

Professor Patt  
Spring 2015  
University of Hartford  
MW, 1:30pm-2:45pm

## JS/HIS 216 MODERN JEWISH HISTORY

### Course Description and Goals

What does it mean to be a Jew in the modern world? The vexed question of Jewish identity emerged at the end of the eighteenth century in Europe and has dominated Jewish history throughout the modern period. This course will introduce students to the major social, cultural, religious, and political transformations that shaped the lives of World Jewry from the 17<sup>th</sup> century until the present. We will explore such topics as the nature of traditional Jewish society, emancipation, Jewish diversity, the reform of Judaism, competing political ideologies, Jewish-gentile relations, the rise of modern anti-Semitism, the role of Jewish women, interwar Jewish life and culture, Jewish responses to Nazism and the Holocaust, the creation of the state of Israel, and the situation of Jews in the postwar period.

This course has three main goals:

- to introduce students to the diversity of Jewish politics, culture, and society in the modern period;
- to understand and engage historians' interpretations of the meaning of Jewish history from 1650 to the present;
- to sharpen your skills at reading, writing, discussing, and analyzing.

### REQUIRED TEXTS

1. Paul Mendes-Flohr, Jehuda Reinharz, eds. *The Jew in the Modern World*, 3rd ed.
2. Lloyd P. Gartner, *History of the Jews in Modern Times*.
3. Sholem Aleichem, *Tevye the Dairyman*
4. Primo Levi, *Survival in Auschwitz*

*PLEASE NOTE, ALL ITEMS MARKED WITH A \* WILL BE PLACED ON BLACKBOARD AND ARE **REQUIRED** READING.*

### STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

#### Grading:

1. Informed participation, 10 percent of final grade.  
*If you are not in class, you cannot participate. Please notify me via e-mail or phone if you have to miss class. Readings and discussion in class are considered part of your participation.*  
Complete review questions on the main textbook by Gartner; these will be counted towards your participation grade.
2. Midterm exam on 2/25, 25 percent of the final grade.

3. 2 Short Book critiques. 4-5 page paper on *Tevye the Dairyman* and *Survival in Auschwitz*; due 3/30 and 4/20, 30 percent of the final grade.
4. Final exam, on class assigned date, 25 percent of final grade.
5. Write-ups on special events, 10 percent of final grade.

**OFFICE HOURS:** Mondays, 12-1pm or by appointment.

**PHONE and VOICE MAIL:** 768-4963; **E-mail:** [patt@hartford.edu](mailto:patt@hartford.edu)

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[http://www.hartford.edu/student\\_affairs/files/pdf/source\\_final.pdf](http://www.hartford.edu/student_affairs/files/pdf/source_final.pdf)

## **Schedule**

### **I. Introduction**

**1-21** Introduction: What is Modern Jewish History?

### **II. Continuations of Medieval Jewish Life, 1500-1800**

**1-26** **The Expulsion from Spain and Aftermath; Shulkhan Arukh, Luria, and the Kabbalah**

Lloyd P. Gartner, *History of the Jews in Modern Times*, p. 1-25

**Polish Jewry: 1500-1648 and Life under the Law**

**1-28** **Polish Jewry: The Trauma of the Deluge (1648-60); Messianism and Sabbateanism**

\*Isaac Bashevis Singer, *Excerpts from Satan in Goray*

Lloyd P. Gartner, *History of the Jews in Modern Times*, p. 26-60

**2-2** **Polish Jewry: Hasidism**

Lloyd P. Gartner, *History of the Jews in Modern Times*, p. 60-83.

Primary texts:

\*Lucy Dawidowicz, ed., *The Golden Tradition: Jewish Life and Thought in*

*Eastern Europe*, “Hasid of Inwardness: Simcha Bunim,” (97-99), “Rebbe of Mystery: Menahem Mendel of Kotsk,” (100-107)

\*Excerpts from *In Praise of the Ba'al Shem Tov*

Secondary Literature:

\*Arthur Green, “Hasidism: A Brief Introduction,” *A World Apart Next Door*, The Israel Museum.

### **The Experiences of Jewish Women; The World of the Ghetto**

**\**The Memoirs of Gluckl of Hameln*, p. 1-26, 32-39 (e-reserves)**

\*Chava Weissler, “Prayers in Yiddish and the Religious World of Ashkenazic Women,” in *Jewish Women in Historical Perspective*, edited by Judith Baskin, 169-92, (e-reserves)

## **III. Resettlement in Western Europe, 1500-1800**

### **2-4 The Process of Resettlement, Economic Change, Court Jews**

Amsterdam: A Flourishing Community

Primary Texts:

**The Process of Resettlement, Economic Change and Court Jews in Western Europe**  
Texts: How Profitable the Nation of the Jews Are (p. 9), Declaration Protecting the Interest of Jews Residing in Holland (p. 15), The Appointment of Samson Wertheimer (p. 18), The Writ of Excommunication Against Baruch Spinoza (p. 62), “The Jew Bill” (1753), The Houses of Parliament of Great Britain (p. 26), *The Jew in the Modern World (TJMW)*

## **IV. The Emancipation of Western European Jewry, 1700-1900**

### **2-9 New Views in Western Europe and A Changing World**

#### **German Jewish Emancipation**

Readings: \*Jacob Katz, *Out of the Ghetto: The Social Background of Jewish Emancipation, 1770-1870*, 42-56 (e-reserves).

Lloyd P. Gartner, *History of the Jews in Modern Times*, p. 83-104.

\*Pierre Birnbaum and Ira Katznelson, “Emancipation and the Liberal Offer” in *Paths of Emancipation*

Primary Texts:

Texts by Christian Wilhelm von Dohm, Joseph II, Johann David Michaelis, and Moses Mendelssohn, in *The Jew in the Modern World* (Part I, docs. 9-12, p. 21-42; part II, 15-16, p. 91-96).

## **2-11 The Process of Emancipation**

### **The Process of Emancipation in France**

Primary Texts: The Emancipation of the Jews in France (p. 123-127); Imperial Decree Calling for an Assembly of Jewish Notables; Napoleon's Instructions to the Assembly of Jewish Notables, Answers to Napoleon (p. 148-158), *TJMW*.

## **2-16 Jewish Responses: Tortured Drifting**

Documents on conversion by Joseph von Arnsteiner, Abraham Mendelssohn, Heinrich Heine, Rahel Varnhagen, *TJMW*, 803-808;  
\*Deborah Hertz, "Emancipation through Inter-marriage in Old Berlin," in *Jewish Women in Historical Perspective*, edited by Judith Baskin, 193-207, **e-reserves**  
Lloyd P. Gartner, *History of the Jews in Modern Times*, p. 128-161.

### **Patterns of Religious Adjustment in Western Europe**

## **2-18 Jewish Responses: New Judaism**

Primary Texts: Constitution of the Hamburg Temple, *TJMW*, 182; Documents on Reform Judaism by the Reform Rabbinical Conference at Frankfurt ("The Question of Patriotism," p. 201; "Hebrew as the Language of Prayer," p. 202-205; "The Question of Messianism," p. 207-209; Aaron Chorin, "The Rationale of Reform," p. 211); Zecharias Frankel, "On Changes in Judaism," p. 217-219" Samson Raphael Hirsch, "Religion Allied to Progress," p. 220-224.

## **2-23 Jewish Responses: Wissenschaft des Judentums**

Primary Texts: The Science of Judaism: A Society for the Preservation of the Jewish People, Statutes, *TJMW*, 236-239; Immanuel Wolf, "On the Concept of a Science of Judaism," p. 244-45 and Leopold Zunz, "On Rabbinic Literature," p. 246-253.

### **Jewish Society Transformed**

\*Jacob Katz, *Out of the Ghetto: The Social Background of Jewish Emancipation, 1770-1870*, pp. 196-219, **e-reserves**

## **2-25 MIDTERM EXAM**

## **3-2 Haskalah in Eastern Europe**

Readings: Primary Texts: Alexander I, "Statutes Concerning the Organization of Jews"; Nicholas I, "Statutes Regarding the Military Service of Jews"; Nicholas I, "Delineation of the Pale of Settlement"; "Maskilim to Governors of the Pale," "A Jewish Program for Russification"; Judah Leib Gordon, "Awake My People!"; Society for the Promotion of Culture Among Jews; *The Jew in the Modern World*. p. 350-364.

Eastern Europe, 1815-1881

Lloyd P. Gartner, *History of the Jews in Modern Times*, p. 162-190.

### **3-4            The Crisis in Eastern Europe, 1881-1914**

*Start Reading Tevye the Dairyman*

### **3-9            Pogroms**

Texts: The Massacre of the Jews at Kishinev, The Beilis Trial, An Expert Opinion in Support of the Ritual Blood Accusation, *TJMW*, p. 388-393.

\*Isaac Babel, "The Story of My Dovecot," in *Jewish-American Stories*, ed. Irving Howe, 26-36, **e-reserves**

Lloyd P. Gartner, *History of the Jews in Modern Times*, p. 238-248.

### **3-11          Modern A-S and Nationalism**

Discontent with the New Society: The New Political and Racial Antisemitism

Primary Texts: Readings from the major anti-Semitic theorists, *TJMW*, Karl Marx, "On the Jewish problem,"; Richard Wagner, "Jewry in Music,"; Wilhelm Marr, "The Victory of Judaism Over Germandom,"; Karl Duehring, "The Question of the Jew is a Question of Race," (p. 300-308); Drumont, "Jewish France,"; Adolf Stoecker, "What We Demand of Modern Jewry," (p.315-319), Houston Stewart Chamberlain, "The Foundations of the Nineteenth Century," (p. 333-336), "Protocols of the Elders of Zion," (p. 339-342).

\*Michael A. Meyer, *Jewish Identity in the Modern World*, chapter on Antisemitism, 33-58, **e-reserves**

Lloyd P. Gartner, *History of the Jews in Modern Times*, p. 213-238.

### **The Dreyfus Affair**

"J' Accuse," *TJMW*, 351-56

### **SPRING BREAK, 3/16-3/20**

### **3-23          New Options: The Great Migration**

Primary Texts: Jewish Immigration into the United States: 1881-1948, The Russian Jew in America, *TJMW*, (p. 532-535), Isaac M. Rubinow, "The Economic Condition of the Jew in NYC," p. 541-542); Louis Brandeis, "Zionism is Consistent with American Patriotism," (p. 555-556); Solomon Schechter, "Catholic Israel" and Mordecai Kaplan, "The Reconstruction of Judaism," (p.558-561).

\*Emma Lazarus, "The New Colossus"

\*Abraham Cahan, excerpts from *Yekl*

\*Anzia Yezierska, "Children of Loneliness," in Chametzky, p. 233-244 **e-**

**reserves**

Lloyd P. Gartner, *History of the Jews in Modern Times*, p. 201-212; 258-266.

**3-25**

**New Options: The Socialist Utopia**

Primary Texts: Decisions on the Nationality Question, The Jews are Not a Nation, *TJMW*, p. 399-402

\*I.L. Peretz, *Bontsha the Silent*

**New Options: The Zionist Dream**

Primary Texts: Documents on Zionism, *TJMW*, "The BILU Manifesto," (588); Leo Pinsker, "Auto-Emancipation," (p. 589); Eliezer Ben-Yehuda, "The Revival of Hebrew," (p. 597-598); Theodor Herzl, "A Solution of the Jewish Question," (p. 599-603); "The Basle Program" (p. 605); Ahad Ha'am, "The First Zionist Congress," (p. 606-608); Ber Borochov, "Program for Proletarian Zionism (p. 626-628); Yitzhak Epstein, "The Hidden Question," (p.631-635);

\*Steven Bayme, *Understanding Jewish History: Texts and Commentaries*, 332-344, **e-reserves**

Lloyd P. Gartner, *History of the Jews in Modern Times*, p. 248-258.

**3-30**

**Tradition and Change in Eastern Europe**

Readings: Sholem Aleichem, *Tevye the Dairyman* (**Book critique due**)

**VI. World War I and Its Aftermath: 1914-1939**

**4-1**

**WWI, Bolshevik Revolution, Interwar Europe**

Lloyd P. Gartner, *History of the Jews in Modern Times*, p. 267-304.

Texts: Emancipation by the March Revolution, The Liquidation of Bourgeois Jewish Institutions,

Birobidzhan: Jewish Autonomous Region, *TJMW*, 409-414

Visit the website "*When these streets heard Yiddish*":

<http://epyc.yivo.org/home.php>

**4-6**

**Palestine: A New Jewish Society**

Lloyd P. Gartner, *History of the Jews in Modern Times*, p. 333-346.

Primary Texts: Documents on Zionism, *TJMW*, "The Balfour Declaration," (p. 660-662), Vladimir Jabotinsky, "What the Zionist-Revisionists Want," (p. 671-674); David Frankel, "Kibbutz Hakhsharah: A Memoir" (p. 681-682); David Ben-Gurion, "On the Arab Question," (p. 686-690); Jabotinsky, "Jewish Needs vs. Arab Claims," (p. 690-692); "The Peel Commission Report," (p. 693-694); "White Paper of 1939" (p. 694-698); "The Biltmore Program" (p.698-699); Haim Hazaz, "The Sermon," (p. 700-702)

\*Tom Segev, *One Palestine Complete: Jews and Arabs under the British Mandate*, 314-27, **e-reserves**

4-8

**Western Europe: Germany and the Rise of the Nazis**

Lloyd P. Gartner, *History of the Jews in Modern Times*, p. 304-318

Primary Texts: Documents on Nazi Germany, *TJMW*, Adolf Hitler, "A Letter on the Jewish Question," "Mein Kampf," Robert Weltsch, "Wear the Yellow Badge with Pride," "First Racial Definition," "Decrees Excluding Jews from German Cultural and Public Life," "Proclamation of the *Reichsvertretung*," "Why the Nuremburg Laws," "The Nuremburg Laws," (p. 716-731), "Kristallnacht," (p. 737-739), Adolf Hitler, "A Prophecy of Jewry's Annihilation," (p. 742-744); "Protocols of the Wannsee Conference," (p. 751-754); Chaim Kaplan, "A Warsaw Ghetto Diary," Janusz Korczak, "Warsaw Ghetto Memoirs," "Call to Resistance," Mordecai Anielewicz, "Last Communication," Emmanuel Ringelblum, "Last Letter from Warsaw," (p. 755-767).

**VII.**

**The Holocaust**

4-13

**Major themes in the history of the Holocaust**

View one on-line exhibition on the Holocaust at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum website, print it out and bring to class, and be prepared to discuss how it illuminates a major theme in the history of the Holocaust;  
<http://www.ushmm.org/museum/exhibit/online/>

4-15

**Jewish Experiences in the Shoah**

Readings: Lloyd P. Gartner, *History of the Jews in Modern Times*, p. 347-395.  
\*Primo Levi, *Survival in Auschwitz*

Film: View film from distributed list outside of class.

**RESPONSE PAPER on Jewish Experiences in the Shoah DUE, 4/20**

**VIII.**

**The Postwar World**

4-20 and 4-22 Israel

Lloyd P. Gartner, *History of the Jews in Modern Times*, p. 421-437.

\*David Biale, *Power and Powerlessness in Jewish History*, 145-76, e-reserves

\*S. Yizhar, "The Prisoner"

4-27 and 4-29 America: 350 Years of Jewish Settlement

View the exhibit, "From Haven to Home: 350 Years of Jewish Life in America," on line at <http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/haventohome/> . Print out one image, and be prepared to discuss it artifact and what it illuminates about the American Jewish experience.

Lloyd P. Gartner, *History of the Jews in Modern Times*, p. 322-33; 409-420.

**FINAL EXAMINATION ON CLASS ASSIGNED DATE**

There are at least 12 special events, films, lectures, and performances on campus which you are required to do a write up for at **least five events** for the course. This “write-up” is a 1-2 page assessment and analysis of what the lecture/event was about and the point the lecturer/event was trying to make. **The write-ups are worth a total of 10% of your final grade.** The write ups must be typed and handed in by the next week of classes or they will be downgraded one grade for every week that it is late. **You will receive 10% of the grade on informed participation.** You may submit other write ups for extra credit or in place of an existing grade.

### **Spring 2015 special events**

1. **Tuesday, February 3, 7 p.m.** Mali II Auditorium, Charles Dana Hall  
*Archaeology and the Holocaust: New Discoveries from the University of Hartford's Projects in Rhodes, Greece, Richard Freund*
2. **Thursday, February 12, 7:30 p.m.,** Solomon Schechter Day School, 26 Buena Vista Road, West Hartford, The Regina Miller Jewish Education Lecture  
**Andrea Kasper**, Head of School, Solomon Schechter Day School of Greater Hartford  
*“The Jewish Imperative: Creativity”*
3. **Thursday, February 19<sup>th</sup>– 12:15 – 1:45 p.m.** Auerbach Auditorium – Hillyer Hall  
Lunch (Brown Bag) and Viewing in Honor of Black History Month  
Film: *Brother Outsider: the Life of Bayard Rustin*
4. **Thursday, February 19, 7 p.m.** Auerbach Auditorium – Hillyer Hall  
**The Life and Legacy of Bayard Rustin**  
**Panel Discussion, Walter Naegle** Executor and archivist of the Bayard Rustin Estate. **Warren Goldstein** History Department, University of Hartford **Paula Austin** Jackie McClean Fellow, University of Hartford
5. **Tuesday, February 24, 7 p.m., Auerbach Auditorium,**  
**The JDC at 100: A Century of Impact, Ted Comet** Joint Distribution Committee, New York City; Film screening of rare archival footage
6. **March 2, 2015 7 p.m. Gillman Theater, Mandell JCC**  
The Mandell JCC Jewish Book Festival  
*The New Diaspora: The Changing Landscape of American Jewish Fiction*  
2014 Wallant Award Ceremony with **David Bezmozgis, The Betrayers (2014)**  
**Tickets are necessary For reservations and additional information about this event, please visit [www.mandelljcc.org](http://www.mandelljcc.org).**
7. **Tuesday, March 17, Mandell JCC Jewish Film Festival, [www.hjff.org](http://www.hjff.org)**  
Tribute: Observations on Survival and Spirit, *RUN BOY RUN*  
7:00 PM, Reel Talk and Reception Follow Film – “Behind the Sacred Screen and Stage”  
*with Mona Golabek and Dark Tresnjak*
8. **Tuesday, March 24, 2015, 7 p.m. “Why Jewish Genes Matter”**  
**Shari Ungerleider**, Project Coordinator, Jewish Genetic Disease Consortium  
*The Jewish Genetic Disease Consortium (JGDC) increases awareness about Jewish genetic diseases (JGDs) and encourages timely and appropriate genetic screening for all persons of Jewish heritage.*
9. **Monday, March 30, 7 p.m.,** Wilde Auditorium, Harry Jack Gray Center, University of Hartford, Lillian Margulies Singer Jewish Humor Lecture “*When Jews Were Funny*” will be followed a performance of the improv group “*Stop Laughing Mom*”
10. **Thursday, April 16, 2015, 7 p.m.,** University of Hartford, Wilde Auditorium, Harry Jack Gray Center

**Jeremy Eichler**, Music Critic, *Boston Globe*, “*The Music of the Jewish Refugees*”

**Rachel Abrams**, *Hartford Opera Theater* vocal performance

**11. Friday, May 1, 2015, 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.**, The Hartford Seminary, 77 Sherman Street, Hartford, CT, The Middle East Teachers’ Workshop

**12. Monday, May 4, 7 p.m.** Wilde Auditorium, Harry Jack Gray Center, University of Hartford, The Greenberg Center’s Annual Awards Evening