Hist/JS 409  History of the Jews in the Modern Era

Fall semester, 2018    Mondays and Wednesdays, 11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.    Sierra Hall 186

Instructor
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Course Description
This course presents you with opportunities to learn the history of Jews from the seventeenth century until the present. It emphasizes events in Europe and the Middle East, the regions where the vast majority of Jews lived until the mid-twentieth century. Our key themes are power and politics, migration, anti-Semitism and the Holocaust, nationalism, and religious change.

Student Learning Objectives – at the end of this course, you will be able to
• show knowledge of the major events and cultural features of Jewish life in different international settings from 1600 to the present;
• demonstrate familiarity with the political geography of the Mediterranean, European, and Americas with reference to Jewish settlement and migratory movements;
• describe the forces within Jewish society and outside of Jewish society that led to the complex and multifaceted forms of modern Jewish identity; and
• analyze primary source documents to assess their historical value and glean historically reliable information from them.

Required Reading
2. Documents and chapters posted on course Canvas to print and bring to class.
3. Maps in the textbook and posted on Canvas

Graded Assignments
Reading Quizzes = 25% of grade. These are based on the assigned reading and reading questions (given in advance). When you walk into the room, you will pick up the quiz, complete it, and turn it in at 11:08 a.m. 25 are scheduled, and your top 22 are counted.
Six map quizzes = 15% of grade. Blank quiz maps are supplied in advance.
Three take-home writing assignments = 30% of course grade.
A midterm and a final = 30% of course grade.

All work prepared outside of class must credit sources and be free of capitalization errors, spelling errors, and incomplete sentences. Grades will reflect this expectation.

Grading scale
A+  98-100  (A+ only for map quizzes)  B-  80-82
A   93-97   B   83-87
A-  90-92   C   78-79
B+  88-89   C+  77-79
B   83-87   C   68-69
C-  70-72
D-  60-62
F   59 and below
Attendance. This is required, because so much of the learning in this course occurs through class exercises, discussions, and lectures. Class time is used to guide you in producing excellent written work. After three absences, your course grade will be lowered 5% for each additional day’s absence.

Make-ups. This is relevant only for in-class reading and map quizzes, and the midterm. Because attendance is required, make-ups will be granted only in the cases of emergencies, which include severe illness requiring doctor’s visit or hospitalization, or death in the family; these must be documented in writing. College-excused events must be approved ahead of time.

Late work Late papers will be marked down one-third of a grade (e.g., from an A to an A-) per day, and the penalty starts accruing at 11:15 a.m. on the due date. This applies to lateness for any reasons. It is a good idea to notify the instructor if you know you will be submitting late work.

Academic Honesty. All students are subject to the University policy on Academic Honesty. You can find this in the Catalog. My definition of plagiarism is stricter, because I do not care about your intention. Cheating and plagiarism as I have defined it in the course will have serious grade consequences and will be reported to the Office of Student Affairs.

Respect and Communication. Respectful behavior towards all other participants during class discussions and activities is required. This includes placing all cell phones in the OFF position, and removal of earpieces or headphones, before entry into the classroom space. Write all correspondence in a professional manner. Emails must include a salutation (i.e., “Dear Dr. Myers,”), a brief (2-3 sentence) message that begins with your primary reason for contacting the instructor, and signed with your first and last name (e.g., "Signed, Marco Polo"). Use your CSUN email account. Do not include shorthand, slang, or unnecessary abbreviations.

California State University adheres to the philosophy that all community members should enjoy an environment free of any form of harassment, sexual misconduct, discrimination, or intimate partner violence. If you have been the victim of sexual misconduct, I encourage you to report this. If you report this to me or any other faculty/staff member, we must notify our university’s Title IX coordinator about the basic facts of the incident (you may choose to request confidentiality from Title IX coordinator). If you encounter sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, sexual assault, or discrimination based on race, color, religion, age, national origin, ancestry, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability, contact Susan Hua, Campus Title IX Coordinator, (818) 677-2077, University Hall 285, E-Mail: equityanddiversity@csun.edu.

Disability Accommodations. Students with disability and need accommodations are welcome in this classroom. You must first register with the Disability Resources and Educational Services (DRES) office or the National Center on Deafness (NCOD). The DRES office is in Bayramian Hall, room 110 and can be reached at (818) 677-2684. NCOD is located on Bertrand Street in Jeanne Chisholm Hall and can be reached at (818) 677-2054. I am happy to speak to you confidentially about your approved accommodations.
Course Schedule. This schedule of assignments may be superseded by the Course Canvas page. There will be a reading quiz every class meeting. Assigned documents and non-textbook reading are posted on Canvas. Maps are on Canvas unless otherwise noted.

1) Monday and Wednesday, August 27 and 29  
Introduction to the syllabus, the course, and each other. Early Modern Europe: Jews in the 17th century Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth

Reading for Monday (in class, no quiz): An Accident and its Consequences (handout).

Reading for Wednesday: Course syllabus; The Jews, 234-244 (textbook); A Partial Listing of Jewish Ritual Obligations; Articles of Jewish Belief. Map: Jewish Communities in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth (The Jews, 235)

2) Wednesday, September 5  (Monday is Labor Day)
Early Modern Europe: Sephardic Jews and conversos in NW Europe and the Atlantic Trade

Reading for Wednesday: The Jews, 203-204, 213-216, 247-256; Menasseh ben Israel, How Profitable the Nation of the Jews Are. Maps: Expulsion and Migration of Jews from Western Europe (in The Jews, 204); 1700 Europe, North Africa, and the Middle East; The Jewish Traders of Amsterdam

3) Wednesday, September 12 (no class on Monday due to Rosh Ha-Shana)
Early Modern Mediterranean and Middle Eastern lands. Map quiz #1.

Reading for Wednesday: The Jews, 217-224; An Italian Jew Describes the Revival of Safed; The Jews of Marrakesh. Map: Jews under Turkish Rule

4) Monday, September 17 (no class on Wednesday due to Yom Kippur)
The Enlightenment, perceptions of Jews, political stirrings in Western and Central Europe

Reading for Monday: The Jews, 244-246 (political changes in Central Europe); 259-260 (general remarks); 267-272 (political changes, perceptions of Jews); Abbe Gregoire’s Essay

5) Monday, September 24 (online) and Wednesday, September 26 (in class)
Revolutionary era and 1800s Western and Central Europe.

Reading for Monday: The Jews, 272-275 (on France); Debate on the Eligibility of Jews

Reading for Wednesday: The Jews, 275-280 (Anglophone world, South and Central Europe); Letter of a Citizen to His Fellow Jews. Maps: Emancipation of European Jewry 1790-1918 (in The Jews, 278); another map of Emancipation of the European Jews; three maps to compare: Europe in 1700 - Europe in 1800 - Europe in 1815
6) **Monday, October 1 (online) and Wednesday, October 3 (in class)**
Revolutionary era and 1800s Russian Empire and Austria-Hungary (Eastern and East Central Europe)

Reading for Monday: *The Jews*, 288 (Partitions of Poland); 281-285 (Russian Jewry). *Maps*: Partitions of Poland (Canvas) and the maps above for week 5

Reading for Wednesday: Kotik, “My Town”  Map quiz #2.

7) **Monday and Wednesday, October 8 and 10**
New European Jewish religious denominations

Reading for Monday: *The Jews*, 289-295 (Hasidism and Misnagdism); The Rebbe of Lubavitch Bests Count Uvarov, Hasidic Spiritual Eating Practices

Reading for Wednesday: *The Jews*, 300-304; 317-322; The Light of Splendor; Last Will and Testament; On Changes in Judaism

8) **Monday and Wednesday, October 15 and 17**
Urbanization and antisemitism  Map quiz #3

Reading for Monday: *The Jews*, 325-329, 329-334. The Question of the Jew is a Question of Race

Reading for Wednesday: *The Jews*, 334-345; Protocols of the Elders of Zion

9) **Monday and Wednesday, October 22 and 24**
Economic and political movements

Reading for Monday: *The Jews*, 345-348; onThe Alliance Israelite Universelle

Reading for Wednesday: *The Jews*, 348-356 (stop at “Zionist Culture”); A Solution of the Jewish Question, by Theodore Herzl; Jewry of Muscle, by Max Nordau

10) **Monday and Wednesday, October 29 and 31**
1700s-1900s: U.S. Jews

Monday: in-class midterm

Reading for Wednesday: *The Jews*, 276-277 (Jews in colonial and revolutionary U.S.), 359-364, Yiddish and the Future of American Jewry; English and Hebrew Must be the Languages
11) Monday and Wednesday, November 5 and 7

Reading for Monday: *The Jews*, 280; *The Jews*, 304; Middle Eastern and North African Jewries Confront Modernity; Europe in the Middle East (pp. 19 until the yellow dot on p. 25);

Reading for Wednesday: *The Jews*, 401-405; A Letter from the Alliance Israélite to Rabbi Raphael Abensur of Fez Requesting His Help in Combating Child Marriage; A Baghdadi Rabbi Decries the Decline of Traditional Morals; Jews of Baghdad Petition for British Citizenship. *Map*: Ottoman Empire 1798-1923. Find a good map for the whole Mediterranean and Middle East after 1923

12) Monday and Wednesday, November 12 and 14
Interwar era in Europe, politics and cultural life

Reading for Monday: *The Jews*, 371-381

Reading for Wednesday: *The Jews*, 381-390  Find documents

13) Monday, November 19 (no class on Wednesday, November 21)
1930s in Germany.

Reading for Monday: *The Jews*, 408-423 (focus on Germany), *The Holocaust in History*, chapter 2. *Map*: The Flight from German Persecution, 1933-1941

14) Monday and Wednesday, November 26 and 28
World War II and the Shoah. Map quiz #5


15) Monday and Wednesday, December 3 and 6
Jews in post-war Europe, US, and in Muslim lands. Map quiz #6


Reading for Wednesday: Europe in the Middle East (from the yellow dot to the end); Iraq; Egypt and Sudan; Morocco
16) Monday, December 10
Late 20th century: Jews in southern hemisphere, migrations of Jews from Iran and former FSU migrations

Reading for Monday: The Jews, 478-480; Orthodoxy and Ultra-Orthodoxy after World War II