



Contemporary Antisemitism: Same Old or Something New?

Spring 2020

Dr. Katherine Aron-Beller

Tel Aviv University International

Kathybeller8@gmail.com

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

How should this contemporary Anti-Semitism 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-semitite would invent him. Therefore anti-Semitism was not – and is not only a Jewish problem. It is a problem for non-Jews too. While many theorized (and hoped) that anti-Semitism 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. Nor is the United States immune to anti-Semitism – 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 Anti-Semitism in the last seventy years. Topics will include: origins of modern Anti-Semitism and its difference from older 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; Anti-Semitism in music, literature and cinema; Jewish self-hatred and the internalization of Anti-Semitic stereotypes by Jews; patterns of post-Holocaust Anti-Semitism in America; Holocaust denial; the ambiguous religious connection between evangelical Christian pro-Zionism and Anti-Semitism; Anti-Semitism on the Internet; and contemporary debates on the persistence and new forms of Anti-Semitism. A strong emphasis will also be put on the Jews’ political, social and ideological responses to this hatred.

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

Course Outline: The course is divided into the following sections:

- 1) Definitions**
- 2) Starting points for our narrative? Holocaust Narrative or Muslim Anti-Zionism and the de-legitimization of the State of Israel in the Arab world.**
- 3) Christianity and Anti-Semitism: Catholics and Protestants**
- 4) National trends: Anti-semitism by countries – Poland, Germany, America, France, Belgium and UK.**
- 5) Cultural Anti-semitism: Anti-semitism in Music, Film and Art**
- 6) The Jews' Response: CST to the Self Hating Jew**
- 7) Projections: Anti-semitism in the 2050s and anti-semitism without Jews.**
- 8) Fighting Anti-semitism on campus: New Ambassadors**

DEFINITIONS

1. Session One: Anti-Semitism 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. Session Two: The Origins of Contemporary Anti-semitism: When does it really start?

Sources:

Excerpts by Wilhelm Marr, Karl Eugen Duehring, Eduard-Adolphe Drumont, Adolf Stoecker 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. Session Three: Different patterns of hatred? Pogroms and East European Anti-Semitism

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. "Anti-semitism 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. Session Four: 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. Session Five: Anti-Zionism and the De-Legitimization of Israel

Sources:

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

Secondary literature:

David Patterson, "Anti-zionist Anti-semitism," *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. Session Six: The Islamization of Anti-semitism

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, *Anti-Semitism and Islamophobia : Hatreds Old and New in Europe* (Chicago: Prickly Paradigm Press, 2007).

CHRISTIANITY AND ANTI-SEMITISM: CATHOLICS AND PROTESTANTS

7. Session Seven: 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. Session Eight: 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 Philo-semitism in Our Times,” in Jonathan Karp and Adam Sutcliffe *Philo-semitism in History* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2011) 257-289.

NATIONAL TRENDS: ANTI-SEMITISM BY COUNTRIES

9. 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 Anti-Semitism* (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/anti-semitism-in-germany-jewish-life-under-threat-says-charlotte-knobloch/a-41967491>

10. Session Ten: Anti-semitism 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: Anti-Semitism 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.

11. Midterm

12. Session Twelve: Anti-semitism in France and Belgium

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 Anti-Semitism: Hatred of Jews in Present-Day France* (Leiden: Brill, 2007)

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

13. Session Thirteen: Post Holocaust Anti-semitism 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.

14. Session Fourteen: Rising Anti-semitism in the Labour Party UK

Primary Sources: "Labour 'doesn't Tolerate Anti-Semitism', Says Jeremy Corbyn." *BBC News*. British Broadcasting Corporation, 21 Mar. 2016. Web.

"Khartoum Resolution 1967." *Council on Foreign Relations*. Khartoum Conference 1967, via CFR, n.d. Web. 31 May 2016.

Secondary Sources:

David Hirsh *Contemporary Left Antisemitism* (London: Routledge, 2018)

Robert Fine and Philip Spencer, *Antisemitism and the Left: On the Return of the Jewish Question* (Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2017).

CULTURAL ANTI-SEMITISM

15. Session Fifteen: Anti-semitism in Music, Film and Literature

Sources:

Richard Wagner, "Judaism in Music (*Das Judenthum 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)

16. Session Sixteen: Viewing of Films: Anti-semitism in Film

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 anti-Semitism in New York City and the affluent community of Darien, Connecticut.)

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

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

17. Session Seventeen: The Jews' Response: From the CST to the Self Hating Jew, the Jews' own worst enemy

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 : Anti-Semitism and the Hidden Language of*

the Jews (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1986):

PROJECTIONS TO THE FUTURE

18. Session Eighteen: Anti-semitism without Jews

Secondary Sources:

ADL Survey of Five European Countries (2002)

http://www.adl.org/presrele/asint_13/4185_13.asp

Jonathan Freedman “Antisemitism without Jews: *Left Behind* in the American Heartland,” in Phyllis Lassner and Lara Trubowitz *Antisemitism and Philosemitism in the Twentieth and Twenty-First Centuries* (Newark: University of Delaware Press, 2008) 154-174.

David G. Goodman, Masanori Miyazawa, *Jews In the Japanese Mind: The History and Uses of a Cultural Stereotype* (Lanham: Lexington Books, 2002). See especially preface and chapter one.

Paul Lendvai, *Anti-Semitism Without Jews: Communist Eastern Europe* (Garden City: Doubleday, 1971).

19. Session Nineteen: Anti-semitism in 2050s

Source:

Yoav Shamir *Defamation* (2009)

Secondary Literature:

Adam Katz, “Antisemitism and the Victimary Era,” in Charles A. Small (ed.) *Global Antisemitism: A Crisis of Modernity* (Leiden: Brill, 2013)

Alan S. Rosenbaum “Some Philosophical Reflections on Antisemitism Today,” in Charles A. Small (ed.) *Global Antisemitism: A Crisis of Modernity* (Leiden: Brill, 2013)

Michael Whine “Progress in Combating Antisemitism at the International Level,” in Charles A. Small (ed.) *Global Antisemitism: A Crisis of Modernity* (Leiden: Brill, 2013)

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. 148-162

FIGHTING ANTI-SEMITISM ON CAMPUSES: THE NEW AMBASSADORS

20. Session Twenty: Anti-semitism on University campuses

Sources:

Film: *Crossing the Line* (a film about anti-Semitism 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.

21. Lecture Twenty-One: Conclusions: How should we combating anti-Semitism?

Secondary Literature:

Catherine Chatterley “The Antisemitic Imagination,” in Charles A. Small (ed.) *Global Antisemitism: A Crisis of Modernity* (Leiden: Brill, 2013)

Ruth R. Wisse “How Do We Put an End to Antisemitism? No Really, How Do We?,” in Charles A. Small (ed.) *Global Antisemitism: A Crisis of Modernity* (Leiden: Brill, 2013)

Bernstein, Perez. *Jew-Hate as a Sociological Problem*. Trans. David Saraph. New York: Philosophical Library, 1951.

RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR MY COURSES

1. I expect you to attend all lectures. I do not take always take a class register but I have a good visual memory and know if you come/don't come to class.
2. Make every effort to come on time. In fact, come early and then you'll be *sure* you're on time. It's very distracting to have students wandering into class late.
3. I like to meet everyone in my courses. If I haven't already met you, please introduce yourself.

Requirements for the Course:

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.

TAU International Course Guidelines

Rules and Respectful Behavior

- No cell phones or laptops permitted in class unless approved by instructor for use
- Tardiness to class is not permitted
- As our courses bring together students from many different styles of learning and from a wide variety of home institutions, we ask that students remain respectful to and patient with fellow classmates at all time as some students may be more familiar with certain course material or procedures than others.

Learning Accommodations

In accordance to University guidelines, students with learning disabilities or accommodation requests must submit official documentation from their home country / university (translated into English by notary if not already in English) to TAU International (tauiacademic@tautex.tau.ac.il) in advance of arrival describing in detail any specific needs they have. 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 they may have. TAU International and its faculty cannot guarantee that all accommodations received at the home school can be similarly met at TAU but certainly does the best it can to make any suitable accommodations possible that are needed.

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 below if there is an in-class midterm or final exam as this date/exam cannot be changed. 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. Missing classes will be reflected in the final grade of the course. Up to three justified absences from classes will be accepted (for example: emergency matter or illness, both of which will require an official doctor's note sent to the faculty **on the day of the absence**). Such cases of absence should be reported to your lecturer immediately and again, a doctor's note is required. 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 TAU Academic Policy, if a student's behavior or attendance during the semester is disagreeable his/her course participation may be cancelled at the discretion of TAU.

Students are responsible for reading and adhering to the policies and procedures in the TAU International Academic Handbook [posted here](#) at all times.