

THE POLITICS OF CONTEMPORARY ANTISEMITISM

PROFESSOR ELMAN – SPRING 2019

DRAFT COURSE OUTLINE – AUGUST 2018

Office Hours 2:00-3:45 Tuesdays and Thursdays and by appointment

This course examines antisemitism's political resurgence from the close of the 20th century to the present. After a brief overview of the religious doctrine, racial science and nationalism that gave rise to the Holocaust, we will focus on antisemitism in the postwar world. More specifically, we will consider how and why non-state actors (e.g., social movements and non-governmental organizations) and transnational organizations (e.g., the European Union and United Nations) gather data on, deny, mitigate and promote antisemitism.

Upon completion of this course students will be able to define "antisemitism", understand its appeal, and appreciate the difficulties in countering it.

EXPECTATIONS, GRADING & TEXTS

Try to have your readings done prior to class as lectures do not replicate them. You're best able to grasp our material and contribute to discussion if you attend prepared. Our outline may change a bit, depending on class interest and extenuating world events. Thus, we'll reflect on the syllabus throughout. Please maintain this e-copy as it contains important links to readings, videos and websites. For example, follow an American NGO that counters discrimination see [Vital Statistics: Jewish Population of the World](#) (via the Virtual Jewish Library), understand "[The continuing decline of Europe's Jewish population](#)" (via Pew Research) explore a video archive that contains over 3,000 interviews with Holocaust survivors [Fortunoff Video Archive for Holocaust Testimonies](#) (via Yale University) or check in with a site that includes information about projects and publications on anti-Semitism as well as an analysis of current trends with over 20,000 items from 1984 to the present [Vidal Sassoon International Center for the Study of Anti-semitism](#) (via Hebrew University).

Everyone is entitled to one absence, but each one thereafter will result in a 5% deduction from your final grade. You are expected to be on time and present in class.

NO computers, phones and other electronic devices are to be used in class as they are too distracting. If you do use such a device, you will be asked to leave and then noted as absent. Given this subject, it is especially vital that we stay focused and present.

Unexcused missed exams and late work will result in a grade of F. Plagiarized work results in a grade of F for the entire course.

There will be 3 exams (60 percent), A Class Lecture (20 Percent) and Class Participation (20 Percent)

INTRODUCTION TO ANTISEMITISM STUDIES: THE JEW(S)

Week 1: Tuesday

International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) [Memo on Spelling of Antisemitism](#).

Yad Vashem, "[A problematic term – Antisemitism from Its Origins to the Present](#),"

Small, *Global Antisemitism: A Crisis of Modernity* (2013), pp. 1-14.

Garrard, "[The Pleasures of Antisemitism](#)," *Fathom* (Summer 2013).

Week 1: Thursday

Wisse, *Jews and Power* (2007), [Excerpt online](#) (recommended I-II)

Rosenfeld, *Resurgent Antisemitism* (2013), Introduction, pp. 1-7.

Wistrich, *The Longest Hatred*, Film (in-class).

DEFINING ANTISEMITISM & DISAPPEARING DATA

Week 2: Tuesday

Marcus, "The Definition of Antisemitism," *Global Antisemitism: A Crisis of Modernity*, (2013), 1: 99-111.

Elman, "The EU's Response to Contemporary Antisemitism: A Shell Game," in Rosenfeld's *Deciphering the New Antisemitism* (2015), pp. 405-429.

The European Union's Fundamental Rights Agency's (FRA) Survey of EU Jewish Communities [FRA Summary of the findings in the eight largest EU Jewish communities](#) (2013) and then "[Discrimination and hate crime against Jews in EU Member States: experiences and perceptions of antisemitism](#)" (2013) Read Sections 2.3 and 2.4 pp 35-39. (Click the top publication in the right-hand column labeled "Discrimination and hate crime against Jews in EU Member States: experiences and perceptions of antisemitism").

Week 2: Thursday

Arcady, *24 Days*, Film (suggested)

Trigano, "[A Journey Through French Antisemitism](#)," *Jewish Review of Books* (2015).

Katz and Mandel, "[Strange Journey: A Response to Shmuel Trigano](#)," *Jewish Review of*

Books (2015). Then read Trigano's response at the bottom of this article.

Recommended, a similar debate unfolds in the UK - skim Pears Foundation Study and Baker's response "[A recent study into rising antisemitism in Europe ignores the role of Muslim Migrants](#)" (May 24, 2018).

HOLOCAUST DENIAL & HOLOCAUST INVERSION

Week 3: Tuesday

Klaff, "[Holocaust Inversion and contemporary antisemitism](#)," Fathom (Winter 2014).

Bruckner, "Antisemitism and Islamophobia: The Inversion of the Debt" in Rosenfeld's *Deciphering the New Antisemitism* (2015), pp. 7-20.

Week 3: Thursday -- FIRST IN-CLASS EXAM covers first 3 sections

ZIONISM & THE ISRAELIZATION OF ANTISEMITISM

Week 4: Tuesday

Wisse, *Jews and Power* (2007), Parts III

Wilf, *Telling Our Story*, Part 1

Harrison, "Anti-Zionism, Antisemitism and the Rhetorical Manipulation of Reality" in Rosenfeld's *Resurgent Antisemitism* (2013), pp. 8-41.

Recommended, Hirsch, "Accusations of malicious intent in debates about Palestine-Israel conflict and about antisemitism" *transversal 2010*, pp. 47-77.

Week 4: Thursday

Kaplan and Small, "[Anti-Israel Sentiment Predicts Antisemitism in Europe](#)" *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, Vol. 50, No. 4, (2006): 548-61.

Sassoon, [Review Essay: Israeli Attitudes on Civil Rights, Democracy and Arab-Jewish Relations](#)

TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Week 5: Tuesday

Wistrich, *A Lethal Obsession* (2010), Chapter 13, pp. 465-493.

Kuebler and Falter, Durban Reviewed, *Global Antisemitism: A Crisis of Modernity*

Volume 2 (Need to read first).

Fiss, [The Durban Diaries](#) (2001).

Week 5: Thursday

Elman, *European Union, Antisemitism and the Politics of Denial* (2014), Introduction, Chapters 1 and 5.

LEFT ANTISEMITISM

Week 6: Tuesday

Wistrich, “Anti-Zionist Connections: Communism, Radical Islam and the Left” in Rosenfeld’s *Resurgent Antisemitism* (2013), pp. 402-423.

Johnson, “[The Left & Jews: Time for a Rethink](#),” *Fathom* (2015).

Bovy, “[The Left’s Blindspot: Antisemitism](#),” *The New Republic* (August 2017).

ALT-RIGHT ANTISEMITISM

Week 6: Thursday

Wise, *Skokie*, Film

ADL, “[Steve Bannon: Five Things to Know](#)” and the “[ADL Primer about the New White Supremacy](#)”.

Check Ewa Kurek – for look into Poland post Law! Revisionist

SECOND EXAM – TAKE HOME covers last 3 sections

“SOCIAL MOVEMENTS” - HUMAN RIGHTS & NGOs

Week 7: Tuesday

Miriam Elman, *Jewish Voices for Peace*, forthcoming.

Weingrad, [Tikkun Olam article](#) and also get Walzer’s article

Kuntz, [Islamic Antisemitism: How it Originated and Spread](#) (2018) or “Islamic Antisemitism: It’s Genesis, Meaning, And Effect,” *Antisemitism Studies, Vol.2, No. 2, (2018), forthcoming*.

Patterson, “[How Antisemitism Prevents Peace](#),” *Middle East Quarterly*, pp. 73-83.

Recommended, compare and contrast [Protocols of Zion](#) with [Hamas Charter](#) and

[Cairo Declaration on Human Rights in Islam.](#)

Week 7: Thursday

Foylan, *Whose Streets?* Film (in class)

Muravchik, “The Truth About Black Lives Matter,” *Commentary* (November 16, 2016).

Week 8: Tuesday

NGO Monitor

Herzberg, “NGOs and the New Antisemitism”, *Global Antisemitism: A Crisis of Modernity* Volume 2 (Need to read first).

Week 8: Thursday

Allam, “[How the Women’s March Is Fighting Through Its Anti-Semitism Crisis,](#)” BuzzFeedNews (March 2018).

Elman, “Pinkwashing Antisemitism,” forthcoming.

Week 9: Tuesday THIRD EXAM —Covers all material since the last exam

Antisemitism – Exploiting Current Crises

Week 9: Thursday

Students select works and consider how antisemitism permeates discussions pertaining to contemporary crises and political conflicts including, but not limited to, dictatorships, economic instability, the environment, hate speech codes, and immigration and the migration crisis.

Week 10

RESERVED FOR FINAL PRESENTATION.

More on this as we approach the end of the course.