WILFRID LAURIER UNIVERSITY
Department of History, Fall 2009

JEWS IN MODERN EUROPE, 1750-1938
History 363

Prof. Erich Haberer
Lectures: M/W 10:30-11:20 am
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Office hrs: TBA
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Course Description: This course examines Jewish-Gentile relations in Europe from the mid-eighteenth century to 1938. Topics will include Jewish emancipation and acculturation, anti-Jewish sentiment and violence, modern racial and national ideologies, Fascist and National Socialist antisemitism, and the disemancipation of Jews in Nazi Germany that foreshadows the Holocaust. Concentrating on France, Poland, Russia, and especially Germany, particular attention will be paid to state policies and popular attitudes towards Jews, as well as Jewish responses to cultural, social and political modernization. The purpose of the course is to acquaint students with the history of Jews in Europe in order to gain a deeper understanding of the profoundly complex relationship between Jews and Gentiles that ultimately and tragically ended with the destruction of European Jewry.

Course Requirements:
(1) Book report of The Butcher’s Tale by H. Walser (~ 1000 words), due Oct. 21 = 10%
(2) Interpretative essay of primary sources (~2500 words), due Nov. 30 = 30%
(3) Mid-Term (1 hour), October 14 = 15%
(4) Participation in Class Discussion = 15%
(5) Final Examination (2 hours), date TBA = 30%

Required Texts
Erich Haberer, ed., History Course Reader: Jews in Modern Europe (2009)

Other Recommended Texts
D. Vital, A People Apart. The Jews in Europe, 1789-1939
E. Bristow, Prostitution and Prejudice. The Jewish Fight against White Slavery, 1870-1939 (1983)

Students with disabilities or special needs are advised to contact Laurier’s Accessible Learning Office for information regarding its services and resources. Students are encouraged to review the Calendar for information regarding all services available on campus.

Wilfrid Laurier University uses software that can check for plagiarism. Students may be required to submit their written work in electronic form and have it checked for plagiarism.
SCHEDULE OF LECTURES AND DISCUSSIONS

1. Sept. 14  INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE

Sept. 16  BEGINNINGS: the Arrival of Jews in Europe

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2. Sept. 21/23  JEWISH-GENTILE RELATIONS IN PRE-MODERN CHRISTIAN EUROPE

Walser Smith, The Butcher’s Tale, 17-23, 91-133 (read entire book ASAP)

1. Discussion: What is antisemitism? How useful is the concept for understanding Gentile hostility toward Jews? (See required readings below).


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3. Sept. 28/30  THE ENLIGHTENMENT AND THE JEWS

- France and Germany
- The Jewish Enlightenment (Haskalah)


Documents: Harbingers of Political and Economic Change, 8-9 (96-97); Dohm and his Critics, 28-49(98-114); Abbé Grégoire, 49-53 (114-18); Harbingers of Cultural and Ideological Change, 54-56 (119–21); Moses Mendelssohn, 87-90 (122-25); David Friedländer, 90-91(125-26).

Supplementary
Arthur Hertzberg, The French Enlightenment and the Jews
Jacob Katz, Exclusiveness and Tolerance
Gotthold Lessing, Nathan the Wise
Solomon Maimon, An Autobiography
David Rudavsky, Modern Jewish Religious Movements
Alexander Altmann, Moses Mendelssohn
Joseph Blau, Modern Varieties of Judaism
4. Oct 5/7  JEWISH EMANCIPATION IN FRANCE AND GERMANY


Documents: The Process of Political Emancipation in Western Europe, 112-13 (161-62); The Emancipation of the Jews in France (1791), 118 (163); Berr Isaac Berr, “Letter of a Citizen to His Fellow Jews (1791), 118-121 (163-66); The “Infamous Decree” (1808), 139-41 (167-69); Emancipation in Prussia (March 1812), 141-43 (169-71); The Congress of Vienna: Article 16 (1815), 143 (171); North German Confederation and Jewish Emancipation (1869) and Emancipation in Bavaria (1871), 153-54 (172-73).

2. Discussion: Was Jewish emancipation in France and Germany unavoidable and, if so, why? What accounts for the different pattern of emancipation in France and Germany?

Supplementary

Pierre Birnbaum and Ira Katznelson, eds. Paths of Emancipation
Simon Schwarzfuchs, Napoleon, the Jews, and the Sanhedrin
Ernst Hamburger, “One Hundred Years of Emancipation,” Leo Baeck Institute Year Book, XX (1975)

5. Oct. 12  THANKSGIVING

Oct. 14  MID-TERM EXAMINATION (in-class)

6. Oct. 19/21  JEWISH ACCULTURATION AND ASSIMILATION


Documents: Jewish Identity Challenged and Redefined, 249 (212); Heinrich Heine, 258-59 (213-14); Ludwig Boerne, 259-60 (214-15); Rahel Levin Varnhagen, 260-61(215-16);
Rosa Luxemburg, 261-62 (216-17); Eduard Bernstein, 262–65 (217-20); Walter Rathenau, 267-68 (221-22); Theodor Lessing, “Jewish Self-Hatred,” 272-74 (223-25).

Supplementary
Jonathan Frankel and Steven Zipperstein, eds., Assimilation and Community
Marjorie Lamberti, Jewish Activism in Imperial Germany
George Mosse, German Jews beyond Judaism
Jehuda Reinharz, Fatherland or Promised Land
David Sorkin, The Transformation of German Jewry, 1980-1840
Michael Marrus, Politics of Assimilation
Michael Meyer, The Origin of the Modern Jew
Bela Vago, ed., Jewish Assimilation in Modern Times
Robert Wistrich, Socialism and the Jews. The Dilemmas of Assimilation
William O. McCagg, History of Habsburg Jews, 1670-1918

7. Oct. 26/28

JEWISH LIFE AND ANTISEMITISM

Walser Smith, The Butcher’s Tale, pp. 25-89, 135-84


Memoirs: Conrad Rosenstein, 165-73 (297-301); Kurt Katsch, 188-97 (302-6); Johanna Harris, 211-20 (307-12); Max Daniel, 220-24 (312-14); Philipp Löwenfeld, 234-46 (315-21); Charlotte Popper, 266-70 (322-24); Arnold Tänzer, 270-79 (324-28).

3. Discussion: What explains the rise of “modern antisemitism” in the wake of Jewish emancipation and the relatively high degree of assimilation?

Supplementary
Monika Richarz, ed., Jewish Life in Germany. Memoirs from Three Centuries
-------------------------------, “Emancipation and Continuity: German Jews in the Rural Economy,” in Revolution and Evolution, eds., Werner Mosse, et al., pp. 95-122

4
Werner Mosse, “Jewish Entrepreneurship in Germany, 1820-1935,” in *Jüdische Unternehmer in Deutschland im 19 und 20 Jahrhundert*, eds., Werner Mosse and Hans Pohl, pp. 54-66
Ismar Schorsch, *Jewish Reactions to German Antisemitism*
Robert Byrnes, *Antisemitism in Modern France*
Peter Pulzer, *The Rise of Political Anti-Semitism in Germany and Austria*
Jacob Katz, *From Prejudice to Destruction*
Stephen Wilson, *Ideology and Experience*
Donald Niewyk, “Solving the ‘Jewish Problem’: Continuity and Change in German Antisemitism,” *Leo Baeck Institute Year Book*, XXXV (1990): 335-70

Oct. 26  
**Book Report Due**

8. Nov. 2/4  
**JEWS IN IMPERIAL RUSSIA: TSARIST JEWISH POLICY AND HASKALAH**


*Documents*: East European Jewry, 372-74 (446-48); Delineation of the Pale of Settlement, 379-80 (449-50); Judah Leib Gordon, “Awake My People (1866),” 384-85 (451-52); A Jewish Program for Russification (1841), 385 (452); Osip Rabinowich, “Russian Must be Our Mother Tongue (1861),” 400 (453); Society for the Promotion of Culture among Jews: Program (1864), 401-02 (454-55); Isaac Levinsohn, “Yiddish is a Corrupt Jargon (1828),” 402-03 (455-56); Perez Smolenskin, “Hebrew - Our National Fortress (1868),” 403 (456).

*Supplementary*

Salo Baron, *The Russian Jews under Tsars and Soviets*
John Klier, *Imperial Russia’s Jewish Question 1855-1881*
Michael Stanislawski, *Tsar Nicholas the First and the Jews*
Benjamin Nathans, *Beyond the Pale.*
9. Nov. 9/11

**THE LEIDENSGESCHICHTE OF RUSSIAN JEWRY**


*Documents:* Awaiting a Pogrom (1882), 408 (457); N. Tchaykovsky, “The Massacre of Jews at Kishinev (1 June 1903),” 409 (458); Haim Nahman Bialik, “The City of Slaughter (1903),” 410-114 (59-60); The Beilis Trial (1913), 412-13 (461-62).

**4. Discussion:** Why was emancipation not forthcoming for Russian Jews and what motivated anti-Jewish violence (Pogroms) in Imperial Russia?

*Supplementary*

Jonathan Frankel, *Prophecy and Politics*
Eli Lederhandler, *The Road to Modern Jewish Politics*
Ezra Mendelsohn, *Class Struggle in the Pale*
Henry Tobias, *The Jewish Bund in Russia*
Ezra Mendelsohn, ed., *Essential Papers on Jews and the Left*
John Klier and Shlomo Lambroza, eds., *Pogroms: Anti-Jewish Violence in Modern Russian History*
Michael Aronson, *Troubled Waters. The Origins of the 1881 Anti-Jewish Pogroms in Russia*

10. Nov. 16/18

**JEWS IN INTERWAR POLAND**


**5. Discussion:** Does it make sense to explain Jewish life in interwar Poland in terms of “good or bad for Jews? What significance does Polish antisemitism assume in addressing this question?
Supplementary
Heiko Haumann, *A History of East European Jews*
Chimen Abramsky, *et. al.*, eds., *The Jews in Poland*
Ezra Mendelsohn, *Zionism in Poland. The Formative Years, 1915-1926*
Ezra Mendelsohn, *The Jew of East Central Europe between the World Wars*
Bela Vago and George Mosse, eds., *Jews and Non-Jews in Eastern Europe*
Joseph Rothschild, *East Central Europe between the Two World Wars*
Yisrael Gutman, *et. al.*, eds. *The Jews of Poland Between the Two World Wars*
Zvi Gitelman, ed. *The Emergence of Modern Jewish Politics. Bundism and Zionism in Eastern Europe*


**Supplementary**
Peter Gay, *Weimar Culture. The Outsider as Insider*
Donald Niewyk, *The Jews in Weimar Germany*
George Mosse, *Germans and Jews*
Peter Pulzer, *Jews and the German State. The Political History of a Minority*

12. Nov.30/Dec.2  EMANCIPATION REVOKED: NAZI ANTI-JEWS policies TO 1938

Walser Smith, *The Butcher’s Tale*, pp. 209-16

**Reader:** Marjorie Lamberti, “The Jewish Defence in Germany after the National-Socialist Seizure of Power,” 135-147 (512-18).

**Documents:** Adolf Hitler, “A Letter on the Jewish Question (1919),” “*Mein Kampf* (1923),” 636-39 (520-23); Robert Weltsch, “Wear the Yellow Badge with Pride (1933),” 640-41 (524-25); First Racial Definition (1933), 642 (526); Proclamation of the Reichsvertretung of German Jews (1933), 643-45 (527-29); Adolf Hitler, “Why the Nuremberg Laws (1935),” 645-46 (529-30); The Nuremberg Laws (15 Sept.1935), 646-47 (530-31); A Public Opinion Survey of the Response of the Christian Population in Germany to the Nuremberg Laws, 648 (532); Public Response to the *Kristallnacht* (Dec. 1938), 654 (533); Decree for the Elimination of the Jews from German Economic Life and *Numerus Nullus* in Schools (Nov. 1938), 655 (534).

6. Discussion: How did emancipation, acculturation, and antisemitism affect the lives of Jewish women in Germany and Eastern Europe? (See required reading below).

Documents: Rahel Levin Varnhagen, 260-61 (215-16); Rosa Luxemburg, 261-62 216-17; Bertha Pappenheim, “The Jewish Woman (c. 1930)”, 287-89 (381-83).
Memoirs: Clara Geissmar, 155-62 (230-34); Ottilie Schönewald, 338-42 (541-43).

Supplementary

Nov. 30  
ESSAY DUE

Dec. 7  
REVIEW LECTURE AND EXAMINATION PREVIEW