

The College of Charleston

Dr. Stuart Knee

Office: Maybank 311
Office hours: MWF 9-9:50 a.m.
11-11:50 a.m.

Fall 2004
History 359

Syllabus

Description

Course Title and Number: Modern Jewish History (359)
Course Credit: 3 credit hours
Course Description: A study of Jewish history – political, social, economic, diplomatic, cultural, religious and intellectual– from the Western European Enlightenment and French Revolutionary era to the present. Jewish life in Europe, the Americas and the Middle East will be traced through the Napoleonic era, the century of “Emancipation,” the Age of Nationalism, two World Wars and the post-1945 period.

Objectives

1. Analyze and criticize monographs
2. Engage in a dialogue on historic Jewish issues
3. Develop a facility with selected primary materials
4. Familiarize students with Jewish historiography
5. Place an important minority culture within one or more majoritarian frameworks
6. Confront the problem of finding a definition for Judaism

Course Requirements

A mid-term, a final, a term paper and a term paper presentation, each of which will count for 1/4 of your grade. The research paper should not exceed 15 double-spaced, typewritten pages and its topic must be decided in conference with me. The paper may deal with any legitimate problem in modern Jewish history or it may deal with a specific event, personality or phenomenon which shaped Jewish civilization following 1789.

The paper will contain some primary source materials (e.g. edited manuscript collections which have been published, edited records in foreign affairs and U.S. diplomacy which have been published, edited documents/memoirs which have been published, material in the Jewish Heritage Collection, available in the Rare Books Room at the College of Charleston Library, contemporary newspapers, magazines scholarly and /or popular -- *Congressional Record* and Presidential Public Papers) as well as standard, monographic/secondary sources and it will be summarized in class (20-25 presentations) several weeks before its written submission. The papers are due on the last day of classes and I will not accept them if they are late. Attendance is important and classroom contribution will count in your favor. More than three (3) unexcused absences will result in grade deflation or withdrawal.

Required Texts

7. Howard M. Sachar, *The Course of Modern Jewish History* (New Revised Edition). New York, Vintage Books, 1990. (Hereafter abbreviated CMJH)
8. Gotthold Ephraim Lessing, *Nathan the Wise*, trans. and ed. Ronald Schechter. Boston, Bedford/St. Martin's, 2004 (Hereafter abbreviated NW)
9. Michael Burns, *France and the Dreyfus Affair: A Documentary History*, Boston, Bedford/ St. Martin's, 1999. (Hereafter abbreviated FDA)
10. Bernard Malamud, *The Fixer*, New York, Washington Square Books, 1986. (Hereafter abbreviated F)
11. Sigmund Freud, *Moses and Monotheism*, New York, Vintage Books, 1967. (Hereafter abbreviated MM)
12. Robert Abzug, *Inside the Vicious Heart*, New York, Oxford University Press, 1985. (Hereafter abbreviated IVH)
13. Ian J. Bickerton and Carla L. Klausner, *A Concise History of the Arab-Israeli Conflict*, 3rd ed., Upper Saddle River, New Jersey, Prentice Hall, 1998. (Hereafter abbreviated AI)

Weekly Assignment Schedule

Week of:

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| August 25 | Introduction: Autumn of the Middle Ages for Europe's Jews
<u>CMJH</u> , Chap.1 |
| August 30 | Jewish Society and the Enlightenment
<u>CMJH</u> , Chap. 2
NW, read the entire book |
| September 6 | Revolution and Reaction I: Western European Society and the Jews, 19 th century
<u>CMJH</u> , Chaps. 3, 5-7 |
| September 13 | Revolution and Reaction II: Eastern European Society and the Jews, 19 th century
F, Read the entire book
<u>CMJH</u> , Chap. 4 |
| September 20 | Anti-Semitism-Patterns and Persistence
<u>CMJH</u> , Chaps. 11 and 12
<u>FDA</u> , Read the entire book |

- September 27 European Zionism, Pre-Herzl to the Holocaust
CMJH, Chap. 13
- October 1 MID-TERM EXAMINATION: you are responsible for all class notes since the beginning of the term and the following readings:
(1) CMJH, Chapters 1-7, 11-12
(2) NW, all of it
(3) FDA, all of it
(4) F, all of it
- October 4 American Society / American Zionism
CMJH, Chaps. 15-16
- October 11 Palestine: History and Mandate
AI, Introduction; Chaps. 1 and 2
CMJH, Chap. 18
- October 20 The Road to Auschwitz: Europe Between the Wars I
CMJH, Chaps. 17, 19-20
- October 25 The Road to Auschwitz: Europe Between the Wars II
MM, Read the Entire book
- November 1 Presentations on Displaced From Europe; Replaced in Israel: The End of a Mandate and the End of an Era
AI, Chap. 3
- November 8 Presentations
- November 15 Presentations
- November 22 Post - 1945 Agendas
IVH, Read the entire book
CMJH, Chap. 21
- November 29 Israel and America, Center of Jewish Civilization
AI, Chaps. 4-8
CMJH, Chaps. 22 and 26
- December 6 (Papers Due): The Future of Jewish History
AI, Chaps. 10 and 11

The Final will cover all class notes since the Mid-Term and the following reading:

- (1) CMJH, Chapters 13, 15-22, 26
- (2) IVH, all of it
- (3) MM, all of it
- (4) AI, Into.; Chaps. 1-8, 10-11

