

EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
Department of History and Philosophy
HIST 204 Introduction to the History of Judaism
Fall 2016
Pray Harrold 317

Instructor: Mark Whitters
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Webpage: All outlines and handouts found online. **There will generally be no class handouts!! Your course materials will be available via the Canvas course website.**

There are two ways to log on to **Canvas Learning Management System (LMS)**:

- Go to my.emich.edu and log in with your EMU username and password. Click the Canvas LMS box on the right-hand side or bottom of the page to log into your online course materials.
- Go to <http://canvas.emich.edu> and log in with your NetID username and password.

24/7 SUPPORT FOR CANVAS IS OFFERED AT (844) 326-6322.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Introduction to the History of Judaism offers the student an introductory survey of the history of the religious, political, social, and intellectual life of Judaism and the Jewish people. Tracing the development of Judaism from archaic roots in ancient West Asia through its emergence two millennia ago, the course introduces students to the religious ideas and practices of the Hebrew Bible or Old Testament, the development of Jewish religious and social life in antiquity, and its adaptations to Christian, Islamic, medieval, and modern societies, and finally its relation to Zionism and the state of Israel. Foregrounding political and ideological contexts within which Judaism developed and changed, the course will highlight significant persons and groups, religious movements, and the often violent history of opposition to Jews and Judaism. The events of the Holocaust and the foundation of the Jewish state of Israel will be discussed as conditioning factors in contemporary Jewish history.

APPLICABILITY TO DEGREE PROGRAMS

- Satisfies General Education Area 4: Knowledge of the Disciplines—Humanities requirement.
- Required course for the major in Jewish Studies. Counts as Area C course for the various Social Studies & History comprehensive major, or History major or minor.

GENERAL EDUCATION RATIONALE AND EXPECTED OUTCOMES

This General Education course is an introduction to the academic discipline of Jewish Studies. Jewish Studies is an interdisciplinary field that draws on approaches from both the humanities

and the social sciences. Because this course focuses primarily on the questions and methods of the humanities, it counts toward the Knowledge of the Disciplines requirement in the Humanities area. Students in this class will develop their ability to interpret religious and secular texts, as well as other religious expressions, to analyze Judaism and its relationship to the broader world, and to understand Judaism as a historical tradition characterized by diversity, conflict, and creativity. As such, HIST 204 meets the outcomes for a course in the Knowledge of the Disciplines - Humanities category of the General Education Program.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

The Jewish Study Bible. Edited by Adele Berlin. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004.

Efron, John; Weitzman, Steven; Lehmann, Matthias; Holo, Joshua. *The Jews: A History*. 2nd edition; Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson, 2014.

Recommended: Gilbert, Martin. *The Routledge Atlas of Jewish History*. 7th ed. New York: Routledge, 2006. [1994 ed. by Dan Cohn-Sherbok available through Google Books].

Additional readings, documents, and images from websites will be assigned in class and generally posted online at the course website.

COURSE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Class Participation: You will be expected to attend and participate in all class sessions. Attendance means being in your seat and ready to participate at the beginning of the class hour, and remaining in the classroom until the end of the class hour. Late arrival can disrupt the class, so please enter quietly. Departing during class is discouraged. If you have medical or other conditions that may occasionally necessitate late arrival or early departure, alert the instructor. Please do not eat or drink in the classroom, although exemptions for medical reasons are allowed.

At least 2 hours' study will normally be necessary to prepare for each class session. Assigned readings are to be completed before the class hour to which they pertain. Lectures, presentations, and discussions will presuppose familiarity with the readings. Informed participation in the class will be expected at all times.

Academic Integrity: Your conduct in the classroom and in course-related activities should adhere to recognized standards of academic integrity at all times. One important standard for the university is the Student Conduct Code (<http://www.emich.edu/studentconduct/attorneyadvise.html>). The Code describes three significant types of academic dishonesty: cheating, falsification, and plagiarism. These and other varieties of academic dishonesty are unacceptable in this classroom. "Sanctions that can be assigned by a faculty member range from giving a reduced grade on the particular work in question to failing the student for the entire course"

(Academic Dishonesty, sec. V.A). **Copying and pasting from a website or submitting another's work as you own is cheating.**

GRADING POLICY

Grades will be determined from cumulative scores on tests, take-home exercises, class team projects, and class participation. The following are the criteria to pay attention to:

Tests. There will be two tests, worth 20% each. The format and coverage of each test will be explained in a study guide distributed in advance of the test. Failure to take a test in class at the scheduled time results in a course grade of F for the semester.

Projects. There will be two in-class team projects. Cumulatively, the projects will account for 30% of the final grade. These will require advance research and preparation, team cooperation and presentations, individual speeches and cross-examinations, and written accounts of the speeches. Speeches should last 3-4 minutes and transcripts should be 3-4 pages. As the class unfolds, more information will come forth.

Quizzes. There will be a number of weekly in-class quizzes. Cumulatively, the quizzes will account for 15% of the final grade.

Class Participation. 15% of the final grade will be awarded for attending and participating in class.

Extra Credit Points. During the semester, other opportunities for extra credit points arise when EMU sponsors experts and presentations on various topics of interest to our course. The Jewish Studies lecture on 10/25 is one such opportunity.

Final grades for the semester will be based on the following measures:

- 40% Tests
- 30% Projects
- 15% Quizzes
- 15% Class participation

Grading Scale

Letter grades for tests and final grades for the semester will be assigned from the following scale:

Grade	%
A	94
A-	90
B+	87
B	83
B-	80
C+	77
C	73
C-	70
D+	67
D	63
D-	60

F 59-

The University requires use of the grade scale shown above. Note that there is no A+. Unsatisfactory or failing performance receives a grade of F. A grade of I for "Incomplete" may be assigned in unusual circumstances. For University policy concerning grades, and to see the correspondence between letter grades and grade points per credit hour, consult the EMU Undergraduate Catalog 2007-2009, pp. 23-24.

Test Make-up Policy

1. If you know in advance that you will be unable to take a scheduled test, discuss the conflict with the instructor at least five (5) days before the test. Acceptable reasons are: critical medical care for self or minor dependents; death of immediate family member; EMU athletic team travel date. All claims must show written verification.

2. If you unexpectedly become sick, injured, or otherwise unable to take a scheduled test, communicate before deadlines. If this is not possible, initiate contact within 36 hours afterwards. No message, no make-up!

ADDITIONAL POLICIES

Electronic Devices

- Any electronic devices are to be used for coursework and activities related to coursework. Do not use electronic devices for entertainment during in-class sessions.
- Acceptable uses of electronic devices while in class include taking notes, following along with the instructor's demonstrations, and other whole class activities, as well as working on assigned in-class activities, projects, and discussions that require their use.
- Please turn off instant messaging during class time and refrain from playing games on your computer.
- Please turn off cell phones when you are in the classroom.

Reasonable Accommodation

This course aims to work with the Disability Resource Center (DRC), and views disabilities as an integral part of the rich diversity at Eastern Michigan University. To that end, we work collaboratively with students and staff to create an inclusive educational environment for students. **The DRC (www.emich.edu/drc) is available to faculty and students to explore how best to implement accommodations or to think in terms of inclusive course design.**

The DRC acknowledges that classroom and campus accessibility needs and considerations are expanding as more classes and campus experiences incorporate online and technological components. Please contact the DRC through the website or 487-2470 to discuss any course or campus barriers that may be preventing access to education and an equitable campus experience for students.

Religious Holidays

Current University policy recognizes the rights of students to observe religious holidays without penalty to the student. Students will provide advance notice to the instructor in order to make up work, including examinations, missed as a result of their absence from

class to observe religious holidays. If satisfactory arrangements cannot be made with the instructor, the student may appeal to the department head.

Note for our class on Judaism: Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur fall this year on Sun evening-Mon and Tues evening-Wed, so they do not conflict with our class sessions. Sukkot begins on Sun night and ends on the following Sun night. Sigh, again no general conflict....

Subject to Change

The terms and provisions of this syllabus may be changed by the instructor as necessary. Changes that affect students will be announced in class, and in writing at the course web site.

Schedule of Topics, Readings, and Assignments

Week	Date	Topic	The Jews: A History	Other	Due
1 (9/6)	T	Introduction	Chap. 1 (1-26)	Genesis 12, 35	
	Th	Biblical Origins		Exodus 1-4; Leviticus 19; Jeremiah 29, 39	
2 (9/13)	T	People of the Book	Chap. 2	2 Kings 22-23	Quiz 1
	Th			Ezra 7:10-28; Nehemiah 8:1-8; Whitters article on Nehemiah 8	
3 (9/20)	T	Jews & Greeks	Chap. 3	Letter of Aristeas	Quiz 2
	Th			Preface of Sirach	
4 (9/27)	T	Between Caesar & God	Chap. 4	Embassy to Gaius 233; Testament of Moses 9	Quiz 3
	Th			Whitters article on 2 Baruch	
5 (10/4)	T	Temple to Talmud	Chap. 5	Mishnah Avot	Quiz 4
	Th				
6 (10/11)	T	Under the Crescent	Chap. 6	Pact of Umar	Test (20%)
	Th				
7 (10/18)	T				
	Th	Under the Cross	Chap. 7		

8 (10/25)	T				Afoumado lecture, 7:30, McKenny Ballroom
	Th				Project: Under Cross or Crescent: Whom Do We Prefer?
9 (11/1)	T	A Jewish Renaissance	Chap. 8		
	Th				
10 (11/8)	T				
	Th	New Worlds, East & West	Chap. 9	Movie: "Fiddler on the Roof"	Quiz 5
11 (11/15)	T			Oak Park Hasidim Visit?	
	Th		Chap. 10 (pp. 280-86)		
12 (11/22)	T	Modern Transformations	Chap. 11		
	Th	Thanksgiving			
13 (11/29)	T				Project: Who Lived Judaism the Best?
	Th	The Holocaust	Chap. 14		
13 (12/6)	T			Holocaust Museum Visit	
	Th	Into the Present	Chap. 15 (pp. 444-68)	Film: Ushpazin	
14 (12/13)	T				
	Th				Test (20%)

UNDERGRADUATE TEACHING PHILOSOPHY

I began teaching Latin and etymology in 1991 at the University of Detroit-Mercy and at Wayne State University, after I completed my M.A. in classics at The University of Michigan. During further studies in Near Eastern Studies at the University of Minnesota, I also taught for two years in the early '90s, mostly in the history of religion. After completing my Ph.D. in religious studies at The Catholic University of America, I continued my teaching at Wayne State University, and also at Eastern Michigan University as a lecturer in the Department of History and Philosophy in 2001. In 2010-11 I was selected by EMU as the "lecturer of the year." In 2012 I began duties in a newly formed program in Jewish Studies. I regularly teach HIST 100 Comparative Study of Religion, introductory history courses (HIST 101, 102, 109), a freshman seminar in history (HIST 160), and now a course on "Early Judaism" (HIST 304). The Brandeis Center for the Study of Israel invited me to be a fellow in Boston and Jerusalem, Summer 2014. I returned there last Spring for briefings on current conditions in Israel. This past summer EMU Jewish Studies and the EMU Dept of History and Philosophy

paid for me to give a presentation in Prague (Czech Republic) on a significant but tiny minority group in Israel called the Samaritans. This group claims to go back to biblical times.

For many students, enhanced economic opportunity is the most readily apparent benefit from higher education. I hope that my teaching can divert their attention in the direction of deeper and more compelling truths of life, especially when it involves an investigation of the sacred and those who follow traditional religious paths.

Extracurricular outing

If the course schedule permits, we will coordinate visits to the Orthodox neighborhood of Oak Park (northern Detroit area) and/or to the Holocaust Museum in Farmington Hills. This may mean we set up weekend excursions, since Jewish religious activities are often at night and the museum closes by 5 pm on weekdays.

Bibliography

Note: The bibliography of the history of Judaism is vast. The list of books below cites recent works, older works regarded as essential or classic texts, reference works, and guides to reference literature. Web sites and online introductions or guides are not surveyed here. The field of Biblical studies, with its own gigantic literature, is not represented here, because other courses in the program will cover those topics.

Books

- Baron, Salo Wittmayer, ed. *A Social and Religious History of the Jews*. 18 vols. 2nd ed., rev. and enl. New York: Columbia University Press, 1952-83.
- Brenner, Michael. *A Short History of the Jews*. Translated by Jeremiah Riemer. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2010.
- Batnitzky, Leora. *How Judaism Became a Religion—An Introduction to Modern Jewish Thought*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2013.
- Cohn-Sherbok, Dan. *The Paradox of Anti-semitism*. New York: Continuum, 2006.
- Cutter, Charles. *Judaica Reference Sources: A Selective, Annotated Bibliographic Guide*. 3rd rev. and expanded ed. Westport, Conn.: Libraries Unlimited, 2004.
- De Lange, N. R. M. *An Introduction to Judaism*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000. Available through Google Books.
- Dubnow, Simon. *History of the Jews*. 5 vols. Translated by Moshe Spiegel. South Brunswick, N.J.: T. Yoseloff, 1967-73.
- Vol. 1. From the beginning to early Christianity.
- Vol. 2. From the Roman Empire to the early Medieval period.
- Vol. 3. From the later Middle Ages to the Renaissance.
- Vol. 4. From Cromwell's Commonwealth to the Napoleonic Era.
- Vol. 5. From the Congress of Vienna to the emergence of Hitler.
- Encyclopedia Judaica*. 22 vols. Edited by Fred Skolnik and Michael Berenbaum. Detroit: Macmillan Reference USA in association with the Keter Pub. House, 2007.
- Falk, Avner. *Anti-semitism: A History and Psychoanalysis of Contemporary Hatred*. Westport, Conn.: Praeger Publishers, 2008.

- Gilbert, Martin. *The Routledge Atlas of Jewish History*. 7th ed. New York: Routledge, 2006. 1994 ed. by Dan Cohn-Sherbok available through Google Books.
- Graetz, Heinrich. *History of the Jews*. 6 vols. Translated by Bella Löwy and Philipp Bloch. Philadelphia: The Jewish Publication Society of America, 1891-98. Available through Google Books:
- Vol. 1. From the earliest period to the death of Simon the Maccabee (135 BCE).
 - Vol. 2. From the reign of Hyrcanus (135 B.C.E.) to the completion of the Babylonian Talmud (500 C.E.).
 - Vol. 3. From the revolt against the Zendik (511 C.E.) to the capture of the St. Jean d'Acre by the Mahometans (1291 C.E.)
 - Vol. 4. From the rise of the Kabbala (1270 C.E.) to the permanent settlement of the Marranos in Holland (1618 C.E.).
 - Vol. 5. From the Chimielnicki persecution of the Jews in Poland (1648 C.E.) to the present time (1870 C.E.).
 - Vol. 6. Containing a Memoir of the Author by Dr. Philipp Bloch, a Chronological Table of Jewish History, and Index to the Whole Work, and Four Maps.
- Griffiths, David B. *A Critical Bibliography of Writings on Judaism*. 2 vols. Lewiston, N.Y.: Edwin Mellen Press, 1988.
- The Jewish Encyclopedia: A Descriptive Record of the History, Religion, Literature, and Customs of the Jewish People from the Earliest Times to the Present Day*. Edited by Cyrus Adler and others; Isidore Singer, managing editor. 12 vols. New York: Funk and Wagnalls, 1901-06. Reprinted, New York: Ktav Publishing House, ca. 1964.
- Kaplan, Jonathan. *International Bibliography of Jewish History and Thought*. Munich: Saur; Jerusalem: Magnes Press of the Hebrew University, 1984.
- Langmuir, Gavin I. *History, Religion, and Antisemitism*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1990. Available through Google Books.
- Momigliano, Arnaldo. *Essays on Ancient and Modern Judaism*. Edited and with an introduction by Silvia Berti; translated by Maura Masella-Gayley. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1994.
- Neusner, Jacob. *A Short History of Judaism: Three Meals, Three Epochs*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1992. Available through Google Books.
- Schechter, Ronald; and Liz Clarke. *Mendoza the Jew: Boxing, Manliness, and Nationalism. A Graphic Story*. Oxford University Press, 2014.
- Scheindlin, Raymond P. *A Short History of the Jewish People: From Legendary Times to Modern Statehood*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000.
- Weiss, Moshe. *A Brief History of the Jewish People*. Lanham, Md.: Rowman & Littlefield, 2004. Orthodox perspective; no pretense of objectivity. Historically worthless before the Hellenistic period; often uncritical and partisan after that point.

Video (largely American and relevant to our class)

The Chosen

Fiddler on the Roof Pinewood Studios; Buckinghamshire, UK: Norman Jewison, 1971. 181 minutes.

The Footnote Jerusalem: Joseph Cedar, 2011. 107 minutes.

Hasidim in America

The Longest Hatred: The History of Antisemitism. Princeton, N.J.: Films for the Humanities and Sciences, 1991. 151 minutes.

Schindler's List

Ushpazin (The Guests). Jerusalem: Gidi Dar, 2004. 90 minutes.