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-- Fall 2006

Office Hours: Tuesday, 9-11 and by appointment
 2145 Thayer

Judaic Studies 601: **Introduction to Judaic Studies** [Wed., 1:00 – 4:00 PM; 2202 MLB]

This course introduces students to the various questions, texts, methodologies, and perspectives that constitute the broad field of Jewish studies. We will range from antiquity to the modern period, reading Biblical and rabbinic texts, as well as histories, memoirs, folklore, novels, and poems. Our primary—but not exclusive—focus will be on the interactions between Jews and others: on the ways in which Jews have understood themselves in relation to the societies in which they lived, the peoples with whom they interacted, the languages they acquired, etc.

In addition to a final paper (which we will discuss further), everyone will be asked to post 1-2 page responses to the week's readings. You may post (on Course Tools: ctools.umich.edu) your views of one or more of the essays; or you may post 3-4 questions that the readings raise for you and that you think warrant further discussion. **Please be sure to have these on-line no later than 6:00 PM every Tuesday.** They will form the basis of much of our discussions.

1 ST Sept. 6	IN THE BEGINNING Genesis, chs. 1 & 2 (three translations): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Robert Alter's</i>, (17-23) HD • <i>Jerusalem Bible</i> (1-3) HD • <i>JPS</i> (3-5) HD
2 ND Sept. 13	ORIGINS AND INTERPRETATIONS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Richard E. Friedman: <i>Who Wrote the Bible?</i> (33-69) CT • Avivah Zornberg: <i>Genesis: The Beginning of Desire</i> (xi – 36) CT • Michael Fishbane: <i>Text and Texture</i> (xi – 19) CT • Tikva Frymer-Kensky: <i>In the Wake of the Goddesses</i> (83-117) CT
3 RD Sept. 20	JEWISH LANGUAGES/JEWISH LITERATURES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hana Wirth-Nesher, ed.: <i>What is Jewish Literature?</i> (3-12) CT • Baal-Makshoves: "One Literature in Two Languages" (69-77 in Wirth-Nesher) CT • Cynthia Ozick, "What's a Jewish Book" CT • Ruth Wisse, "What's a Jewish Book" CT • Shlomo Avineri: "Ben Yehuda" (83-87) CP
4 TH Sept. 27	WHAT IS JEWISH ART? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kalman P. Bland: <i>The Artless Jew</i> (3-36) UR • Richard Cohen: "Nostalgia and Return to the Ghetto" (130-155 in Frankel) UR • Ezra Mendelsohn: "Jewish Universalism" (163-184 in Kugelmass) CT

5 TH Oct. 4	<p>MEMORY AND HISTORY</p> <p>Yosef Yerushalm, <u>Zakhor</u></p>
6 TH Oct. 11	<p>JUDEO-ARABIC CONTACT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reuven Firestone: “Jewish Culture in the Formative Period of Islam” (267-302 in Biale) CP • Raymond Scheindlin: “Merchants and Intellectuals, Rabbis and Poets” (313-386 in Biale) CP • Sasson Somekh: “Lost Voices” (188-198 in Wirth-Nesher) CT <p>ASSIGNMENT: 2 – 4 page proposal for final paper topic due today</p>
7 TH Oct. 18	<p>INTERPRETATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David Stern, <i>Midrash and Theory</i> (39-71) UR • Jacob Neusner: <i>Ancient Judaism and Modern Category Formation</i> (1-28) UR <p>ASSIGNMENT: Define, describe AND bring in an example of a page of one of the following: Talmud; Mishnah; Gemarah.</p>
8 TH Oct. 25	<p>EMANCIPATION AND ASSIMILATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Salo Baron: “Ghetto and Emancipation” CT • Gerson Cohen: “The Blessing of Assimilation in Jewish History” CT • David Myers in <i>From Ghetto to Emancipation</i> “The Blessing of Assimilation’ Reconsidered” (17-35) CP • Paula Hyman’s <i>Gender and Assimilation in Modern Jewish History</i> (10-49) CP
9 th Nov. 1	<p>ENLIGHTENING LITERATURE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dan Miron: <i>The Image of the Shtetl</i> (1-48, 353-372) CT • “Zlochov” by Halpern (poem; HD) • Abramovitch, <u>Travels of Benjamin III</u>, CP •
10 TH Nov. 8	<p>THE IMAGE OF THE JEW</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sander Gilman: <i>Jewish Self-Hatred</i> (209-308) CP • Philip Roth: “Eli, the Fanatic” CT • Sartre <u>Anti-Semite and Jew</u>, Part I CP
11 TH Nov. 15	<p>AMERICA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deborah Dash Moore: <i>At Home In America</i> (233-41) CP • Moses Rischin in Jonathan Sarna’s <i>The American Jewish Experience</i> (118-132) CP • Matthew Frye Jacobson, <u>Whiteness of a Different Color</u>, pp. 171-199. Access electronic book via Mirlyn (mirlyn.lib.umich.edu) • Anzia Yezierska, “My Own People” CP <p>ASSIGNMENT: ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR FINAL PAPER</p>

12 TH Nov. 22	THANKSGIVING Watch <u>Image before my Eyes</u>
13 TH Nov. 29	STUDYING THE HOLOCAUST <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lucy Dawidowicz: <i>The War Against the Jews, 1933-1945</i> (169-222) CP • Poetry by Yankev Glatshteyn, Malka Heiftetz-Tussman, Dan Pagis HD • James E. Young: <i>The Texture of Memory: Holocaust Memorials and Meaning</i> (1-15, 119-154, 335-349) CP • Peter Novick, <u>The Americanization of the Holocaust</u>, pp. 1-15. Access electronic book via Mirlyn (mirlyn.lib.umich.edu)
14 TH Dec. 6 th	JEWISH POLITICS: ZIONISM AND SOCIALISM <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zvi Gitelman: <i>The Emergence of Modern Jewish Politics</i> (3-19) CP • Walter Laquer: <i>A History of Zionism</i> (270-346) CP • Shlomo Avineri: "Moses Hess..." (36-46) CP • S.Y. Agnon's <i>Twenty-One Stories</i> "Agunot" (30-44) CP
15 TH Dec. 13	FINAL 15 – 20 pp. paper due PAPER PRESENTATIONS

REQUIRED BOOKS FOR THIS COURSE ARE AVAILABLE AT SHAMAN DRUM BOOKSTORE (313 S. STATE ST.):

Yerushalm, ZAKHOR

Coursepacks will be available at **AccuCopy** (518 E. William).

Legend:

CP=Coursepack

CT=Course Tools

HD=Handout

UR=University Reserves