



The Jewish World in the Modern Era
Spring Semester 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, 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)

Research Paper:

Each student will be required to write a research paper on any subject, theme, topic or period covered in the readings from week 5 to Week 12. The paper should be double spaced, 5-6 pages in length, and contain source notes. 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 use. The paper must be turned in on or before the last week of class. Further details about the paper will be given in class.

Note: All Students are allowed three (3) unexcused absences. Students who have more than three unexcused absences will have points deducted from their final grade.

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%

WEEK and TOPICS

1. Emancipation of the Jews in Western Europe

(Gartner, 128-161)

Document: The Emancipation of the Jews of France (September 28, 1791)

The Impact of Emancipation on the Jews

(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)

2. Modern Racial and Political Anti-Semitism

Document: Theodor Fritsch, "The Racists' Decalogue" (1883)

Russian Jewry: Nineteenth Century to the Russian Revolution

(Ben-Sasson, pp. 813-824; 881-890)

Document: The Pale of Settlement, 1835-1917.

3. The Rise of Zionism

(Ben-Sasson, 891-907)

Documents: "The Basle Program" (1897).

The Jews in America, 1789-1880

(Sachar, ch. 8)

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

4. American Jewry, 1881- 1914

(Sachar, ch. 15)

World War I and Its Impact on the Jews

(Ben-Sasson, pp. 939-948)

Document: "The Balfour Declaration" (1917)

5. 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)

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

(Ben-Sasson, pp. 949-963)

6. **MID-SEMESTER EXAM**

The Jews of the Soviet Union, 1917-1939

(Ben-Sasson, pp. 964-978)

Document: Jewish Red Army Soldiers: "Appeal to Jewish Workers" (1920)

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

(Ben-Sasson, 989-1016)

Document: The Peel Commission Report (July 1937)

American Jewry between the World Wars

(Sorin, 179-193)

8. European Jewry on the Eve of World War II

(Gartner, 294-318)

World War II and the Holocaust

(Ben-Sasson, pp. 1017-1039)

Document: Heinrich Himmler, "A Secret Speech on the Jewish Question" (Oct. 8, 1943)

9. The Establishment of the State of Israel

(Ben-Sasson, pp. 1040-1062)

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

RESEARCH PAPER DUE

World Jewry after WWII

(Ben-Sasson, pp. 1063-1074; Gartner, 396-420)

Document: Jean Amery, "Reflections of a 'Holocaust Jew'" (1966)

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@tauex.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.