NEJS 146a: WORLD JEWRY SINCE 1945

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

a. Regular attendance

b. Required Reading – sometimes accompanied by requests for 1 page brief papers

c. Required Papers (see below)

   book report (5 pages) - Due October 6, 2010; get book approved by Sept. 20th.

   • research paper (8-15 pp.) on approved theme – Approval needed by Oct 20; due Nov 24th; automatic extension to Nov 29th if needed.

d. Final exam - take home – December 6 (distributed) due by noon on December 13th.

Grading is based upon: class participation (10%); book report (20%); research paper and final exam (higher grade is 40%, lower is 30%).

ATTENTION

If you are a student with a documented disability on record at Brandeis University and wish to have a reasonable accommodation made for you in this class, please see me immediately.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS

1. Book report: Read one scholarly monograph (not a broad survey) dealing with some aspect of "World Jewry Since the Holocaust," and write a critical book review in which you summarize and critique the volume. Your review should be on the model of a review in the Jewish Review of Books, New York Review of Books, the New York Times Book Review, Reviews in American History or some similar publication. Your review should be footnoted as necessary, and you are encouraged to consult other reviews of your volume before composing your own. You must obtain prior written approval of your book from the instructor. Books required for this course may not be selected, but starred (*) recommended volumes can be. You should select your book and have it approved by September 20th; book reviews are due by October 6th.
2. Research Paper: Write a small research paper (8-15 pp.) on a critical issue facing Contemporary Jewry (e.g. intermarriage, antisemitism, culture, Jewish education, relations with Israel, immigration, interreligious issues etc.) These papers should be comparative analyses of the issue selected and include information on at least two countries besides US & Israel (which may also be included). You are strongly encouraged to consult the new archive of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency for primary source information (details in class), the online Berman Jewish Policy Archive for sources (www.bjpa.org) and also to use journalistic sources like the London Jewish Chronicle [http://archive.thejc.com, or ask library] American Jewish Year Book (www.ajcarchives.org), Jerusalem Report (online in library), and the New York Times (online), in addition to secondary sources. Submit your topic for approval by October 20th. Due date is November 24th with automatic extension until November 29 (Monday after Thanksgiving) for those who need it.

COURSE OUTLINE

Major Texts:

AJYB = American Jewish Year Book
Peter Novick, The Holocaust in American Life
Bernard Wasserstein, Vanishing Diaspora: The Jews in Europe Since 1945
Robert S. Wistrich, Terms of Survival: The Jewish World Since 1945 [Selections on Latte - no need to buy]

* = for additional reading

Latte=electronic reserve

I. MAJOR CENTERS - CENTRAL THEMES

8/30, 9/1 Overview


9/6, 8  **The Impact of the Holocaust**


Wasserstein, *Vanishing Diaspora*, 1-35

9/13  **Holocaust Commemoration**

James E. Young, *The Changing Shape of Holocaust Memory* [pamphlet] [Latte]

*James E. Young, The Texture of Memory: Holocaust Memorial and Meaning*

9/15, 20  **The Longterm Impact of the Holocaust - US**

Peter Novick, *The Holocaust in American Life*

Write a short (1 page) response to Novick. Is his account persuasive? Why or why not? What generalizations might apply to other countries? For a different view, see Hasia Diner, *We Remember With Reverence and Love*.

*Remember that your book review book should be chosen and approved by 9/20!*

9/22, 27  **America & Israel: The New Centers**

AJYB  53 (1952), 564-68  "The Ben Gurion - Blaustein Exchange" [Latte]

Zvi Ganin, *An Uneasy Relationship* (2005), 81-104 [Latte]

*Jonathan D. Sarna, American Judaism: A History, 272-374*

9/29  **Conflicting Zionist Ideologies**

Gideon Shimoni, "The Zionist Idea Since the Establishment of the State of Israel," in Carol Diament, *Zionism: The Sequel*, pp.3-44 [Latte]

Write a paragraph on your view of the actual and ideal role of Israel in Diaspora Jewish Life.

10/4  **Exodus: The Movie**
Prior to class, watch Otto Preminger’s *Exodus* (1960), which is in the Library reserve room: [Main Library - Reserve Desk PN1997.E95 1992] Be prepared to discuss the film. For background, see:


10/6, 11 The changing image of Israel

Wasserstein, *Vanishing Diaspora*, 85-102


*Book Review Due*

II. THE CHANGING FACE OF DIASPORA JEWRY: CASE STUDIES

10/16 Introduction


10/18, 20 Former Soviet Union: The Origins, Meaning & Implications of Revival

Wasserstein, *Vanishing Diaspora*, 36-57, 180-205

*S. Ilan Troen (ed.), *Jewish Centers and Peripheries*, 101-125.


Submit Paper topics for Approval

10/25, 27 South Africa Jewry & Its Diaspora

Gideon Shimoni, *Community and Conscience: The Jews in Apartheid South Africa* {selections on Latte}


Chaya Herman, “The Jewish Community in the Post-Apartheid Era” [https://repository.up.ac.za/upspace/bitstream/2263/5090/1/Herman_Jewish%282007%29.pdf]


11/1, 3 Great Britain and Ireland: Leaner -- and Meaner?

Wasserstein, *Vanishing Diaspora*, 58-84, 227-52


*S. Ilan Troen (ed.), *Jewish Centers and Peripheries*, 227-302

*Tye, *Home Lands*, 193-217


11/8, 10 France: Immigration and Islamization


*Larry Tye, *Home Lands*, 218-240

**11/15, 17 Germany: The Fastest Growing Jewish Community in Europe**

Wasserstein, *Vanishing Diaspora*, 159-179


*S.Ilan Troen (ed.), *Jewish Centers and Peripheries*, 303-321]


*Michael Brenner, *After the Holocaust: Rebuilding Jewish Lives in Germany*

*AJYB annual articles on German Jewry

**11/22, 24 Latin American Jewry: Antisemitism, Assimilation and Revitalization**

*AJYB* 85 (1985), 3-102, online at http://www.ajcarchives.org/AJC_DATA/Files/1985_3_SpecialArticles.pdf


*Larry Tye, *Home Lands*, 159-192

**11/24, 29 PAPERS DUE**
III. Issues Facing World Jewry

11/29 Intermarriage

*Jewish Intermarriage Around the World* eds. Shulamit Reinharz and Sergio DellaPergola (2009)


12/1 The New Antisemitism

French Anti-Semitism: A Barometer for Gauging Society's Perverseness

*An Interview with Shmuel Trigano* (http://www.jcpa.org/phas/phas-26.htm)

[more to come]

12/6 – Envisioning the Future

Wasserstein, *Vanishing Diaspora*, 280-290

*Moment* 23 (February 1998), 41-51 [Latte]


12/6 – Final Exam distributed; must be returned by 12/13 at noon