

History of Antisemitism
RE/JS 297
Fall Semester 2011
M/W 2:30-3:45

Instructor: Linda Maizels
Taught at: Colby College
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Course Description:

This course will trace the development of antisemitism from ancient times until the present. We will begin by examining the origins of the word “antisemitism” and discovering why the term is considered to be problematic in academic circles. We will also discuss the difficulty of assigning a simple definition to a phenomenon that has been referred to as “the longest hatred.” The course will continue by outlining various stages in the expression of animosity toward Jews in different time periods and by diverse cultures. The aim of the course is to build historical knowledge of the changing nature of antisemitism through reading a myriad of secondary sources and examining primary documents and other media in order to understand how animosity directed against Jews has been influential in shaping aspects of western culture.

Required Texts:

- Albert S. Lindemann and Richard Levy, eds.: *Antisemitism: A History*
- Raymond Scheindlin: *A Short History of the Jewish People*
- Gavin Langmuir: *Toward A Definition of Antisemitism* (also available as an e-text)
- OTHER TEXTS: Can be found online on the Moodle class website.

Methods of Assessment:

Regular attendance will help you to succeed in this course, and I will pass around an attendance sheet at every class. This means that you are expected to be punctual and to remain for the entire class period. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to catch up on the material with the help of one of your classmates. You are allowed two absences without penalty. More frequent absences will ultimately affect your grade.

You must complete the assigned readings before coming to class and should be prepared to discuss them. Thoughtful and informed participation in class is expected. If you have some difficulty with speaking in class, please come to see me as soon as possible.

Students should log on to Moodle to access discussion questions, instructions for all papers and assignments, any additional readings, and all primary source documents. Primary source documents should be printed out and brought to the class session in which they will be discussed. While I have tried to give a detailed listing in the syllabus of the primary documents for each class, sometimes I do make changes. I will try to let you know about this in advance.

One method of preparing for class is to use the discussion questions in conjunction with class readings. Responses to discussion questions are NOT to be handed in to the instructor – they are a learning aid to assist you, and you can make the decision to use them or not.

All assignments will be submitted at the beginning of class on the given due date in hard copy form. Late papers and papers sent by e-mail will NOT be accepted.

You will be responsible for three short papers as well as an in-class test and either a final or a final paper. Due dates are listed on the syllabus and on our Moodle site. Further information about these assignments will be given in class and will also be posted on the class website.

Participation/Attendance	10%
First Paper	15%
Second Paper	15%
Third Paper	15%
Test	20%
Final/Final Paper	25%

Obviously, all assignments submitted to me, including both essays and tests, should be your own original work. Students who plagiarize material or cheat on tests will fail the class. If you have any questions about what constitutes an act of academic dishonesty, please do not hesitate to consult with me or with another faculty member or librarian.

If there are relevant extracurricular lectures or events pertaining to the subject, a student may get extra credit if he or she attends and then writes a two-page response paper on the event. Only one extra credit paper allowed per student. All events or lectures must first be cleared with the instructor to qualify for extra credit.

Care and Feeding of your Professor:

You are not bothering me when you stop by during office hours or make an appointment to meet with me – a big part of my job is helping *you*. You are always welcome to come by with a problem, a question or a concern. However, do not forget that it is always better to come to see me **BEFORE** you have an issue with the class. You are also cordially invited to drop by to tell me that everything is just fine. I get lonely when I sit by myself during office hours.

Course Schedule:

Section I: Definitions

9/7: Introduction. Who is a Jew?

Readings: Lindemann & Levy, Introduction and chapter 1.

Optional: De Lange, "The Jews in the World."

9/12: What is antisemitism? Part 1

Readings: Halpern, "What is Antisemitism?" Lewis, "Semites." Chanes, "A Note on the Spelling and Usage of 'Antisemitism'"

9/14: What is antisemitism? Part 2

Readings: Langmuir, chapter 14.

FIRST PAPER ASSIGNED

Section II: Antiquity and Medieval Europe

9/19: Anti-Jewish sentiment in the ancient world

Readings: Lindemann and Levy, chapter 2. Scheindlin, Introduction and chapters 1 & 2.

Primary Texts: Manetho, Exodus 1:1-1:22, Esther 3:1-3:15

9/21: Religiously-based anti-Jewish tendencies in early Christianity

Readings: Lindemann and Levy, chapter 3. Scheindlin, chapter 3.

Primary Texts: Matthew 27:24-25, John Chrysostom, St. Ambrose

FIRST PAPER DUE

9/26: The Jews of medieval Europe

Readings: Lindemann and Levy, chapter 4. Scheindlin, pp. 97-112.

Primary Texts: "The Privilegium of Rudiger given to the Jews of Speyer, 1084" "Crusade Chronicle of Shlomo bar Shimshon"

Visual: *Judensau, Ecclesia and Synagoga*

9/28: Guest speaker Véronique Plesch

Readings: Not Only Against Jews: "Antisemitic Iconography and its Functions at La Brigue," from *Studies in Iconography* 23, 2002. **TO BE HANDED OUT IN CLASS**

10/3: Ritual Murder

Readings: Langmuir, chapters 9 & 13.

Primary Texts: "The Accusation of the Ritual Murder of St. William of Norwich"

10/5: From blood libel to purity of blood

Readings: Scheindlin, chapter 4, pp.112-121. Yerushalmi, "Assimilation and Racial Anti-Semitism: The Iberian and the German Models."

Primary Texts: "My Heart is in the East," "The Poet Refuses an Invitation to Drink," "The Massacre of the New Christians of Lisbon"

10/10: NO CLASS

10/12: Late medieval/early modern Europe

Readings: Lindemann and Levy, chapter 5. Scheindlin, chapter 7.

Primary Texts: “Edict of Tolerance,” “Martin Luther and the Jews,” “The Cossack Revolt and the Fall of Nemirov”

10/17: TEST

Section III: Modernity

10/19: Mercantilism

Readings: Lindemann and Levy, chapter 6. Muller “The Long Shadow of Usury: Capitalism and the Jews in Modern European Thought.”

Primary Texts: “On the Jewish Problem”

Film clip: *Merchant of Venice*

10/24: Enlightenment and Emancipation in Western Europe

Readings: Lindemann and Levy, chapter 7.

Primary Texts: “Philosophical Dictionary” “Debate on the Eligibility of Jews for Citizenship”

10/26: “Judeophobia” in Eastern Europe

Readings: Scheindlin, chapter 8. Klier “German Antisemitism and Russian Judeophobia in the 1880s: Brothers and Strangers”

Primary Texts: “Statutes Concerning the Organization of the Jews,” “Statutes Regarding the Military Service of Jews,” “Delineation of the Pale of Settlement:”

10/31: Modern and racial antisemitism

Readings: Lindemann and Levy, chapters 8, 9, 10.

Primary Texts: “The Victory of Jewry over Germandom” “The Jews Against France”

SECOND PAPER ASSIGNED

11/2: Eastern Europe, Russia, and the Soviet Union

Readings: Lindemann and Levy, chapters 11 and 14. Muller, “Communism, Anti-Semitism, and the Jews.”

Primary Texts: “The Beilis Trial,” “Awaiting a Pogrom,” “The Massacre of the Jews at Kishinev”

11/7: The Protocols of the Elders of Zion

Readings: Bronner, “The Tale of a Forgery: Inventing the Protocols.”

Primary Texts: “Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion”

SECOND PAPER DUE

Section IV: Nazism

11/9: Holocaust, part 1

Readings: Scheindlin, chapter 9. Bauer, “Comparisons with Other Genocides.”

Primary Texts: “The Discovery of Antisemitism in Vienna,” “The International Jew and the International Stock Exchange – Guilty of the World War,” “Speech to the Great German Reichstag”

11/14: Holocaust, part 2

Readings: Lindemann and Levy, chapter 12.

Primary Texts: Rudolf Hoess

Images: “The Antisemitic Tradition in the Visual Arts”

Film clips: *Der Ewige Jew* (*The Eternal Jew*)

11/15: Extra Credit Opportunity

Shown at 4:30 pm. Location TBA.

Film: *Jud Süß*

Section V: Islam

11/16: The Crescent and the Cross: A comparison of Jewish life under Islam and Christianity

Readings: Cohen, “Islam and the Jews: Myth, Counter-Myth and History.” Ye’or, “Islam and the *Dhimmis*.” *Optional:* Re-read Scheindlin, chapter 4.

Primary Texts: Selections from the Koran, “The Pact of Omar” “Sefer HaKabbalah,” “Dereshot HaRan”

11/21: Islam and the Jews

Readings: Lindemann and Levy, chapter 13. Scheindlin, chapter 6 & 10.

Primary Texts: “Al-Malik al- \square \square lih’s Decree Against the *Dhimmis*” “The Lot of the Jews in Early Alawid Morocco” “A Plea for Aid in the Damascus Affair”

Section VI: Post-World War II

11/28: Holocaust Denial

Readings: Lipstadt, “Canaries in the Mine: Holocaust Denial and the Limited Power of Reason”

Primary Texts: “The Holocaust Controversy: The Case for Open Debate”

THIRD PAPER ASSIGNED

11/30: Antisemitism and Anti-Zionism

Readings: Lindemann and Levy, chapter 15. Scheindlin, chapter 11.

Primary Texts: Selections from the Middle East Media Research Institute (MEMRI), “Palestinian Children Meat”

12/5: Other Antisemitisms

Readings: Bauer, “Problems of Contemporary Antisemitism”

Primary Texts: Selections from the *Turner Diaries* and the *Secret Relationship between Blacks and Jews*

THIRD PAPER DUE

12/7: Conclusions: Is there a “New Antisemitism”?

Readings: Lindemann and Levy, Conclusion. Scheindlin, Afterword. Greenspan, “The New Anti-Semitism”

12/14: FINAL