington University in Washington DC. At present she is a Visiting Scholar of the Stephen Roth Institute for the Study of Contemporary Antisemitism and Racism.

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 with 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

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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 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.

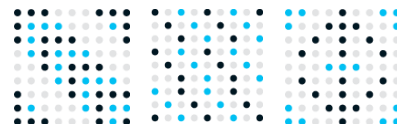
Please note that according to official TAU Academic Policy, if a student's behavior or attendance during is disagreeable his/her course participation may be cancelled at the discretion of TAU with no due refund.

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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](#).

