

History 488
MODERN JEWISH HISTORY
Fall Semester 2006
Professor Lawrence Baron

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Hrs: 12:00-1:30, 3:30-5 PM, Th.12:-1:30, 7-8:30 PM
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Required Books:

Aleichem, *Tevye the Dairyman*

Blackboard-External Links (EL)

Brenner, *Zionism: A Brief History*

Gartner, *History of the Jews in Modern Times*

Glückel, *The Memoirs of Glückel of Hameln* (only for first exam)

Lessing, *Nathan the Wise*

Solomon, *Judaism: A Very Short Introduction*

Wiesel, *Night*

Yeziarska, *The Bread Givers*

This course provides an overview of the Jewish experience in predominantly Christian and Islamic societies since the Middle Ages. It emphasizes how traditional Jewish life changed when Jews were granted political equality, economic opportunity, and, religious freedom in the last two centuries and about how non-Jews responded to Jewish emancipation, social mobility, and nationalism in the modern period. It analyzes how major historical events like the rise of the nation state and capitalism, the Enlightenment, the French Revolution, the Industrial Revolution, the liberalization of European political systems, the emergence of nationalism, socialism, and racism in Europe, opportunities for mass immigration particularly to Palestine, and the United States, the Bolshevik Revolution, the Holocaust, and the establishment of Israel as a Jewish state in 1948 has affected the economic, intellectual, political, religious, and social nature of Jewish life. The course also explores common patterns about the impact of modernization on traditional cultures and the dynamics of relationships between ethnic, racial, and religious majorities and minorities ranging from acculturation, assimilation, cultural pluralism, discrimination, integration, toleration, and persecution. It will compare and contrast how these relationships have evolved in different national settings.

Students are expected to be able to articulate their own interpretations on the above subjects in discussions, take-home exams, book reports, and/or research papers.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Date:	Topic:	Reading:
Aug.29	Introduction to Course	
Aug.31-Sept.7	The Jews of Christendom and Islam: The Dynamics of Discrimination	Solomon, EL 1,2 Gartner, 1-25
Sept.12-14 Sept.21	Towards a Religion Neutral Society Discussion: <i>Nathan the Wise</i>	Gartner, 61-94 Lessing, EL 3
Sept.26-Oct.5 Oct. 10 Oct.12	Equality and Religious Reform Discussion: Reform vs. Tradition First Take-Home Exam Due	Gartner, 95-161, EL4, Sol. 98-108
Oct.12-19 Oct. 24	Shtetl Jews Under Tsar to Commissars Tevye's Children	Gartner,162-190, 238-248 Aleichem, 35-134
Oct.26-31 Nov.2-7	The Rise of Modern Anti-Semitism The Golden Land: Jews in America	Gartner, 212-238; EL,5 Gartner,201-221, 258-266 319-333,
Nov.9 Nov.14-21 Nov.16 Nov. 28	Discussion: <i>The Bread Givers</i> Zionism and the Arab-Israeli Conflict Second Take-Home Exam Due Discussion: Arab vs. Zionist Claims	Yezierka Gartner,190-201 Brenner, 3-154
Nov.30-Dec.7 Dec.7 Dec. 12 (1-3 PM) Dec. 12	The Holocaust and Its Repercussions Research Paper or Book Reports Due Discussion: <i>Night</i> Final Take-Home Exam Due in class	Gartner,267-318.347-395 Wiesel,Brenner,157-68