Contemporary Anti-semitism: Same old or something new?

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Course Description: The transformation from Anti-Judaism to modern Anti-Semitism and now current day Anti-Zionism provide evidence for the adaptability of this longest hatred. How should this contemporary Anti-Semitism be explained? The course will address major issues in the history of Anti-Semitism in the last seventy years. Topics will include: origins of modern Anti-Semitism and its difference from older theological forms of Anti-Judaism; variations in Anti-Semitic patterns in Eastern, Central and Western Europe; Anti-Zionism and the de-legitimization of the State of Israel; Anti-Semitism in music, literature and cinema; Jewish self-hatred and the internalization of Anti-Semitic stereotypes by Jews; patterns of post-Holocaust Anti-Semitism in America; Holocaust denial; the ambiguous religious connection between evangelical Christian pro-Zionism and Anti-Semitism; Anti-Semitism on the Internet; and contemporary debates on the persistence and new forms of Anti-Semitism. A strong emphasis will also be put on the Jews’ political, social and ideological responses to this hatred.

Course Objectives: To enable students to be fully conversant in the complex issues of contemporary anti-Semitism and to become competent ambassadors to combat this irrational illegitimate hatred on return to their home universities.

Course Outline: The course is divided into the following sections:

1) Definitions
2) Starting points for our narrative? Holocaust Narrative or Muslim Anti-Zionism and the de-legitimization of the State of Israel in the Arab world.
3) Christianity and Anti-Semitism: Catholics and Protestants
4) National trends: Anti-semitism by countries – Poland, Germany, America, France, Belgium and UK.
5) Cultural Anti-semitism: Anti-semitism in Music, Film and Art
6) The Jews’ Response: CST to the Self Hating Jew
7) Projections: Anti-semitism in the 2050s and anti-semitism without Jews.
8) Fighting Anti-semitism on campus: The New Ambassadors

DEFINITIONS
1. Session One: Anti-Semitism and the Problems of its Definition

Alvin H. Rosenfeld, *Deciphering the New Antisemitism* (Indiana University Press, 2015)


Gordon Allport in his *The Nature of Prejudice*?

**STARTING POINTS FOR OUR NARRATIVE?**

2. Session Two: The Origins of Contemporary Anti-semitism: When does it really start?

Sources:


Secondary literature:


3. Session Three: Different patterns of hatred? Pogroms and East European Anti-Semitism

Sources:

Excerpts of sources from Paul Mendes-Flohr & Jehuda Reinharz, ed., *The Jew in the*
Modern World (Oxford, 1995), pp. 377-380, 380-381 (May Laws), 385, 408-
409 (Awaiting a Pogrom), & 410-11 (Bialik, “The City of Slaughter”)

Secondary literature:


4. Session Four: Holocaust and Holocaust Denial

Sources:

Irving, David Conference of Institute for Historical Review (1999)

“The Institute for Historical Review Online.” Institute for Historical Review www.IHR.org

Bradley Smith, “Committee for Open Debate on the Holocaust” www.CODH.com

“The Holocaust Was a Hoax,” http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3X2vUMh9Hr0

Secondary Literature:


Deborah Lipstadt, Denying the Holocaust: The Growing Assault on Truth and Memory (reprint: London Penguin, 2016)

Michael Shermer and Alex Grobman, Denying History (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2000)

Deborah Lipstadt “The Iranian President, the Canadian Professor, the Literary Journal and the Holocaust Denial Conference That Never Was: The Strange Reality of Shiraz Dossa,” in Charles A. Small (ed.) Global Antisemitism: A Crisis of Modernity (Leiden: Brill, 2013)


Bernard Harrison article in Deciphering the New Antisemitism.

David Patterson article in Deciphering the New Antisemitism.
5. Session Five: Anti-Zionism and the De-Legitimization of Israel

Sources:

UN General Assembly Resolution number 3379 (“Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,” 10 Nov. 1975) and Revocation of Resolution 3379 (16 Dec. 1991) and reply speech of the Israeli Ambassador, Chaim Herzog.


Alvin H. Rosenfeld, Progressive Jewish Thought and the New Anti-Semitism (American Jewish Committee, 2006)

Secondary literature:


Wistrich, Robert S., "When Is Opposition to Israel and Its Policies Anti-Semitic?: Open Correspondence between Prof. Robert Wistrich and Brian Klug (2005)," and "Facing the “New” Antisemitism (2007)."

6. Session Six: Islamophobia is racism

Secondary Sources:


Mahmood Mamdani“Good Muslim, Bad Muslim: A Political Perspective on Culture and Terrorism,” American Anthropologist 104(3):766-775, 2002.


Chris Allen, “Towards a New Definition of Islamophobia,” in Islamophobia (Routledge, 2010).


CHRISTIANITY AND ANTI-SEMITISM: CATHOLICS AND PROTESTANTS

7. Session Seven: The Popes and the Jews

Sources:


Secondary Literature:

John Pawlikowski and Jon Nilson, Restating the Catholic Church's Relationship with the Jewish People: The Challenge of Super-sessional Theology (Edwin Mellen, 2013)


Mark Weitzman article in Deciphering the New Antisemitism.

8. Session Eight: Evangelical Christian pro-Zionism: Philo-semitism

Sources:


Secondary literature:


**NATIONAL TRENDS: ANTI-SEMITISM BY COUNTRIES**

9. Germany’s Response to the Holocaust.

Secondary Literature


10. Session Ten: Anti-semitism in modern day Poland

Gross, Jan T. *Fear: Antisemitism in Poland after the Holocaust* (Princeton, 2006)


David Engel, "On Continuity and Discontinuity in Polish-Jewish Relations: Observations on Fear: Anti-Semitism in Poland after Auschwitz—An Essay in Historical Interpretation by


11. Midterm

12. Session Twelve: Anti-semitism in France and Belgium

Source:


Secondary Literature:

Leslie S. Lebl “The EU, the Middle East and Antisemitism,” in Charles A. Small (ed.) Global Antisemitism: A Crisis of Modernity (Leiden: Brill, 2013)


13. Session Thirteen: Post Holocaust Anti-semitism in America


14. Session Fourteen: Rising Anti-semitism in the Labour Party UK

David Hirsh *Contemporary Left Antisemitism* (London: Routledge, 2018)


CULTURAL ANTI-SEMITISM

15. Session Fifteen: Anti-semitism in Music, Film and Literature

Sources:

Richard Wagner, “Judaism in Music (*Das Judenthum in Der Musik*; 1850),” in


Secondary literature:

Paul Lawrence Rose, *Revolutionary Antisemitism in Germany from Kant to Wagner*
16. Session Sixteen: Viewing of Film: Anti-semitism in Film

Sources:

Mel Gibson, *The Passion of the Christ.*

*Nosferatu: Eine Symphonie Des Grauens* (*Nosferatu: A Symphony of Horror*; 1921), Directed by Friedrich W. Murnau

*Der Ewige Jude* (*The Eternal Jew*; 1940), Directed by Fritz Hippler.

*Jud Süss* (*Jew Suss*; 1940), Directed by Veit Harlan.

Secondary literature:


THE JEWS' RESPONSE: FROM THE CST TO THE SELF-HATING JEW

17. Session Eighteen: The Jews’ Response: From the CST to the Self Hating Jew, the Jews' own worst enemy

Sources:


Otto Rank, “The essence of Judaism” (unpublished 1905 manuscript) as quoted in Secondary Literature:


**PROJECTIONS TO THE FUTURE**

18. Session Nineteen: Anti-semitism without Jews


ADL Survey of Five European Countries (2002)  


Alain Finkielkraut *The Imaginary Jew* (University of Nebraska Press, 1994).

19. Session Twenty: Anti-semitism in 2050s

Source:

Watch Yoav Shamir’s film “Defamation

Secondary Literature:


Naomi Cohen, Not Free To Desist (Philadelphia: Jewish Publication Society Of America, 1972)

Jehuda Reinharz, Living with Antisemitism: Modern Jewish Responses (Hanover: Brandeis University Press, 1987)

FIGHTING ANTI-SEMITISM ON CAMPUSES: THE NEW AMBASSADORS

20. Session Fourteen: Anti-semitism on University campuses


Denis MacShane Globalizing Hatred, 58-66.


Deborah Lipstadt, Samuel G. Friedman, Chaim Seidler-Feller, “American Jewry and the College Campus: Best of Times or Worst of Times?” (New York: American Jewish Committee, 2005)

21. Lecture Twenty-One: Conclusions: How should we combating anti-Semitism?

Ruth R. Wisse “How Do We Put an End to Antisemitism? No Really, How Do We?,” in Charles A. Small (ed.) Global Antisemitism: A Crisis of Modernity (Leiden: Brill, 2013)


RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR MY COURSES

1. I expect you to attend all lectures. I do not take always take a class register but I have a good visual memory and know if you come/don’t come to class.

2. Make every effort to come on time. In fact, come early and then you’ll be sure you’re on time. It’s very distracting to have students wandering into class late.

3. I like to meet everyone in my courses. If I haven't already met you, please introduce yourself.

Requirements for the Course:

1. Regular Attendance and Participation in lectures (10% of final grade)
2. Midterm (40% of final grade).
3. Final paper, which must be completed by all students (50% of final grade).

This final paper (10–12 pages) will analyze a primary text or an issue of dispute among historians, the topic to be chosen by the student from a list to be distributed or in consultation with the instructor.