KEAN UNIVERSITY

Union, New Jersey

Contemporary Modern Anti-Semitism

Course number: MAHG
Semester hours Three
Prerequisites: None
Limitation on enrollment: 15
Type of course: Major requirement

Catalog Description

An analysis of modern day anti-Semitism in Europe and throughout the world. The course will consider how contemporary anti-Semitism is similar and/or different than classical anti-Semitism. The course will study anti-Semitism in its newest incarnations including Islamic based anti-Semitism and anti-Israel and anti-Zionist manifestations, as well as the renewal of more classical forms of racial and Church based hatred of Jews and of Israel.

Prerequisites: The History of anti-Semitism (preferred not required)
I. Course Description

This course will analyze modern day anti-Semitism in Europe and throughout the world. It will consider how contemporary anti-Semitism is similar and/or different than classical anti-Semitism. The class will survey the origins and historical development of classical anti-Semitism but the course will emphasize the study of anti-Semitism in its newest incarnations including Islamic based anti-Semitism as well as anti-Israel and anti-Zionist manifestations. It will also consider the renewal of more classical forms of racial and Church based hatred of Jews and of Israel.

This course will focus on, among other things: Why has anti-Semitism persisted into the present age? Why was the Holocaust not the culmination of European anti-Semitism? How has anti-Semitism been transformed with the rise of Zionism? Is anti-Zionism a form of anti-Semitism?

Specifically this course will consider the social, religious, psychological, political, and economic dimensions of the “the longest hatred”; in Europe, in the Middle East, in the United States, and throughout the world. Is anti-Semitism today the same as in the past plus Islamic anti-Semitism or is it an entirely a new phenomenon?

II. Course Objectives

A. Consider what contemporary anti-Semitism is.

B. Is modern anti-Semitism different than classical anti-Semitism?

C. What is the nature of anti-Semitism in the Arab world?

D. Is Islam is inherently anti-Semitic.

E. Is the post-Holocaust behavior of Muslims different than prior to the Holocaust?

F. From where did Islamic anti-Semitism emerge given the historical relationship between Muslims and Jews?

G. How has Europe responded to the Holocaust in light of its treatment of the Jews?

H. Is anti-Zionism merely a modern expression of anti-Semitism?

I. Is anti-Zionism in Europe different than in the Arab World?
J. Is the BDS Movement merely another form of anti-Semitism now packaged in strictly economic terms?

K. Is there a resurgence of anti-Semitism in the United States?

L. How have contemporary politics and the existence of the State of Israel inspired the growth of anti-Semitism in the Arab world?

MAHGS – PROGRAM: STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

SLO1: Demonstrate basic standards of scholarly literacy and perspective

SLO2: Articulate an interpretive framework of the complex and interrelated causes, courses, and consequences of genocide

SLO3: Perform sophisticated skills in examining, exploring, comparing, and critiquing a variety of sources and viewpoints: written, non-verbal, artistic, symbolic

SLO4: Critically and comparatively analyze individual cultures within national, regional, and global contexts

SLO5: Demonstrate well-developed written and verbal skills in dissecting and creating nuanced analyses of genocidal conditions and preconditions with an awareness and demonstration of methodological strategies

III. Course Content

A. After the Holocaust
   1. Christian anti-Semitism
   2. Racial anti-Semitism
   3. The Jewish People after the Shoah
   4. The Muslim response to the Holocaust

B. The Establishment of the State of Israel
   1. Reaction of the West
      a. Europe
      b. USA
   2. Reaction in the East
      a. Russia
      b. Eastern Europe
   3. International Community
   4. The Islamic World
      a. The Middle East
b. Non-Middle East

C. End of the 20th Century and the Beginning of the 21st Century
   1. The New Church
   2. Anti-Semitism or Anti-Israel or anti-Zionism
   3. Anti-Semitism in Europe
      a. Western Europe—Britain, France, Belgium, Germany, and Netherlands
      b. Russia
      c. Czech Republic
      d. Poland
      e. Hungary
   4. American Genteel anti-Semitism

D. Models for Hating Jews in the Middle East
   1. State Based
      a. Iran
      b. Saudi Arabia
   2. Non-State Based
      a. Hamas
      b. Hezbollah
      c. ISIS
      d. Muslim Brotherhood

C. Methods of Instruction
   a. Lectures
   b. Films
   c. Guest speakers
   d. Classroom discussion

D. Methods of Evaluation
   a. Classroom participation
   b. Examinations
   c. Research paper

E. Texts
Gross, Jan, *Fear: Anti-Semitism in Poland After Auschwitz* (New York, 2007) pb


F. **Bibliography**

a. **Print Media**


Cohen, Mark R. *Under Crescent and Cross: The Jews in the Middle Ages.*


Hay, Malcolm. The Roots of Christian Anti-semitism. ADL.

Herf, Jeffrey, Nazi Propaganda for the Arab World (Ann Arbor, 2009)


Lipstadt, Deborah E. Denying the Holocaust; The Growing Assault on Truth and


Wistrich, Robert S., *From Ambivalence to Betrayal: The Left, the Jews, and Israel* (University of Nebraska Press, 2012)


b. **Non-Print Media**

http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/chrysostom-jews6.html

http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/1173williamnorwich.html

http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/luther-jews.html

http://www.memri.org/antisemitism.html

Nation of Islam – http://www.blacksandjews.com

http://www.jewwatch.com


**Antisemitism Links.** A selection of Web Resources for the Study of Antisemitism.

**Vatican Statement, March 1998.** The most recent statement of the Roman Catholic Church on the Shoah.