

ANTISEMITISM IN SOCIAL MOVEMENTS: THE WEAPONIZATION OF INTERSECTIONALITY

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Antisemitic ideology has never been constrained by political boundaries. It has existed in some form on both the political left and political right. Currently, there have been claims that it has infiltrated social justice movements that are predominately supported by those on the political left. Participants will examine how contemporary antisemitism manifests in current social movements.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of the course students will be able to:

- Identify how antisemitism manifests in current social movements
- Establish the primary beneficiaries
- Draft a plan that addresses contemporary antisemitism within social movements

FOUNDATIONAL QUESTIONS

- Why is antisemitism a core element of these movements?
- What happens to the original intended beneficiaries of the social movements?

EXAMPLES OF CURRENT SOCIAL MOVEMENTS

- Black Lives Matter (BLM)
- Dyke March
- Women's March
- Police Reform - Deadly Exchange
- Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion initiatives (DEI)
- Ethnic Studies (K-12, and college/university)

COURSE SCHEDULE

- Introduction to contemporary antisemitism
 - Define antisemitism
 - Identify the evolution of antisemitism
 - Review syllabus and course requirements
- Enstad, J. D. (2021). Contemporary Antisemitism in Three Dimensions: A New Framework for Analysis. SocArXiv. April, 28.
- Klaff, L. (2014). Holocaust inversion and contemporary antisemitism. fathom, 5.
-
- The politicization of social movements (SM)
 - Trends in social movements
 - Weaponization of intersectionality
- Fishman, S. B. (2021). Erasure and Demonization: Antisemitism and Anti-Zionism in Contemporary Social Movements.
- Goldstein, D. (2017). Commitment to Understanding and Understanding Commitment: Reflections and Dilemmas at the Intersection of Racial Justice and My Jewish Identity.

COURSE SCHEDULE

- Relationship between social movements and antisemitism
 - Examine the history of social movements & antisemitism
 - Early 20th century Marxism/communism/suffrage
 - Compare/contrast historical vs current social movements
 - Current economic/racial/gender justice movements
 - Similarities/differences in manifestation of antisemitism within SM
- Rubin, D. I. (2013). Still wandering: The exclusion of Jews from issues of social justice and multicultural thought. *Multicultural Perspectives*, 15(4), 213-219.
- Virdee, S. (2017). Socialist antisemitism and its discontents in England, 1884–98. *Patterns of Prejudice*, 51(3-4), 356-373.
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- Themes of contemporary antisemitism
 - Identity/cultural erasure
 - False equivalencies
 - Weaponization of “allyship”
- Hirsh, D. (2017). *Contemporary left antisemitism*. Routledge.
- Kressel, N. J., & Kressel, S. W. (2016). Trends in the psychological study of contemporary antisemitism: Conceptual issues and empirical evidence. *Basic and Applied Social Psychology*, 38(2), 111-126.

COURSE SCHEDULE

- The hostile classroom
 - Antisemitism in academia
- Rossmann-Benjamin, T. (2013). Identity Politics, the Pursuit of Social Justice, and the Rise of Campus Antisemitism: A Case Study. *Resurgent Antisemitism: A Global Perspective*. Hrsg. von Alvin H. Rosenfeld. Bloomington, 482-520.
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- Politicization of Jewish identity
 - Left vs right antisemitism
- Arnold, S., & Taylor, B. (2019). Antisemitism and the Left: Confronting an Invisible Racism. *Journal of Social Justice*, 9.
- Sunshine, S. (2019). Looking Left at Antisemitism. *Journal of Social Justice*, 9, 1-67.
- MacDonald-Dennis, C. (2006). Understanding anti-Semitism and its impact: A new framework for conceptualizing Jewish identity. *Equity & Excellence in Education*, 39(3), 267-278.

COURSE SCHEDULE

- Who's financing SM and who's benefitting
 - Examine the financial roots of current social movements
 - Financial research methods
 - Who's behind the curtain/ Transparency
 - Fighting the hijackers
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- Final presentations

FINAL PRESENTATIONS

Student will present their research findings to the class, addressing the following questions:

- Why is antisemitism a core element of your researched social movement?
- What happens to the original intended beneficiaries of the social movements?

READINGS

- Arnold, S., & Taylor, B. (2019). Antisemitism and the Left: Confronting an Invisible Racism. *Journal of Social Justice*, 9.
- Fishman, S. B. (2021). Erasure and Demonization: Antisemitism and Anti-Zionism in Contemporary Social Movements.
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