

History 510:372

Laurie Bernstein

Class in 429 Cooper, #104: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11 am – 12:20 pm

Office hours in 429 Cooper, #202: Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:30-10:30 am; Tuesdays
3:00-3:30 pm; and by appointment

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Syllabus on Modern Jewish History

This is an upper-division course that will treat European Jewish history chronologically from the Jewish emancipation of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries through and beyond the Holocaust. The bulk of the work for this class will involve in-class analyses of primary sources and consideration of the main questions that historians ask about European Jewry in the modern era:



How did Jews attempt to find their way in various European states during specific historical moments? How did antisemitism affect their experiences? How did Jews try to resolve the tensions between assimilation and the preservation of their traditions? Requirements include weekly comments on the readings, written summaries of recent secondary sources, a midterm, a quiz, and a final exam.

Available at bookstore:

Paul Mendes-Flohr & Jehuda Reinharz, eds., *The Jew in the Modern World: A Documentary History*, **Third Edition** (New York: Oxford University Press, 2010) ISBN 0195389069

Lloyd Gartner, *History of the Jews in Modern Times* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2001) ISBN 0192892592

Howard Jacobson, *The Finkler Question* (New York: Bloomsburg, 2010) ISBN 9781408809938

Requirements:

Conduct, attendance, and participation (10 points)

Students are expected to attend every class, to arrive on time, to come prepared in terms of the reading and writing assignments, and to participate in class discussions. If students use mobile devices in class, they are expected to use them *only* for taking notes or viewing materials for the course that are posted on Sakai. There are no excused absences. Courtesy dictates that students who cannot attend a scheduled class should let me know via email or voicemail prior to that class.

Written comments on each week's assigned reading in the text (10 points)

At the beginning of each unit (specific dates are marked on the syllabus), students are to bring to that day's class a double-spaced and typewritten paper that (1) puts something particularly striking from the assigned chapter in Gartner *in their own words with page references inside parentheses*; (2) contains a brief comment on the issue at hand; and (3) asks one specific question about a relevant historical problem from the chapter. Each short paper that adheres to all the guidelines will receive one full point. If students are absent, I will accept their papers, so long as the comments arrive *prior* to the start of that day's class. There are 13 opportunities to earn these points, i.e., students may earn additional credit by writing more than 10 comments.

Written summaries of each week's assigned secondary source (40 points)

One peer-reviewed secondary source is part of each week's required reading. On the dates marked in the syllabus, students will show their familiarity with that week's assigned essay by turning in via Sakai Assignments a two-three-page essay that (1) places the author's main argument in their own words; (2) comments on the main primary sources used by the author; and (3) steps back from the article in order to put it in perspective with regard to issues of Jewish history. Only essays submitted as attachments via Sakai Assignments *prior* to the class on which they are due will count. Students can earn up to 4 points for each paper. Detailed instructions for this paper are posted on Sakai. There are 12 opportunities to turn in these papers: I will count the 10 highest grades.

Midterm examination (10 or 20 points, depending on whether grade is higher than grade on final exam – higher grade receives higher credit)

Quiz on Jacobson (10 points)

Final examination (10 or 20 points, depending on whether grade is higher than midterm exam – higher grade receives higher credit)

When you complete this course you will have learned:

The basic contours of modern Jewish history

How religious and modern antisemitism affected the Jewish historical experience

Origins of the state of Israel

The factors that have influenced modern Jewish self-definition(s)

How historians treat primary and secondary sources

Tuesday, January 19

Introduction to the course and its requirements

Thursday, January 21

Read Gartner, Chapter One – **“The Heritage of Medieval Judaism”**

Read on Sakai Resources: Salo W. Baron, “Ghetto and Emancipation” (1928), reprinted in Leo Schwarz, ed. *The Menorah Treasury* (Philadelphia, PA: JPS, 1973), 50-63.

Read these documents on Sakai Resources:

Jan 21-Expulsion from France (1182)

Jan 21-Black Death (1349)

Jan 21-Luther (1543)

By 11 am, bring your paper on Gartner, Chapter One, *and* turn in via Sakai Assignments your summary of the Baron article.

Tuesday, January 26

Read Gartner, Chapter Two – **“Glimmerings of a New Age”**

Read this document on Sakai Resources:

Jan 26-Chmielnicki

Read these documents in Mendes-Flohr & Reinharz:

I.1 Menasseh Ben Israel, “How Profitable the Nation of the Jews Are,” 9-11

II.1 The Sephardi Community of Amsterdam, “The Writ of Excommunication Against Baruch Spinoza,” 62

II.2 Baruch Spinoza, “On the Election of the Jews,” 63-65

By 11 am, bring your paper on Gartner, Chapter Two.

Thursday, January 28

Read on Sakai Resources: Elisheva Carlebach, “Community, Authority, and Jewish Midwives in Early Modern Europe,” in *Jewish Social Studies* v. 20, no. 2 (Winter 2014): 5-33.

By 11 am, turn in via Sakai Assignments your summary of the Carlebach article.

Tuesday, February 2

Read Gartner, Chapter Three – **“A Rift Opening, 1720-1780”**

Read these documents in Mendes-Flohr & Reinharz:

I.2 John Toland, “Reasons for Naturalizing the Jews in Great Britain and Ireland,” 12-15

I.13 Joseph II, “Edict of Tolerance,” 42-45

VI.1 François-Marie Arouet (Voltaire), “Jews,” 279-280

VI.2 Isaac de Pinto, “An Apology for the Jewish Nation,” 280-282

VI.3 François-Marie Arouet (Voltaire), “Reply to de Pinto,” 282-283

- IX.1 Peter Stuyvesant, "Petition to Expel the Jews from New Amsterdam," 501
IX.2 Dutch West India Company, "Reply to Stuyvesant's Petition," 502
IX.3 Dutch West India Company, "Rights of the Jews of New Amsterdam," 503

By 11 am, bring your paper on Gartner, Chapter Three.

Thursday, February 4

Read on Sakai Resources: Adam Sutcliffe, "Can a Jew Be a Philosophe? Isaac de Pinto, Voltaire, and Jewish Participation in the European Enlightenment," in *Jewish Social Studies* v. 6, no. 3 (Spring/Summer 2000): 31-51.

By 11 am, turn in via Sakai Assignments your summary of the Sutcliffe article.

Tuesday, February 9

Read Gartner, Chapter Four – "**Era of Revolution**"

Read these documents in Mendes-Flohr & Reinharz:

- I.9 Christian Wilhelm von Dohm, "Concerning the Amelioration of the Civil Status of the Jews," 27-34
I.10 Johann David Michaelis, "Arguments Against Dohm," 34-36
I.11 Moses Mendelssohn, "Response to Dohm," 37-40
I.12 Moses Mendelssohn, "Remarks Concerning Michaelis' Response to Dohm," 40-41
III.2 The French National Assembly, "Debate on the Eligibility of Jews for Citizenship," 123-125
III.14 The Assembly of Jewish Notables, "Answers to Napoleon," 152-156
XII.5 Joseph Michael Edler von Arnsteiner, "I Have Converted," 803-804

By 11 am, bring your paper on Gartner, Chapter Four.

Thursday, February 11

Read on Sakai Resources: Karen Macfarlane, "The Jewish Policemen of Eighteenth-Century London," in *Journal of Modern Jewish Studies*, v. 10, no. 2 (July 2011): 223-244.

By 11 am, turn in via Sakai Assignments your summary of the Macfarlane article.

Tuesday, February 16

Read Gartner, Chapter Five – "**Emancipation in Western Europe, 1815-1870**"

Read these documents in Mendes-Flohr & Reinharz:

- III.21 Heinrich Paulus and Gabriel Riesser, "The Paulus-Riesser Debate," 166-167
III.22 Thomas Macauley, "Civil Disabilities of the Jews," 168-171
V.3 Eduard Gans, "A Society to Further Jewish Integration," 240-243
VI.4 Johann Gottlieb Fichte, "A State Within a State," 283-284

VI.5 Jakob Friedrich Fries, "On the Danger to the Well-Being and Character of the Germans Presented by the Jews," 285-286
By 11 am, bring your paper on Gartner, Chapter Five.

Thursday, February 18

Read on Sakai Resources: Ari Joskowicz, "The Priest, the Woman, and the Jewish Family: Gender and Conversion Fears in 1840s France," in *Jewish Quarterly Review* (Summer 2011): 439-437.
By 11 am, turn in via Sakai Assignments your summary of the Joskowicz article.

Tuesday, February 23

Read Gartner, Chapter Six – "**Travail in Eastern Europe, 1815-1881**"
Read these documents in Mendes-Flohr & Reinharz:
VI.17 Fyodor Dostoievsky, "The Jews: Oppressed or Oppressors?" 313-315
VII.6 S.J. Fuenn, "The Need for Enlightenment," 357-359
VII.7 *Maskilim* to Governors of the Pale, "A Jewish Program for Russification," 359-360
VII.13 Baruch Mordecai Ettinger, "How I Became a Hasid," 369-371
VII.17 Osip Aronowich Rabinowich, "Russian Must Be Our Mother Tongue," 378
VII.20 Peretz Smolenskin, "Hebrew – Our National Fortress," 381
By 11 am, bring your paper on Gartner, Chapter Six.

Thursday, February 25

Read on Sakai Resources: Adina Ofek, "Cantonists: Jewish Children as Soldiers in Tsar Nicholas's Army," in *Modern Judaism* v. 13, no. 3 (October 1993): 277-308
By 11 am, turn in via Sakai Assignments your summary of the Ofek article.

Tuesday, March 1

Review for midterm examination

Thursday, March 3

Midterm examination

Tuesday, March 8

Read Gartner, Chapter Seven – "**Outposts**"
Read these documents in Mendes-Flohr & Reinharz:
IX.6 "The Constitution of the United States of America," 506
IX.7 The Hebrew Congregation of Newport, Rhode Island, "Message of Welcome to George Washington," 507
IX.8 George Washington, "A Reply to the Hebrew Congregation of Newport," 508
IX.9 Rebecca Samuel, "An Observant Jewish Woman in America," 509-510;

- IX.12 Rebecca Gratz, "America Is Not Palestine," 514
IX.21 "The Manhattan Beach Affair," 527-528
IX.22 Henry Adams, "The Jews Make Me Creep," 528-529

By 11 am, bring your paper on Gartner, Chapter Seven.

Thursday, March 10

Read on Sakai Resources: Robert Rockaway and Arnon Gutfeld, "Demonic Images of the Jew in the Nineteenth Century United States," in *American Jewish History* v. 89, no. 4 (2001): 355-381.

By 11 am, turn in via Sakai Assignments your summary of the Rockaway and Gutfeld article.

Tuesday, March 22

Read Gartner, Chapter Eight – "**Age of Migration and Ideologies**"

Read these documents in Mendes-Flohr &Reinharz:

- VI.15 Wilhelm Marr, "The Victory of Judaism over Germandom," 306-307
VI.20 Edouard-Adolphe Drumont, "Jewish France," 315-316
VI.22 Heinrich von Treitschke, "A Word About Our Jewry," 319-322
VI.23 Theodor Mommsen, "Another Word About Our Jewry," 322-325
X.6 Theodor Herzl, "A Solution of the Jewish Question," 599-603

By 11 am, bring your paper on Gartner, Chapter Eight.

Thursday, March 24

Read on Sakai Resources: ChaeRan Y. Freeze, "Lilith's Midwives: Jewish Newborn Child Murder in Nineteenth-Century Vilna," in *Jewish Social Studies* v. 16, no. 2 (Winter 2010): 1-27.

By 11 am, turn in via Sakai Assignments your summary of the Freeze article.

Tuesday, March 29

Read Gartner, Chapter Nine – "**From War to War, 1914-1939**"

Read these documents in Mendes-Flohr &Reinharz:

- VII.36 V.I. Lenin, "Critical Remarks on the National Question," 407-409
VII.37 Joseph Stalin, "The Jews Are Not a Nation," 409-411
X.31 Conjoint Committee of British Jewry, "An Anti-Zionist Letter to the *Times*," 658-659
XI.2 Adolf Hitler, "Mein Kampf," 717-719
XI.20 Adolf Hitler, "A Prophecy of Jewry's Annihilation," 742-744

By 11 am, bring your paper on Gartner, Chapter Nine.

Thursday, March 31

Read on Sakai Resources: Robert Weinberg, "Demonizing Judaism in the Soviet Union during the 1920s," in *Slavic Review* v. 67, no. 1 (Spring 2008): 120-153.

By 11 am, turn in via Sakai Assignments your summary of the Weinberg article.

Tuesday, April 5

Read Gartner, Chapter Ten – "**Havens and National Home**"

Read these documents in Mendes-Flohr & Reinharz:

- IX.45 Congressional Committee on Immigration, "Temporary Suspension of Immigration," 568-570
- X.43 David Ben-Gurion, "On the Arab Question," 686-690
- X.44 Vladimir Jabotinsky, "Jewish Needs vs. Arab Claims," 690-692
- X.45 "The Peel Commission Report," 693-694
- X.46 Malcolm MacDonald, "White Paper of 1939," 694-697
- X.47 The Jewish Agency for Palestine, "Statement on the MacDonald White Paper of 1939," 697-699

By 11 am, bring your paper on Gartner, Chapter Ten.

Thursday, April 7

Read on Sakai Resources: Nir Arielli, "Induced to Volunteer? The predicament of Jewish Communists in Palestine and the Spanish Civil War," in *Journal of Contemporary History* v. 46, no. 4 (October 2011): 854-870.

By 11 am, turn in via Sakai Assignments your summary of the Arielli article.

Tuesday, April 12

Read Gartner, Chapter Eleven, **pages 347-382** – "**Catastrophe, Recovery, and Triumph**"

Read these documents in Mendes-Flohr & Reinharz:

- IX.51 American Council for Judaism, "A Statement of Policy," 580-581
- XI.23 Hans Frank, "We Must Finish with the Jews," 750-751
- XI.24 "Protocols of the Wannsee Conference," 751-754
- XI.26 Chaim A. Kaplan, "A Warsaw Ghetto Diary," 755-757
- XI.30 Emanuel Ringelblum, "Last Letter from Warsaw," 764-767
- XI.31 Juergen Stroop, "The Jewish Residential Area in Warsaw Is No More," 767-769
- I.35 Heinrich Himmler, "A Secret Speech on the Jewish Question," 777-778
- XI.36 Rudolf Hoess, "Commandant of Auschwitz," 779-782
- XI.39 "Estimated Number of Jews Killed by the Nazis," 787-788

By 11 am, bring in your paper on Gartner, Chapter Eleven, pages 347-382

Thursday, April 14

Read on Sakai Resources: Omer Bartov, "Eastern Europe as the Site of Genocide," *The Journal of Modern History* v. 80, no. 3 (September 2008): 557-593

By 11 am, turn in via Sakai Assignments your summary of the Bartov article.

Tuesday, April 19

Read remainder of Gartner, Chapter Eleven, **pages 383-395** - "**Catastrophe, Recovery, and Triumph**"

Read these documents in Mendes-Flohr & Reinharz:

- IX.52 David Ben-Gurion and Jacob Blaustein, "An Exchange of Views," 581-584

X.50 Hashomer Hazair, "The Case for a Bi-National Palestine," 702-705

X.51 Moshe Shertok, "Bi-Nationalism Is Unworkable," 705-706

X.52 United Nations General Assembly, "Resolution on Palestine," 706-707

X.53 "Proclamation of the State of Israel," 709-710

X.54 David Ben-Gurion, "Address to the Knesset on the Law of Return," 711-712

X.55 "The Law of Return," 713

XII.29 Jean Amery, "Reflections of a 'Holocaust Jew,'" 849-851

By 11 am, bring in your paper on Gartner, Chapter Eleven, pages 383-395.

Thursday, April 21

Read on Sakai Resources: Atina Grossmann, "Victims, Villains, and Survivors: Gendered Perceptions and Self-Perceptions of Jewish Displaced Persons in Occupied Postwar Germany," in *Journal of the History of Sexuality* v. 11, nos. 1-2 (January/April 2002): 291-318.

By 11 am, turn in via Sakai Assignments your summary of the Grossmann article.

Tuesday, April 26

Read Gartner, Chapter Twelve - "A New Jewish World"

Read this document on Sakai Resources: Sarah Lyall, "Who Is a Jew?"

Read these documents in Mendes-Flohr & Reinharz:

XII.32 Arthur A. Cohen, "Why I Choose to Be a Jew," 856-860

XII.33 George Steiner, "A Kind of Survivor," 861-865

XII.35 Martha C. Nussbaum, "A Convert's Affirmations," 871-874

XII.36 Rachel Adler, "The Jew Who Wasn't There," 875-878

By 11 am, bring in your paper on Gartner, Chapter Twelve.

Thursday, April 28

Read Jacobson, *The Finkler Question*

Expect a quiz

Tuesday, May 10

Final exam in our classroom from 11:30am-2:30pm