

**5346 JEWISH HISTORIOGRAPHY (3 qh)**  
**DSJS Seminar**  
**Summer 2004**

**Schedule**

Sunday, July 11, 6:00pm-9:00pm; Monday, July 12 through Thursday, July 15, 2:00pm-6:00pm

*[This core course is required for all DSJS students and may also be open to advanced MSJS/MSJE students with prior permission from the instructor.]*

**Instructor**

*Dr. Dean Bell*

312-322-1791

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**Course Description**

How and why have Jews engaged history? What meaning does history have for Judaism and how has Jewish historiography reflected the changing position of Jews and Judaism? While this course will explore the full range of Jewish historiographical writing, the primary focus will be upon the early modern and modern development of formal Jewish historiography. Steeped in the culture of the Renaissance and responsive to the calamity of the Spanish Expulsion, many scholars have argued, Jews first began to write formal history. After an examination of the complex and creative ways in which Jews engaged history throughout the early modern period, the course turns to the development of modern Jewish historiography after the beginning of the nineteenth century. Modern Jewish historical writing addressed internal Jewish concerns and perspectives, while navigating through and engaging with non-Jewish historical currents. Among the important Jewish historians to be studied will be: Azaria de Rossi, David Gans, Nathan of Hannover, Heinrich Graetz, Simon Dubnow and Salo Baron.

**Course Sought Outcomes**

Understanding of the primary themes and development of historiography

Understanding of the development of Jewish historical reflection and writing

Familiarity with the development of Jewish historiography in the early modern and modern periods

Understanding of the traditional schemes for, and issues related to, the periodization of Jewish history

Familiarity with Jewish notions of memory and attitudes about the past

Understanding of the role of history in Jewish ritual, theology and philosophy

Consideration of the relation between Jewish identity and understandings of Judaism and historical presentations of the past

Exploration of the representations of, and negotiations for meaning in, Jewish and Non-Jewish Relations

## **Course Requirements**

There is a good deal of reading for this course. Please try to have read all primary source readings and as much of the secondary literature as possible before the seminar.

In addition to engagement with the readings and participation in seminar discussions, students will also choose between an analytical essay that compares various schools and methods of historical writing as discussed in class and an original research project focusing on a particular theme, historian, or historiographical school.

## **Course Materials**

Yosef Hayyim Yerushalmi, *Zakhor*

Michael A. Meyer, *Ideas of Jewish History*

Xeroxed Reader of Secondary and Additional Primary Sources

## **Course Sessions and Topics**

### **Session I (Sunday, July 11): Introduction to Historiography**

#### *Topics*

What is historiography?

What are the basic contours of the development of historiography?

Central issues and methods

The question of historical sources

Periodization

The role of Jews and Judaism in historiography

#### *Readings*

Ernst Breisach, *Historiography: Ancient, Medieval and Modern*, pp. 153-214 and 416-417

Donald R. Kelley, *Faces of History: Historical Inquiry from Herodotus to Herder*, pp. 250-272 and 322-328

Arnaldo Momigliano, "Historicism Revisited," pp. 365-373

Georg G. Iggers, *The German Conception of History: The National Tradition of Historical Thought from Herder to the Present*, pp. 3-28 and 295-300

Michel de Certeau, *The Writing of History*, pp. 1-113

Adam Sutcliffe, *Judaism and Enlightenment*, pp. 79-99

### **Session II (Monday, July 12): What is Jewish Historiography?**

#### *Topics*

Memory and historiography

The nature and scope of Jewish historiography

Jewish historiographical precedents: biblical, rabbinic and medieval

Sources for Jewish historiography

The purposes and motivations for Jewish historiography

Methodology

Comparisons with non-Jewish historiography

#### *Readings*

Michael A. Meyer, *Ideas of Jewish History*, pp. 1-42

Yosef Hayyim Yerushalmi, *Zakhor*

Amos Funkenstein, *Perceptions of Jewish History*, pp. 3-21

David N. Myer, *Resisting History: Historicism and Its Discontents in German-Jewish Thought*, pp. 13-34 and 176-185

Hayyim Hazaz, "The Sermon," pp. 65-86

Jay R. Berkovitz, "Does Jewish History Repeat Itself? Paradigm, Myth and Tradition," pp. 131-153

Salo W. Baron, *History and Jewish Historians: Essays and Addresses*, pp. 65-106 and 347-348

Arnaldo Momigliano, "Time in Ancient Historiography," pp. 179-204

Robert Chazan, "Representation of Events in the Middle Ages," pp. 40-55

#### *Sources*

Meyer, *Ideas of Jewish History*, pp. 52-63 (Josephus), pp. 78-82 (Ibn Daud), and pp. 91-102 (Crusade Chronicle of Solomon bar Simeon)

### **Session III (Tuesday, July 13): Early Modern Jewish Historiography**

#### *Topics*

Renaissance?

Expulsion and messianism

Sephardim and Ashkenazim

Early modern religion and society

Comparative developments

The role of historiography

#### *Readings*

Robert Bonfil, "How Golden was the Age of the Renaissance in Jewish Historiography," pp. 78-102

Elisheva Carlebach, "Between History and Myth: The Regensburg Expulsion in Josel of Rosheim's *Sefer ha-miknah*," pp. 40-53

Lester A. Segal, *Historical Consciousness and Religious Tradition in Azariah de' Rossi's Me'or Einayim*, pp. 3-45

Mordechai Breuer, "Modernism and Traditionalism in Sixteenth-Century Jewish Historiography: A Study of David Gans' *Tzemah David*," pp. 49-88

Edward Fram, "Creating a Tale of Martyrdom in Tulczyn, 1648," pp. 89-112

#### *Sources*

Meyer, *Ideas of Jewish History*, pp. 110-114 (Ibn Verga) and pp. 122-132 (Gans)

Samuel Usque, *Consolation for the Tribulations of Israel*, 37-40, 43-56, and 215-224

Azariah de' Rossi, *The Light of the Eyes*, pp. 1-32, 81-100, 323-332, and 405-409

*A Hebrew Chronicle from Prague, c. 1615*, pp. 21-38 and 52-70

Nathan of Hannover, *Abys of Despair*, pp. 23-30, 34-49 and 110-121

Baruch Spinoza, *Tractatus Theologico-Politicus*, pp. 205-213

## **Session IV (Wednesday, July 14): The Cusp of Modernity and Jewish Historiographical Development**

### *Topics*

What is modernity?  
Is history modern? Is modernity historical?  
Strands and approaches  
Functions  
The role of the Enlightenment  
Wissenschaft des Judentums

### *Readings*

Shmuel Feiner, *Haskalah and History: The Emergence of a Modern Jewish Historical Consciousness*, pp. 1-70  
Ismar Schorsch, *From Text to Context: The Turn to History in Modern Judaism*, pp. 177-204  
Baron, "I.M. Jost the Historian," pp. 240-62 and 442-446

### *Sources*

Meyer, *Ideas of Jewish History*, pp. 141-155 (Wolf), pp. 156-160 (Zunz), pp. 161-172 (Geiger), pp. 175-186 (Jost), and pp. 189-214 (Krochmal)

## **Session V (Thursday, July 15): Modern Historiography**

### *Topics*

Major figures and schools  
Where are we headed?: Zionism, social history, and feminism  
Conclusions

### *Readings*

Baron, "Heinrich (Hirsch) Graetz, 1817-1891," pp. 263-275 and 446-449  
David H. Weinberg, "Simon Dubnow: History and Modern Jewish Identity," in *Between Tradition and Modernity: Haim Zhitlowski, Simon Dubnow, Ahad Ha-Am, and the Shaping of Modern Jewish Identity*, pp. 145-216 and 326-337  
David N. Myers, "Yitzhak Fritz Baer: Romanticism and Return in Jewish History," "Ben-Zion Dinaburg: Between Cultural Zionism and Palestinocentrism," and "Gershom Scholem: Between 'Pure Science' and 'Religious Anarchy,'" in *Re-Inventing the Jewish Past: European Jewish Intellectuals and the Zionist Return to History*, pp. 109-176 and 224-245  
David Biale, *Gershom Scholem: Kabbalah and Counter-History*, pp. 170-211 and 268-274  
David B. Ruderman, "Cecil Roth, Historian of Italian Jewry: A Reassessment," 128-142  
Robert Liberles, *Salo Wittmayer Baron: Architect of Jewish History*, pp. 148-177 and 382-384  
Dominick LaCapra, *History and Memory after Auschwitz*, pp. 8-42  
Judith Plaskow, *Standing Again at Sinai: Judaism from a Feminist Perspective*, pp. 32-52 and 243-247  
Paula Hyman, "Feminist Studies and Modern Jewish History," pp. 120-139

### *Sources*

Meyer, *Ideas of Jewish History*, pp. 217-244 (Graetz), pp. 247-269 (Dubnow), pp. 273-283 (Kaufmann), pp. 284-298 (Dinur), pp. 299-316 (Mahler), and pp. 319-335 (Baron)

