

**[DRAFT ONLY] Lenses on anti-Jewish/antisemitism**

Fall 2017

Grinnell College

Prof. K. Gibel Mevorach

Upper level undergraduate (class size 15)

Seminar [2x a week, 110 min ]

Anthropology Department

Office: ARH 121

Office Hours W/TH 9-11

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**Course Description**

This seminar examines themes which inform anti-Jewish attitudes and have been channeled into a “new anti-Semitism” focused exclusively on Jewish nationality and nationalism, terms which will also be explored during this semester. Cumulatively, the readings provide a loose overview of theological anti-Semitism, racial anti-Semitism, social anti-Semitism to political anti-Semitism. Political anti-Semitism offers up important corollary questions concerning the relationship(s) between identities, power and knowledge, the consequences of globalization on stereotypes and (mis)representation of people and places and, importantly, the role of academic activism and its political consequences.

**Course Objectives**

The goals of the course are complex and nuanced precisely because the subject itself has invited discussions which slip and slide along a continuum of propaganda and partisanship. The texts selected are both informational and analytic; the intent is to highlight key themes and sketch an historical context. The format of close reading and discussion will sharpen attention to identifying slippage into prescriptive premises as well as highlighting ways in which opposition to prejudice and racism redirect enlightenment values against itself.

Required Reading/Viewing/Listening

TBA

Recommended Reading/Viewing/Listening

Peter Beinart on the Crisis of Zionism

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oOh4RO4QfS4>

*Course Requirements*

This seminar aims to sharpen skills of critical reading and thinking in order to identify and evaluate issues related to anti-Semitism with and without the hyphen. Therefore close attention will be given to information presented in a text as well as the ideas and interpretations grounded by the information. There are no exams – instead, maintaining a reading journal, active participation in class discussion and several collaborative projects will be graded. In order to facilitate this process, students will be expected to adhere to the following requirements:

1. Attendance (5%) is required and therefore if you are absent, you are still expected to contribute comments either by email to the class or in class at the next meeting; students who miss more than three

classes will receive an automatic reduction in the final grade. Five absences will be considered a withdrawal (WF) from the course.

2. Reading Journal (25%). Every student must keep a reading journal. This represents a conversation with the text, the author and class discussions. For instance: what did you learn? what opinions or preconceptions did you have and did they change? how? what insights did the reading provide which can be applied to other academic experiences on and off-campus.

Journals are to be uploaded on Pioneer Web no later than Saturday by 2pm. (These will be printed out at the end of the semester and submitted in a self-addressed stamped envelope).

3. Active Participation in Class Discussions (15%): ADVANCE PREPARATION OF READING ASSIGNMENTS IS ABSOLUTELY REQUIRED! Class discussion represents an exchange of ideas -- it is a conversation among peers. Recommended: form reading groups.

Shared perspectives as well as differences of opinion further our own understanding of a topic. Critical thinking and an engaging exchange of ideas depends on listening carefully to another person's perspective and responding respectfully. The focus should be specifically on what and why there are points of agreement or disagreement -- how is one interpretation different and in what ways should it be valued as more or less persuasive? Personal experience is important, but you may draw on it as an additional resource -- not a substitute -- for insights into analyzing the significance of texts we will be reading. In other words, your arguments need to be situated within the context of the readings. These may be supplemented with outside sources.

4. Class Presentations (15%) Two - three students will guide a discussion of the readings and introduce main points in the text(s) as well as questions/themes for discussion. This group will prepare a written comment (3-4 pages) to present in class which addresses their questions/themes and will then lead class discussion.

5. A Project (20%) Follow-up on a theme, event or trend in the syllabus material (reading, film, discussion, images) and present in class.

6. Evaluation Paper (20%): 4-5 paper summarizing what you have learned and how your knowledge has broadened throughout the semester: how it integrates and is integrated in your undergraduate studies. Please note on your calendar

## **WEEK #1 (3 meetings)**

### **Whiteness and Multicultural Exclusions**

#### **Thurs -- Introductions**

[Sunday screening Gentleman's Agreement]

#### Distribute

[http://www.slate.com/blogs/the\\_slatest/2016/07/25/what\\_wikileaks\\_might\\_have\\_meant\\_by\\_that\\_anti\\_semitic\\_tweet.html](http://www.slate.com/blogs/the_slatest/2016/07/25/what_wikileaks_might_have_meant_by_that_anti_semitic_tweet.html)

<http://gawker.com/5773533/julian-assange-my-enemies-are-all-jews-and-sissies>

#### **Tues**

U.S. Supreme Court; Shaare Tefila Congregation v. Cobb, 481 U.S. 615 (1987)

[listen while reading oral argument transcript] <https://www.oyez.org/cases/1986/85-2156>

[JSTOR] Joseph Jacobs. "On the Racial Characteristics of Modern Jews"

The Journal of the Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland

Vol. 15 (1886), pp. 23-62 <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2841906>

[Academic Premier] Webb, Clive. "Freedom for All? Blacks, Jews, and the Political Censorship of White Racists in the Civil Rights Era." *American Jewish History*. Dec2008, Vol. 94 Issue 4, p267-297.

#### **Thurs**

[Academic Search Premier] Forman, Seth, "Whiteness Scholars vs. the Jews." *Academic Questions*, Vol. 13, Issue 4 Fall2000, pp52-58

## **WEEK #2**

### **Tues**

Susannah Heschel, "Jewish Studies as Counterhistory" AND Sara R. Horowitz, "The Paradox of Jewish Studies in the New Academy." IN *Insider/Outsider: American Jews and Multiculturalism* (eds), David Biale, Michael Galchinsky, and Susannah Heschel. (Univ of CA Press)

### **Thurs**

[Academic Premier] Rubin, Dan Ian. "Still Wandering: The Exclusion of Jews From Issues of Social Justice and Multicultural Thought." *Multicultural Perspectives*. Vol. 15 Issue 4 (2013), p213-219.

## **Jews and European Anti-Semitism**

## **WEEK #3**

Film: *Sunshine* dir. István Szabó (1999)

### **Tues**

[JSTOR] Manfred Gerstenfeld. The Deep Roots of Anti-Semitism in European Society. *Jewish Political Studies Review* Vol. 17, No. 1/2 (Spring 2005), pp. 3-46  
<http://www.jstor.org/stable/25834618> [Pp: 44]

### **Thurs**

[JSTOR] Dean R. Hoge and Jackson W. Carroll. Christian Beliefs, Nonreligious Factors, and Anti-Semitism. *Social Forces* Vol. 53, No. 4 (Jun., 1975), pp. 581-594.  
<http://www.jstor.org/stable/2576474> [Pp: 14]

## **WEEK #4**

### **Tues**

In Class *Night and fog /Nuit et brouillard* dir. Alain Resnais (1955)

Clemens Heni. Secondary anti-Semitism: From Hard-core to Soft-core Denial of the Shoah *Jewish Political Studies Review* Vol. 20, No. 3/4 (Fall 2008), pp. 73-92  
<http://www.jstor.org/stable/25834800> [Pp 20]

Manuela Consonni. "The new grammar of Otherness: Europe, the Shoah, and the Jews." *Jewish History*. Vol. 24, No. 2 (2010), pp. 105-126  
<http://www.jstor.org/stable/40864933>[Pp 22]

**Thurs** No class meeting [Rosh HaShana 2017]

## **Jews, Muslims, Arabs,**

## **WEEK # 5**

Film: Farewell Baghdad,

### **Tues**

Raymond P. Scheindlin. "Merchants and Intellectuals, Rabbis and Poets: Judeo-Arabic Culture and the Golden Age of Islam." IN David Biale (ed) *Cultures of the Jews: A New History* Schocken (2002)

[JSTOR] Daniel L. Smith. The Second Israel: Peace in the Middle East and the Implications of Militant Oriental Jewish Ethnicity. *Dialectical Anthropology* Vol. 16, No. 2 (1991), pp. 153-166: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/29790375>

### **Thurs**

Albert Memmi Who is an Arab Jew? February, 1975 <http://www.sullivan-county.com/x/aj1.htm>

Lisa Lieberman. "Albert Memmi's About-Face." *Michigan Quarterly Review*. Volume XLVI, Issue 3, Summer 2007 Review Decolonization and the Decolonized. By Albert Memmi. Permalink: <http://hdl.handle.net/2027/spo.act2080.0046.326>

### **WEEK #6**

#### **Tues**

[Project Muse] Emily Benichou Gottreich. Historicizing the Concept of Arab Jews in the Maghrib

*Jewish Quarterly Review*, Volume 98, Number 4, Fall 2008, pp. 433-451

[Project Muse] Lital Levy. Historicizing the Concept of Arab Jews in the Mashriq *Jewish Quarterly Review*, Volume 98, Number 4, Fall 2008, pp. 452-469

#### **Thurs**

[Project Muse] Shayna Zamkanei . The Politics of Defining Jews from Arab Countries *Israel Studies*, Volume 21, Number 2, Summer 2016, pp. 1-26

Esther Webman (2010) The Challenge of Assessing Arab/Islamic Antisemitism, *Middle Eastern Studies*, 46:5, 677-697,

### **WEEK #7**

#### **Tues**

Ethan B. Katz. *The Burdens of Brotherhood: Jews and Muslims from North Africa to France* (Harvard UP 2015) READ interview:

<http://islamiccommentary.org/2015/11/the-burdens-of-brotherhood-jews-and-muslims-from-north-africa-to-france-book-q-a/>

Maud S. Mandel. *Muslims and Jews in France: History of a Conflict* (Princeton 2014: Chapter Two. "Decolonization and Migration: Constructing the North African Jew" AND Chapter Six. "Particularism versus Pluriculturalism: The Birth and Death of the Anti-Racist Coalition"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OYE4RmpA2nM>

#### **Thurs**

Before Class viewing assignment:

Film: The Forgotten Refugees (PBS documentary dir Michael Grynspan, 2007) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KH8RL2XRr48>

BBC Documentary - Blaming The Jews (Muslim Antisemitism) (2005) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4mWX8VB18nI>

IN CLASS: *The Wedding Song* (dir Karin Albou)

(read asap after class) Dinah Assouline Stillman (Reviewed Work): *The Wedding Song (Le chant des mariées)* by Karin Albou, Laurent Lavolé, Isabelle Pragier *Review of Middle East Studies* Vol. 45, No. 1 (Summer 2011), pp. 82-84

SEMESTER BREAK

### Racism, Anti-Semitism and Islamophobia

#### WEEK #8

Tues

[Project muse] Josh Kaplan. "Contesting Anti-Semitism: Human Rights, Israel Bashing, and the Making of a Non-Problem." *Anthropological Quarterly* 83, no. 2 (2010): 429-448. <https://muse.jhu.edu/>(accessed July 23, 2016).

#### WEEK #9

[Academic Premier] Bangstad, Sindre; Bunzl, Matti. 'Anthropologists Are Talking' About Islamophobia and Anti-Semitism in the New Europe. *Ethnos: Journal of Anthropology*. Jun2010, Vol. 75 Issue 2, p213-228. [16p]

[Academic Premier] Dobkowski, Michael. Islamophobia and Anti-Semitism. *Cross Currents*. Sep2015, Vol. 65 Issue 3, p321-333. [12p]

#### WEEK #10

[Project Muse] Moshe Maoz .The Zionist/Jewish and Palestinian/Arab National Movements: The Question of Legitimacy—a Comparative Observation *Israel Studies*, Volume 18, Number 2, Summer 2013, pp. 30-40

In Class:

Chaim Herzog Tears Up UN Resolution 1975

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aQmexk4-aEY>

Haviv Rettig Gur and Naomi Chazan debate (6min)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yLBzk2LVbOk>

### New Antisemitism/Political Antisemitism

#### WEEK #11

Tues

David Hirsh, Anti-Zionism and Antisemitism: Cosmopolitan Reflections *The Yale Initiative for the Interdisciplinary Study of Antisemitism Working Paper Series (2007)* [http://research.gold.ac.uk/2061/1/Hirsh\\_Yale\\_paper.pdf](http://research.gold.ac.uk/2061/1/Hirsh_Yale_paper.pdf)

#### WEEK #12

Tues

Academic Premier- access thru Grinnell C] Ben-Moshe, Danny. The New Anti-Semitism in Europe: The Islamic Dimension of, and Jewish Belonging in, the EU. *Islam & Christian-Muslim Relations*. Apr2015, Vol. 26 Issue 2, p219-236. [18p.]

Thurs

[Academic Premier] Fishman, Joel S. The BDS message of anti-Zionism, anti-Semitism, and incitement to discrimination. *Israel Affairs*. Jul2012, Vol. 18 Issue 3, p412-425. 14p

### **WEEK #13**

#### **Tues**

Cary Nelson The Problem with Judith Butler: The Political Philosophy of the Movement to Boycott Israel. *Los Angeles Review of Books* (16 March 2014).

[With 2013 film dir. Bruce Robbins, *Some of My Best Friends are Zionists*]  
In Class *Bernard-Henri Lévy with Thane Rosenbaum: Naming Islamic Fascism*  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KueUr0N1iZI>

### **WEEK #14**

#### RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND LINKS

<http://www.holocaust-education.dk/baggrund/antisemitisme.asp>

Vidal Sassoon International Center (SICSA) <http://sicsa.huji.ac.il/>