

**The Jewish World in the Modern Era
Summer Session
(Class Dates June 9- July 23, 2020)**

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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:

The course consists of lectures and readings. The summer session meets three times per week. Each session consists of two hours with a short break.

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)

The assigned readings are listed under the topic headings.,

Research Paper:

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, five (5) pages maximum in length, and contain source notes. During the first week, students must inform me in person or by e-mail about the subject of their paper and the

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sources they intend to use. The paper must be turned in on or before the last day of class. Further details about the paper will be given in class.

FINAL GRADE:

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%

Weeks and Topics

WEEK I (June 9-June 11)

1. European Jewry before Emancipation
2. Emancipation of the Jews in Western Europe
3. Impact of Emancipation on the Jews

Reading: Gartner, pages 128-161.

"The French Revolution and the Jews"

WEEK II (June 15-June 18)

1. Modern Racial and Political Anti-Semitism

Reading: (1) "Jews, Money, Myth"

2. Russian Jewry: Nineteenth Century to the Russian Revolution

Reading: Ben-Sasson, pp. 813-824; 881-890

3. The Rise of Zionism

Reading: "Rise of Modern Jewish Politics"

WEEK III (June 22-June 25)

1. The Jews in America, 1789-1880

Reading: Sachar, ch. 8

2. Jews in America, 1881- 1914

Reading: Sachar, ch. 15

3. World War I and Its Impact on the Jews

Reading: Ben Sasson, pp. 939-948

WEEK IV (June 29-July 2)

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

Reading: Ben-Sasson, pp. 979-988

"Jewish Life in Its German Milieu"

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

Reading: Ben-Sasson, pp. 949-963.

3. MID-SEMESTER EXAM (July 1)

WEEK V (July 6-July 9)

1. The Jews of the Soviet Union, 1917-1939

Reading: Ben-Sasson, pp. 964-978.

2. The Zionist Movement and the Yishuv between the World Wars

Reading: Ben-Sasson, 989-1016; "The Promised Land"

3. American Jewry between the World Wars

Reading: Sorin, 179-193

WEEK VI (July 13- July16)

1. European Jewry on the Eve of World War II

Reading: Gartner, 294-318

2. World War II and the Holocaust

Reading: Ben-Sasson, pp. 1017-1039

3. The Establishment of the State of Israel

Reading: Ben-Sasson, pp. 1040-1062

WEEK VII (July 20-July 23)

1. World Jewry after WWII

Reading: Gartner, 396-420

2. American Jewry after WWII

Reading: Sorin, 214-233

3. Israel after 1948



Reading: Gartner, 421-437

RESEARCH PAPER DUE Last Day of class

