

**THE POLITICS OF PREJUDICE:
THE EMERGENCE OF MODERN ANTISEMITISM**

HIST 3573-003

University of Oklahoma

Autumn 2015

Class: DAHT 408

Class Hours: TR 10:30-11:45 am

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SCOPE AND GOALS:

History colloquia focus on a particular topic or time period, and teach the skills of historical reading and writing. Students will have a short series of writing assignments in the first half of the course, and will write a short original research paper during the second half. This history colloquium uses the issue of antisemitism as a focal point for examining the history of modernization, nationalism and racism. Modernity (especially secularism, nationalism, and racism) opened new venues for an old emotion - hatred. Politically, the development of national identities emboldened demagogues and feudal powers to stigmatize others as outsiders – threatening those minorities and political stability generally. While 19th Germany Jewry will be the central example, students will develop a research project tailored to their own interests.

By the end of the semester each student should have acquired:

1. The ability to tell the difference between a primary and secondary source and to evaluate a primary source.
2. The ability to use primary sources as evidence to support and construct an argument.
3. The ability to identify (briefly) an author's thesis.
4. The ability to pose a manageable research question and to do a basic search of the historiographical literature and primary sources.
5. The ability to recognize when one needs a citation and the ability to write a proper citation (footnote/endnote)
6. The ability to write a short (8 – 10 page) research paper based on primary and secondary sources.

This course will be of interest to students of European history, politics, modern exploitation of older religious traditions, comparative nationalism, and Jewish history.

Course requirements:

1. **Attendance** is required and will be taken at the beginning of each class. Because this course will have a large discussion component, full attendance is essential for the effective operation of the class. Absences must be documented with a note from a doctor (in the case of illness), a professor or coach (in the event of an official university-related activity such as a forensics or athletic tournament), or a C.O. (in the case of official military duties). Other absences will result in grade penalties. Those students who have one or no absences (of any kind) at the end of the semester will be given an extra 2% added on to their final grade.
2. Reading assignments should be completed by the start of class on the day for which they have been assigned. **Participation** (i.e., posing questions, answering questions, making comments) in this class is crucial. Each student must volunteer to present readings at the beginning of class and lead discussion several times during the semester. Each **presentation** should be approximately five minutes long. (In-class participation and presentations will count for 15% of the total grade.)
3. There will be a map/periodization **quiz** early in the semester. Details will be announced in class.
4. **Essays:** You will also write three additional essays as listed in the “schedule” section of this syllabus.
5. **Research Paper:** This is an 8 to 10-page paper on a topic you will choose in consultation with the instructor. This paper should be based on several of our assigned readings plus additional outside sources that you will research. Research paper topics must be approved by the instructor. As part of this assignment, you will need to turn in a one-page paper prospectus, a draft copy (which will be graded) and an annotated bibliography (see instructions on D2L).

Dates and Grade Percentages:

*** Assignment	Date Due	Percentage of Final Grade
Essay #1: Beller Reaction Paper	Sept 17	10%
Map/Periodization Bonus	Sept 22	0-5%
Library Visit, led by Professor Laurie Scrivener. Please meet in Bizzell 149D, main floor.	Oct 1	5%
Research Paper Topic Statement Due	Oct 8	0%
Essay #2: Lindemann Critical Review	Oct 22	10%
Draft of Research Paper w/ Bibliography	Nov 5	5%
Essay #3: Smith Critical Review	Nov 12	10%
Student Conferences (week 14)		5%
Research Paper	Monday, Dec 7	30%

Special Events Bonus		0-5%
Class Participation		15%

Required Books for Purchase:

Antisemitism: A Very Short Introduction, by Steven Beller

The Jew Accused: Three Antisemitic Affairs, by Albert Lindemann

Toward the Final Solution, by George Mosse (2nd edition, introduction by Christopher Browning)

The Butcher's Tale, by Helmut Walser Smith

Pocket Guide to Writing in History, 7th ed., by Mary Lynn Rampolla. I have listed this as recommended, but if you have questions about the mechanics of writing history papers, please purchase.

Recommended Books:

For those who are unfamiliar with 19th century European Jewish history, the following titles may be of use in your papers or for background reading. All are available at Bizzell.

Jacob Katz, *Out of the Ghetto* (Germany & Central Europe)

Jacob Katz, *From Prejudice to Destruction* (European Antisemitism – still the best single vol. history)

Marion Kaplan, *The Making of the Jewish Middle-Class* (Germany, women's history)

Lucy Dawidowicz, *The Golden Tradition* (Eastern Europe, Introduction + source reader)

Irving Howe, *The World of Our Fathers* (America—mainly NYC, 1880-1920s)

Arthur Hertzberg, *The Zionist Idea* (Introduction + source reader)

Howard Sachar, *A History of Modern Israel*, 2 vols. (Israel)

Anita Shapira, *Israel: A History* (2012)

David Nirenberg, *Anti-Judaism. The History of a Way of Thinking* (the rhetoric of 'judaizing')

David Vital, *A People Divided* (political history – Eastern and Western Europe)

Todd Endelman, *The Jews of Britain, 1656-2000* (by a social historian, but all bases covered)

Paula Hyman, *The Jews of France* (by a social historian, all bases covered, women's history)

Hillel Kieval, *The Blood Libel* (A great comparative study)

Alan Steinweis, *Studying the Jew. Scholarly Antisemitism in Nazi Germany*

Robert Erickson, *Theologians Under Hitler* (like Steinweis,

Alan Levenson, *Between Philosemitism and Antisemitism. Defense of Jews and Judaism in Imperial Germany, 1871-1932* (a rare look at anti-antisemitism)

Richard Levy, *The Downfall of Anti-Semitic Political Parties in Imperial Germany*

George Mosse, *Toward the Final Solution*

D2L and E-Reserve Readings

This course will use the online course management system called D2L (Desire to Learn). Please make sure you check the D2L site often (<http://learn.ou.edu>), as information about the course (including syllabus, announcements, useful web links, and assignments) will be posted to it regularly. Readings not

found in books that are required for purchase will be posted electronically to E-Reserve. You should download and print out a copy of the reading from electronic reserve to write notes on and bring to class.

Plagiarism

Papers are to be your own work, and any sources or direct quotes you use must be cited properly. Papers should express your own ideas and be in your own words, except for cited material used as evidence to back up your point. In my view, many students do not know they are plagiarizing. There is an excellent online tutorial called “Academic Integrity: Avoiding Plagiarism” available on the library’s website at <http://libraries.ou.edu/help/tutorials/>. You may wish to refer to the OU policy on academic integrity, which includes a section on plagiarism. The policy can be found at integrity.ou.edu.

OU Writing Center

The Writing Center (<http://www.ou.edu/writing/>) can help you think through paper assignments and go over early paper drafts with you. If you are not accustomed to writing history papers, if you know writing is not your strong suit, or if you have not written a paper for a class in a long time, I highly recommend you go see them. Be sure you contact them well in advance. If you wait until a day or two before your paper is due, you may not be able to get an appointment.

Note to Students With Disabilities

It is University policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students who have disabilities that may affect their ability to participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact the instructor early in the semester to discuss their individual needs for accommodations.

Electronics Policy

Students may take notes on a laptop and search class-relevant sites. Use of electronics for other purposes is highly distracting to other students and not permitted. We should all be able to go an hour without checking our e-mails or Facebook/Twitter/Snapchat posts.

Triggers

Our material is largely printed matter, but much of it is horrible. We will be exploring racism, nationalism, religious intolerance and antisemitism. Being upset by this material is natural and you should feel free to speak with me about it at any point in the course. If you do web-based researched, prepare to be outraged and disgusted.

Class Outline: Subject to Change

Week 1 Jews & Jew-Hatred

Aug 25, 27

T. Powerpoint Discussion: Visualizing Antisemitism

R. Powerpoint Lecture: 19th c European Jewish History

Week 2 Nation

Sept 1, 3

Discussion: Ernst Renan, "What is a Nation?" (E-Reserve)

Discussion: Benedict Anderson, *Imagined Communities*, (On E-Reserve)

Week 3 Race

Sept 8, 10

T. Documents of European Racial Thinking – Gobineau (E-Reserve)

R. "The Science of Race" "The Mystery of Race" (from: George Mosse, *Toward the Final Solution*, (E-Reserve)

Week 4 Defining Antisemitism

(NO CLASS T. September 15, it is Jewish New Year's Day)

R. Discussion Steven Beller, *Antisemitism. A Very Short Introduction*

*** Reaction Paper due***

Week 5 Sept. 22/24

T. Map/Periodization Exercise

R. (TBD)

Week 6 Sept 29 Oct 1

Richard Wagner: A Test Case in Modern Cultural Antisemitism (E-Reserve)

(Wagner, "Jews in Music" E-Reserve, primary)

R. Library Visit with Professor Laurie Scrivener, Bizzell 149D

Week 7 Oct 6/8

A Test Case in Modern Religious Antisemitism

T. The Bible-Babel Controversy: Friedrich Delitzsch, "Bibel and Babel" Solomon Schechter, "The Higher Criticism -- Higher Antisemitism" (E-Reserve)

R. Susannah Heschel, "Inventing the Aryan Jesus," (E-Reserve)

*** One-page Outline + Bibliography due

Week 8 Oct 13/15

Test Cases in the Public-Legal Arena

Discussion: Lindemann, *The Jew Accused*, 57-128 (Alfred Dreyfuss)

Discussion: Lindemann, *The Jew Accused*, 129-183 (Mendel Beilis)

Week 9 Oct 20/22

T. The Worldwide Spread of Eugenic Thinking & Its Impact (Lecture)

R. Discussion: Lindemann, *The Jew Accused*, 194-272. The Leo Frank Case

*** Lindemann, *The Jew Accused*, Critical Review Paper due

Week 10 Oct 27/ 29

The Great Berlin Antisemitic Debate (1879-1881)

Assailants: Adolf Stoecker, Wilhelm Marr, Heinrich v. Treitschke (Primary Documents, E-Reserve)

Respondents: Theodor Mommsen, Heinrich Graetz (Primary Documents, E-Reserve)

Week 12 Nov 3 / 5

Discussion: The Rise and Fall of (Political) German Antisemitism, 1879 – 1914 (Primary Documents, E-Reserve)

Discussions: (Fritz Stern, *Blood and Gold: Bismarck and Bleichröder* pp. TBD// Peter Pulzer, *The Rise of Political Antisemitism in Germany and & Austria* // Richard Levy, *The Downfall of Antisemitic Parties* (The class will be divided into three groups and each group will collaboratively report on the findings of these three authors)

*** Draft Research Paper Due, Nov 5th

Week 13 Nov 10/12

The Nature of German Antisemitism: A Microhistorical Approach

T. Discussion: Helmut W. Smith, *The Butcher's Tale* (Chs 1-3)

R. Discussion: Smith, *The Butcher's Tale* (Chs 4-6)

*** Critical Review Smith, *The Butcher's Tale* due

Week 14 Nov 17/19, T. Nov 24

Students Conferences

Week 15 Dec 1/3

Oral Presentations

Final Paper Due: Monday, Dec. 7th