

SYLLABUS

ISGAP SUMMER SEMINAR ON CONTEMPORARY ANTISEMITISM
JULY- AUGUST 2015

BARBARA WIND

COURSE: ANTISEMITISM PAST AND PRESENT

DESCRIPTION: A concise history of the factors that bred antisemitism and led to its various mutations. The course will incorporate reading; viewing of videos, paintings, cartoons; listening to music. Half the class time will be devoted to lectures; followed by Q and A, and close with seminar -style discussions based on suggested lead questions. These discussions will be structured to facilitate open but civil debate.

REQUIRED READINGS: Robert Wistrich, Alvin Rosenfeld, Jeffrey Herf, *The Lottery* by Shirley Jackson, Readings to include excerpts from The Hebrew Bible, The New Testament, The Quran, Nazi Muslim Propaganda, in the Hamas Charter, Muslim Brotherhood Pledge of Allegiance, articles, etc.

VIEWING/LISTENING MATERIALS: will include, Berlin 36; Architecture of Hate, "Prelude to a Nightmare: Art, Politics, and Hitler's Early Years in Vienna 1906-1913" Wagner, Blue Danube Waltz, etc.

GRADING: The final grade will be based on attendance, participation, and the Final Exam as well as written reviews of specific documents, readings, videos.

I The Story of the World or Creation Myths

1. Opening sequence from *The Gods Must Be Crazy*
2. The role of creation myths in shaping identity: individual and societal
3. The role of religion and Weltenshauung

Lead question: How does your personal creation story (the story of your family and its origins) shape you and your choices?

II Religion

1. The Abrahamic Religions
2. Militancy and religion: *Gott Mit Uns*; Hindu-Muslim divide; Tibet and non-violence; communism
3. Religious law (Canon, Sharia, Beth Din)
4. Revelations and Prophets

Lead question: Rebecca's veil to the Hijab to the burqua. Discuss text and interpretation thereof using joke: "Have it your own way."

III Psychological and Sociological Aspects of Religion

1. Shame-honor societies
2. Notions of purity and impurity
3. Choseness: segregation and integration

Lead question: What about religion attracts or repels you and why?

IV Law, Education and Religion

1. the State-church connection
2. Stalin quote, slavery, Nazi intentions for Slavs
3. education and the state

Lead question: If you ruled the world, what would be your policy vis a vis law, religion and the system of education? Would you integrate or separate the three?

V The Tenth of Tevet

1. A brief history of Jewish wars and displacement
2. The Diaspora: Babylon, Rome, Spain, Poland ...
3. The Holocaust in Europe and Arab lands...
4. Contemporary France and Europe, "Not if but when..."

Suggested reading: The Vanished Jews of Oria, Mark Glanville
<http://mosaicmagazine.com/observation/2015/07/the-vanished-jews-of-oria/>

Lead question: How do you think a natural disaster that hurt you, your family and/or community would affect your faith or lack of faith? What if it were a human-made disaster?

VI Tisha B'Av and eternal mourning

1. Demographic impact of conquest
2. Psychological fall-out:
 - A. regeneration or lack of among survivors and their descendants
 - B. apocalyptic world view

Lead Question: What would you do to gain comfort and hope in the event of loss and displacement? How would it change your view of the world?

VII The Jew in the World

1. Demon or Superman
2. "How lovely are your tents, O Jacob..." envy, greed and marginalization

Lead questions: Envy and greed are human emotions? (Research shows that animals, too, feel them.) How do you deal with such feelings?

VIII Blood Libels and Other Calumnies

1. Hugh of Lincoln
2. Desecration of the Host
3. Dreyfus case
4. Leo Frank

hvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/judaica/ejud_0002_0003_0_03147.html

Lead questions: What would your response be if you were unjustly accused of murder? Of slander?

IX Sacrifice and Atonement

1. Magical thinking as appeasement
2. Sacrifice in Greece, Rome, Ancient Israel unto today
3. The scapegoat in Temple Times
4. akedah and the crucifixion
5. *The Lottery*
6. Neville Chamberlain, "However much we may sympathize with a small nation confronted by big and powerful neighbours, we cannot in all circumstances undertake to involve the whole British Empire in a war simply on her account."

Lead questions: In what incidence would you deem sacrifice acceptable? Would you let a dog die to save a child? If you could only save one of the two, would you save a child or its father? Have you ever made a "If you do this, I will..." deal with God?

X The Jew in Western Literature

1. The Gospels and Church Fathers, reading from Gospel of John ("the Jews")
2. Canterbury Tales- The Prioress's Tale
3. Shylock and the Japanese connection
4. Aaron: the Moor with a Jewish Name in Shakespeare's *Titus Andronicus*
5. *Charles Dickens, TS Eliot, Das Giftpilz*

6. *Die Lorelei* and Heinrich Heine

Lead question: Have you ever been the victim of gossip or scapegoating? Please describe your reaction and response.

XI Art and Antisemitism

1. Paintings: Depictions of Judas, Blood libel victims
2. Illustrations and cartoons (refer to Joel Kotek's , *Cartoons and Extremism*)
3. Music - Wagner to Jazz
4. Der Schwarzer Shanny: Johann Strauss and the Nazis

Lead question: Using music, or art, what would you use to portray a person and a group you wanted to destroy?

XII Words and War

1. In the beginning was the Word: the power of words. US Poet Laureate Josef Brodsky " You Americans are so naive. You think the next war will come marching in hob-nail boots. It will come with words. Mind the words."
2. Euphemisms as screens e.g. Kristallnacht; disease as tools e.g. cancer
3. AIDS, SARS, MERS, EBOLA, THE JEWS: approaches to rational and irrational fears
4. Slurs and Sloganeering: "snakes and cockroaches" in Rwanda
5. Sixties-Seventies Slogans: Black is Beautiful, I Love New York ...

http://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2015/08/06/429788345/you-can-stop-gun-violence-the-same-way-you-stop-aids-or-tb?utm_medium=RSS&utm_campaign=news

Lead question: Is it easier to create a catchy slogan to praise or to denigrate a group of people?

XIII Powered by Propaganda

1. Goebbels' Ghoulish Ambitions and the Power of Propaganda
2. Luther redux
3. The Church's fear of communism, cosmopolitanism, modernism
4. Marketing the Third Reich in Christian Europe
5. From Restlement to Unsettlement: The Curious Case of the Quakers

Lead questions: Did the Churches act responsibly as Christians during WWII?

XIV The Longevity and half-life of the Holocaust

1. The Vatican Rat Line: Nazis in the Middle East and the Americas
2. The Mufti's Broadcasts from Berlin
3. Holocaust Denial and Minimization
4. Crime Did Pay: The Inefficacy of the Nuremberg Trials

Lead questions: Can democracies protect themselves from Facism? How should they handle economic and war refugees with totalitarian world view?

XV Marketing Muslim Hatred of Jews

1. Marketing and Communications 101: from concept to successful campaign
2. Protocols of the Elders of Zion: airports to Durban and beyond
3. Madrassas and Mosques
4. Hate for the Holidays- Ramadan television miniseries. (*Ash-Shatat*, a 30-part mini-series that is saturated with horrifying stereotypes of Jews, references to the anti-Semitic forgery The Protocols of the Elders of Zion and the blood libel, aired during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan in October and November 2003) on the Lebanon-based satellite television network Al-Manar, which is owned by the terrorist organization Hezbollah} and its offshoots: *Weled el am*, *Jewish Quarter*, *Go and Return...*

Lead question: What are the most effective ways to market an ideology?

XV Right, Left and Center

1. Exporting antisemitism after the Holocaust, the Americas and the Middle East
2. Old Nazis, Neo-Nazis, "Nazis"
3. Jewish Extremists: Neturei Karta to Noam Chomsky

Lead question: How should free-speech societies handle hate speech?

XVI The Churches and Contemporary Israel

1. Reconciling theology with reality
2. Conservative Christians and Evangelicals
3. Conversos, Modern Day Marranos: Science and Social Media

Lead question: How would you react if you learned that your origin was other than what you had always believed?

XVII Why be Jews?

1. A stubborn people?
2. Oys and joys of Judaism.

Lead question: What would cause you to remain or leave your faith?

Final Exam: Create, name and brand a new religion or political system. Describe its basic purpose and philosophy. Make it a complete system.

- Would you appropriate elements of traditional religions, political doctrines?
- How would it be financially supported?
- If it (religion) isn't monotheistic, include the major (and minor) deities), prophets, basic philosophy, forms of worship, vestments, symbols, festivals/fasts, bible, liturgy, hymns, order of service, eschatology, etc.
- In the case of a political system, include a constitution, administrative hierarchy, national anthem, penalties, flags and banners, etc.

Would it be hierarchal? How would you assure its continuity? Which demographic would you target? If evangelical, how would you attract followers?