This course aims to introduce students to the major issues of modern European Jewish history. Through extensive reading in the scholarship students will learn the history and the historiography. In seminar we will discuss both the events, developments and trends of the period and the categories and concepts we use to think about them.

Requirements for the course: a five-page book review and an oral report; a twenty-page historiographical review paper.

Books for purchase:
Jonathan Israel, European Jewry in the Age of Mercantilism, 1550-1750 (Oxford, 1991) [0-19-821136-8]
David Sorkin, The Transformation of German Jewry (New York, 1987) [0-19-506584-0]
Gershon Hundert, Jews in Poland-Lithuania in the eighteenth century: a genealogy of modernity (Berkeley, 2004) [0-520-23844-3]
Michael Stanislawski, Tsar Nicholas I and the Jews: The Transformation of Jewish Society in Russia, 1825-1855 (Jewish Publication Society, 1983) [0-8276-0216-2]
Benjamin Nathans, Beyond the Pale: The Jewish Encounter with Late Imperial Russia (Berkeley, 2002) [0-520-20830-7]
Jonathan Frankel, Prophecy and Politics (CUP, 1981) [0-521-23028-4]
Paula Hyman, Gender and Assimilation in Modern Jewish History (Seattle, 1995) [0-295-97426-5]
Ezra Mendelsohn, The Jews of East Central Europe Between the World Wars (Indiana, 1983) [0-253-33160-9]
Ian Kershaw, Hitler, the Germans and the Final Solution (Yale, 2008) [978-0300-124-279]

Introduction: The Study of Modern Jewish History (September 1)
Salo Baron, "Ghetto and Emancipation," Menorah Journal (1928)
I. Early Modern Europe: The Decline of the autonomous Community

Week 2 The Autonomous community & Hasidism (September 8)

David R. Ruderman, Early Modern Jewry: A New Cultural History (Princeton, 2010)

Reading for Oral Report

Jacob Katz, Tradition & Crisis (New York, 1992)
Samuel Dresner, The Zaddik (New York, 1965)
Moshe Rosman, Founder of Hasidism: A quest for the Historical Ba'al Shem Tov (Berkeley, 1996)
Allan Nadler, The Faith of the Mithnagdim: Rabbinic Responses to Hasidic Rapture (Baltimore, 1997)

Week 3 Mercantilism, Haskalah & Port Jews (September 15)

Jonathan Israel, European Jewry in the Age of Mercantilism, 1550-1750 (Oxford, 1991)
1-69 (chs. 1-3: Exodus from the West; Turning Point; Consolidation); 87-206 (chs. 5-8: 30 Years War; High Point I-III); 237-274 (chs. 10-11: Decline & Renewal; Conclusion)

Reading for Oral Report

Adam Sutcliffe, Judaism and Enlightenment (Cambridge, 2003)
Azriel Shohat, Im Hilufei Tekufot (Jerusalem, 1960)
S. Ettinger, "The Beginnings of the Change in the Attitude of European Society Towards the Jews," Scripta Hierosolymitana 7 (1961) 193-219
David Katz, Philosemitism and the Readmission of the Jews to England (Oxford)
D. Sorkin, The Berlin Haskalah and German Religious Thought (London, 2000)
Shmuel Feiner, Haskalah and History: The Emergence of a Modern Jewish Historical Consciousness (London, 2001)
S. Ettinger, "The Beginnings of the Change in the Attitude of European Society Towards the Jews," Scripta Hierosolymitana 7 (1961) 193-219
David Katz, Philosemitism and the Readmission of the Jews to England (Oxford)
D. Sorkin, The Berlin Haskalah and German Religious Thought (London, 2000)
Shmuel Feiner, Haskalah and History: The Emergence of a Modern Jewish Historical Consciousness (London, 2001)
Miriam Bodian, Hebrews of the Portuguese Nation: Converts and Community in Early Modern Amsterdam (Bloomington, 1997)
Elisheva Carlebach, Divided Souls: Converts from Judaism in Germany, 1500-1750 (New Haven, 2001)
Benjamin Arbel, “Jews in International Trade: the Emergence of the Levantines and Ponentines,” in Robert C. Davis and Benjamin Ravid eds., The Jews of Early Modern Venice (Baltimore, 2001) 73-96

II. The First Stage of Transformation

Week 4  Emancipation (September 22)


Jacob Katz, Out of the Ghetto (New York) 1-8; 28-56 (chs. 1, 3-4: Social Revolution; Portents of Change; Semineutral Society), 161-75 (ch. 10: Legal Steppingstones)


Salo W. Baron, "Newer Approaches to Jewish Emancipation," Diogenes 29 (Spring 1960) 56-81.


Reading for Oral Report

Simon Schwarzfuchs, Napoleon, the Jews and the Sanhedrin (London, 1979)
Tama ed., Transactions of the Parisian Sanhedrim (Lanham, Md., 1985)

Dagmar Herzog, Intimacy and Exclusion: Religious Politics in Pre-Revolutionary Baden (Princeton 1996)

M.C.N. Salbstein, The Emancipation of the Jews of Britain (Rutherford, NJ, 1982)
Shulamit Magnus, Jewish Emancipation in a German City: Cologne, 1798-1871 (Stanford, 1997)


Rainer Liedtke & Stephan Wendehorst eds., The Emancipation of Catholics, Jews and Protestants: Minorities and the nation state in nineteenth-century Europe (Manchester, UK, 1999)

Week 5 Eastern Europe (Oct. 6)

Benjamin Nathans, Beyond the Pale: The Jewish Encounter with Late Imperial Russia (Berkeley, 2002) 1-79

Reading for Oral Report

Steven Zipperstein, The Jews of Odessa (Stanford, 1985)
John Klier, Russia Gathers her Jews: The Origins of the "Jewish" Question in Russia (Dekalb, 1986)
David Fishman, Russia's First Modern Jews: The Jews of Shklov (New York, 1995)
Marcin Wodzinski, Haskalah and Hasidism in the Kingdom of Poland: A History of Conflict (Oxford, 2005)
Heinz-Dietrich Löwe, The Tsars and the Jews: Reform, Reaction and Anti-Semitism in Imperial Russia, 1772-1917 (Chur, Switzerland, 1993)
idem., "Poles, Jews, and Tartars: religion, ethnicity and social structure in Tsarist nationality policies,"
Jewish Social Studies 6,3 (2000) 52-96
Allan Nadler, The Faith of the Mithnagdim: Rabbinic Responses to Hasidic Rapture (Baltimore, 1997)
Christoph Gassenschmidt, Jewish Liberal Politics in Tsarist Russia, 1900-1914 (New York, 1995)

Week 6 Social Change (Oct. 13)

Jacob Katz, Out of the Ghetto (Schocken) 176-219
Steven Lowenstein, "The Pace of Modernization of German Jewry in the Nineteenth Century," Leo Baeck Institute Yearbook 21 (1976) 41-56
David Sorkin, The Transformation of German Jewry, 107-123

Reading for oral Report

Avraham Barkai, "German Jews at the Start of Industrialization" in Mosse, Paucker, Rüup ed. Revolution and Evolution: 1848 in German-Jewish History (Tubingen, 1981) 123-149
David Sorkin, "Emancipation and Assimilation: Two Concepts and Their Application to German-Jewish History," Leo Baeck Institute Yearbook 35 (1990) 17-33
Bill Williams, The Making of Manchester Jewry, 1740-1875 (Manchester, 1985)
Steven Lowenstein, The Mechanics of Change: Essays in the Social History of German Jewry (Atlanta, 1992)
Shulamit Volkov, Germans, Jews and Antisemites: Trials in Emancipation (Cambridge, 2006)

Week 7   Ideological & Religious Change (Oct. 20)

David Sorkin, The Transformation, 41-104
Moshe Samet, "The Beginnings of Orthodoxy," Modern Judaism (October, 1988) 249-269
Mordechai Breuer, "Emancipation and the Rabbis," Niv HaMidrashia
Michael Meyer, "The German Model of Reform and Russian Jewry" in idem., Judaism within Modernity: Essays on Jewish History and Religion (Detroit, 2001) 278-303
Steven Lowenstein, "The 1840s and the Creation of the German-Jewish Religious Reform Movement," in idem.

Reading for Oral Report

Robert Liberles, Religious conflict in Social Context: The Resurgence of Orthodox Judaism in Frankfurt am Main (Westport, Conn, 1985)
Jacob Katz ed., Toward Modernity: The European Jewish Model (Transactions, 1987)
Phyllis Cohen Albert, The Modernization of French Jewry: Consistory and Community in the Nineteenth Century (Hanover, NH, 1977)
Susannah Heschel, Abraham Geiger and the Jewish Jesus (Chicago, 1998)
David Ellenson, Rabbi Esriel Hildesheimer and the creation of a modern Jewish orthodoxy (Tuscaloosa, 1990)
Ken Koltun-Fromm, Moses Hess and modern Jewish Identity (Bloomington, 2001)

III. The Second Stage of Transformation

Week 8  Mass Migration (Oct. 27)

Marsha Rozenblit, The Jews of Vienna (SUNY, 1983) 13-47
Lloyd Gartner, The Jewish Immigrant in England (Detroit, 1960) 24-99, 270-282
Paula Hyman, From Dreyfus to Vichy; The Remaking of French Jewry (New York, 1979) 63-114.

Reading for Oral Report
Steven Beller, Vienna and the Jews, 1867-1938 (Cambridge)  
Nancy Green, The Pletzl of Paris: Jewish Immigrant Workers in the "Belle Epoque" (New York, 1986)  
Nancy Green ed., Jewish Workers in the Modern Diaspora (Berkeley, 1998)  
Steven Aschheim, Brothers and Strangers: The East European Jew in German and German Jewish Consciousness, 1800-1923 (Madison, 1982)  

Week 9  Antisemitism (Nov. 3)  

Peter Pulzer, The Rise of Political Anti-Semitism in Germany and Austria (London, 1988) 27-183  
Hans Rogger, "The Jewish Policy of Late Tsarism", "The Beilis Case" & "Russian Ministers and the Jewish Question" in Rogger, Jewish Policies and Right-Wing Politics, 25-112  
T.van Rahden, "Words and action: Rethinking the Social History of German Antisemitism, Breslau, 1870-1914," German History 18 (3) 2000, 413-438.  
Mary Louise Roberts, Disruptive Acts: The New Woman in Fin-de-Siècle France (2002) ch. 5 “Caught in the Act,” 131-164  

Reading for Oral Report  

Paul Massing, Rehearsal for Destruction (1949)  
R.F. Byrnes, Antisemitism in Modern France (1950)  
Jacob Katz, From Prejudice to Destruction (Harvard, 1980)  
Uriel Tal, Christians and Jews in Germany (Cornell, 1975)  
I Michael Aronson, Troubled Waters: The Origins of the 1881 Anti-Jewish Pogroms in Russia (Pittsburgh, 1990)  
Stephen M. Berk, Year of Crisis, Year of Hope: Russian Jewry and the Pogroms of 1881-82 (Westport, Conn., 1985)  
Heinz-Dietrich Loewe, The Tsars and the Jews (Chur, Switzerland, 1993)  
John D. Klier & Shlomo Lambroza eds., Pogroms: Anti-Jewish Violence in Modern Russian History (Cambridge, 1992)  
Pierre Birnbaum, Antisemitism in France: A Political History from Leon Blum to the Present (Oxford, 1992)  
Robin Judd, Contested Rituals: Circumcision, Kosher Butchering, and Jewish Political Life in Germany, 1843-1933 (Ithaca, 2007)  
Helmut Walser Smith, The Butcher’s tale: murder and anti-Semitism in a German town (New York, 2002)  
Stephen Wilson, Ideology and Experience: antisemitism in France at the time of the Dreyfus Affair (Rutherford, NJ, 1982)  

Week 10  New Politics 1 (November 10th)  

Jonathan Frankel, "Crisis as a Factor in Modern Jewish Politics," in Jehuda Reinharz ed. Living with Antisemitism; Modern Jewish Responses, (Hanover, 1987) 42-58
Robert Liberles, "Was there a Jewish Movement for Emancipation in Germany?" Leo Baeck Institute Yearbook 31 (1986) 35-49
Arnold Paucker, "The Jewish Defense Against Antisemitism in Germany, 1893-1933," in Reinharz, Living with Antisemitism, 104-132
Steven Beller, Herzl (London, 1991)

Oral Report

Ismar Schorsch, Jewish Reactions to German Antisemitism (Columbia)
Jehuda Reinharz, Fatherland or Promised Land (Michigan, 1975)

Week 11 New Politics 2 (November 17th): The Bund & Jewish Politics in Russia

Eli Lederhendler, "Modernity without emancipation or assimilation? The case of Russian Jewry," in Frankel & Zipperstein ed. Assimilation & Community, 324-343
Jonathan Frankel, Prophecy and Politics (CUP, 1981), 171-257.

Oral Report

Ezra Mendelsohn, Class Struggle in the Pale (Cambridge, 1970)
M. J. Tobias, The Jewish Bund in Russia from its origins to 1905 (Stanford, 1972)
Simon Dubnow, Nationalism and History; Essays on Old and New Judaism (New York, 1970)
Michael Stanislawski, Zionism and the Fin- de Siècle: Cosmopolitanism and Nationalism from Nordau to Jabotinsky (Berkeley, 2001)
Michael Berkowitz, Zionist Culture and West European Jewry Before the First World War (Cambridge, 1993)
Christoph Gassenschmidt, Jewish Liberal Politics in Tsarist Russia, 1900-1914 (New York, 1995)
Week 12  Gender (Nov 22)

Paula Hyman, Gender and Assimilation in Modern Jewish History (Seattle, 1995)
Marion Kaplan, "Gender and Jewish History in Imperial Germany," in Frankel & Zipperstein ed., Assimilation & Community, 199-224
Chava Weissler, Voices of the Matriarchs: Listening to the Prayers of Early Modern Jewish Women (Boston, 1998) 3-85

Oral Report

Natalie Davis, Women on the Margins (Cambridge, MA, 1995)
Marion A. Kaplan, The Jewish Feminist Movement in Germany: The Campaign of the Jüdischer Frauenbund, 1904-38 (Westport, Conn, 1979)
Marion A. Kaplan, The Making of the Jewish Middle Class: Women, Family and Identity in Imperial Germany (New York, 1994)
Carole Balin, To Reveal our Hearts: Jewish Women Writers in Tsarist Russia (Detroit, 2000)
ChaeRan Y. Freeze, Jewish Marriage and Divorce in Imperial Russia (Hanover, 2002)
Iris Parush, Reading Jewish Women: Marginality and Marginalization in Nineteenth-Century Eastern European Jewish Society (Hanover, NH, 2004)
Pauline Wengeroff, Rememberings: The World of a Russian-Jewish Woman in the Nineteenth Century (Bethesda, Md., 2000)
Jewish Women in Eastern Europe (Polin, vol. 18)

IV.  Mass Society

Week 13  WWI & Inter-War Europe (Dec 1st)

Ezra Mendelsohn, The Jews of East Central Europe Between the World Wars (Indiana, 1983) 1-128
Peter Pulzer, Jews and the German State (Blackwell, 1992) 1-27, 194-291

Oral Report

David H. Weinberg, A Community on Trial: The Jews of Paris in the 1930s (Chicago, 1977)
Stephen Poppel, Zionism in Germany, 1897-1933 (JPS, 1976)
Donald Niewyck, The Jews in Weimar Germany (Baton Rouge, LA 1980)
Joel Colton, Leon Blum: Humanist in Politics (New York, 1966)
Zvi Gitelman, Jewish Nationality and Soviet Politics: The Jewish Sections of the CPSU, 1917-30 (Princeton, 1972)
Michael Brenner, The Renaissance of Jewish Culture in Weimar Germany (New Haven, 1996)
Pierre Birnbaum, Jews of the Republic: A Political History of State Jews in France from Gambetta to Vichy (Stanford, 1996)

Week 14  Nazism and the Holocaust (December 8th)
Ian Kershaw, Hitler, the Germans and the Final Solution (Yale, 2008)
Christopher Browning, Nazi Policy, Jewish Workers, German Killers (Cambridge, 2000) 116-42

Oral Report
Isaiah Trunk, Judenrat: The Jewish Councils in Eastern Europe under Nazi Occupation (New York, 1972)
Michael Marrus, The Holocaust in History
Walter Laqueur, The Terrible Secret (Harmondsworth, 1980)
Saul Friedlander, Nazi Germany and the Jews (New York, 1997)
Henry Friedlander, The Origins of Nazi Genocide: From Euthanasia to the Final Solution (Chapel Hill, 1995)
Marion A. Kaplan, Between Dignity and Despair: Jewish Life in Nazi Germany (Oxford, 1998)

Week 15 Post-War Europe (Dec 15th)

Michael Brenner, After the Holocaust: Rebuilding Jewish Lives in Postwar Germany (Princeton, 1997)
3-77
additional readings to be announced