

EXPLANATIONS OF ANTISEMITISM
Fall 2017
University of Texas at Dallas

Name of Instructor: David Patterson

Course level: Graduate

Type of course: Seminar

Department: School of Arts and Humanities

Office: Ackerman Center for Holocaust Studies, JO 4.800

Office hours: TTh 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon and by appointment

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this seminar the term *antisemitism* will generally be taken to refer to the hatred of Jews and Judaism. Although the term was first introduced by Wilhelm Marr in 1879, we shall use it to refer to the hatred of Jews and Judaism across the centuries. Deemed the “longest hatred,” the phenomenon has defied explanation, as evidenced by the many attempts to explain it. In this course, then, we shall explore the varieties of explanations of antisemitism that have emerged since Bernard Lazare published his *Antisemitism: Its History and Causes* in 1894. Because antisemitism has had a variety of manifestations, the explanations of it have cut across the academic disciplines. Therefore we shall take an interdisciplinary approach to the phenomenon. After a consideration of the history of the longest hatred, we shall explore theological, sociological, ideological, psychological, composite, and literary efforts to sound its depths. Finally, the seminar will consider an account of antisemitism from the standpoint of the Jewish thinking that the antisemite would obliterate from the world. The fundamental question to be examined in this course is: What is the anti-Semite anti? Or: Why the Jews?

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The ultimate aim of the course is to arrive at a deeper understanding of the origins of antisemitism through interdisciplinary reading, discussion, and writing. This deeper understanding includes an appreciation for the complexity of the longest hatred and the acquisition of an ability to articulate that complexity. Students should leave the seminar with more finely developed thinking, research, and communication skills.

REQUIRED READING/VIEWING/LISTENING

The following texts will be examined in the following order:

Carmichael, Joel. *The Satanizing of the Jews: Origin and Development of Mystical Anti-Semitism*. New York: Fromm International Publishing Corporation, 1992.

Lazare, Bernard. *Antisemitism: Its History and Causes*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1995.

Maritain, Jacques. *Antisemitism*. London: Centenary Press, 1939.

Ruether, Rosemary Radford. *Faith and Fratricide: The Theological Roots of Anti-Semitism*. New York: Seabury Press, 1974.

Arendt, Hannah. *Antisemitism: Part One of the Origins of Totalitarianism*. New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1968.

- Bernstein, Perez. *Jew-Hate as a Sociological Problem*. Trans. David Saraph. New York: Philosophical Library, 1951.
- Mack, Michael. *German Idealism and the Jew: The Inner Anti-Semitism of Philosophy and German Jewish Responses*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2003.
- Sartre, Jean-Paul. *Anti-Semite and Jew: An Exploration of the Etiology of Hate*. Trans. George L. Becker. New York: Schocken Books, 1976.
- Matas, David. *Aftershock: Anti-Zionism and Anti-Semitism*. Toronto: Dundurn, 2005.
- Freud, Sigmund. *Moses and Monotheism*. Trans. Katherine Jones. New York: Vintage Books, 1955.
- Rubin, Theodore Isaac. *Anti-Semitism: A Disease of the Mind*. New York: Continuum, 1990.
- Falk, Avner. *Anti-Semitism: A History and Psychoanalysis of Contemporary Hatred*. Westport, CT: Praeger, 2008.
- Grosser, Paul E. and Edwin G. Halperin. *Anti-Semitism: The Cause and Effects of a Prejudice*. Secaucus, NJ: Citadel Press, 1979.
- Miller, Arthur. *Focus*. New York: Penguin Books, 2001.
- Prager, Dennis and Joseph Telushkin. *Why the Jews? The Reason for Antisemitism*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2003.

RECOMMENDED READING/VIEWING/LISTENING

- Brunner, Constantin. *The Tyranny of Hate/The Roots of Antisemitism*. Trans. Graham Harrison. Ed. Aron M. Rappaport. Lewiston, ID: Edwin Mellen Press, 1992.
- Flannery, Edward H. *The Anguish of the Jews: Twenty-three Centuries of Anti-Semitism*. New York: Macmillan, 1965.
- Gager, John G. *The Origins of Anti-Semitism: Attitudes toward Judaism in Pagan and Christian Antiquity*. Oxford, Eng.: Oxford University Press, 1983.
- Langmuir, Gavin I. *History, Religion, and Antisemitism*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1990.
- Laqueur, Walter. *The Changing Face of Antisemitism: From Ancient Times to the Present Day*. Oxford, Eng.: Oxford University Press, 2006.
- Michael, Robert. *Holy Hatred: Christianity, Antisemitism, and the Holocaust*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2006.
- Parkes, James William. *The Conflict of the Church and the Synagogue: A Study in the Origins of Antisemitism*. New York: ACLS Humanities E-Book, 2008.
- Trachtenberg, Joshua. *The Devil and the Jews: The Medieval Conception of the Jew and Its Relation to Modern Antisemitism*. Philadelphia: Jewish Publication Society, 1983.
- Wistrich, Robert S. *A Lethal Obsession: Anti-Semitism from Antiquity to the Global Jihad*. New York: Random House, 2010.

WEEKLY TOPICS AND THEMES

Week One: Historical Background

Carmichael, Joel. *The Satanizing of the Jews: Origin and Development of Mystical Anti-Semitism*. New York: Fromm International Publishing Corporation, 1992.

See also: Wistrich, Robert S. *A Lethal Obsession: Anti-Semitism from Antiquity to the Global Jihad*. New York: Random House, 2010.

Week Two: Initial Explanations

Lazare, Bernard. *Antisemitism: Its History and Causes*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1995.

See also: Brunner, Constantin. *The Tyranny of Hate/The Roots of Antisemitism*. Trans. Graham Harrison. Ed. Aron M. Rappaport. Lewiston, ID: Edwin Mellen Press, 1992.

Week Three: Theological Explanations

Maritain, Jacques. *Antisemitism*. London: Centenary Press, 1939.

See also: Parkes, James William. *The Conflict of the Church and the Synagogue: A Study in the Origins of Antisemitism*. New York: ACLS Humanities E-Book, 2008.

Week Four: Theological Explanations

Ruether, Rosemary Radford. *Faith and Fratricide: The Theological Roots of Anti-Semitism*. New York: Seabury Press, 1974.

See also: Flannery, Edward H. *The Anguish of the Jews: Twenty-three Centuries of Anti-Semitism*. New York: Macmillan, 1965.

Week Five: Sociological Explanations

Arendt, Hannah. *Antisemitism: Part One of the Origins of Totalitarianism*. New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1968.

See also: Gager, John G. *The Origins of Anti-Semitism: Attitudes toward Judaism in Pagan and Christian Antiquity*. Oxford, Eng.: Oxford University Press, 1983.

Week Six: Sociological Explanations

Bernstein, Perez. *Jew-Hate as a Sociological Problem*. Trans. David Saraph. New York: Philosophical Library, 1951.

See also: Laqueur, Walter. *The Changing Face of Antisemitism: From Ancient Times to the Present Day*. Oxford, Eng.: Oxford University Press, 2006.

Week Seven: Philosophical/Ideological Explanations

Mack, Michael. *German Idealism and the Jew: The Inner Anti-Semitism of Philosophy and German Jewish Responses*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2003.

Week Eight: Philosophical/Ideological Explanations; Research Proposals due

Sartre, Jean-Paul. *Anti-Semite and Jew: An Exploration of the Etiology of Hate*. Trans. George L. Becker. New York: Schocken Books, 1976.

Week Nine: Philosophical/Ideological Explanations

Matas, David. *Aftershock: Anti-Zionism and Anti-Semitism*. Toronto: Dundurn, 2005.

Week Ten: Psychological Explanations

Freud, Sigmund. *Moses and Monotheism*. Trans. Katherine Jones. New York: Vintage Books, 1955.

Week Eleven: Psychological Explanations

Rubin, Theodore Isaac. *Anti-Semitism: A Disease of the Mind*. New York: Continuum, 1990.

Week Twelve: Psychological Explanations

Falk, Avner. *Anti-Semitism: A History and Psychoanalysis of Contemporary Hatred*. Westport, CT: Praeger, 2008.

Week Thirteen: Psychological Explanations

Grosser, Paul E. and Edwin G. Halperin. *Anti-Semitism: The Cause and Effects of a Prejudice*. Secaucus, NJ: Citadel Press, 1979.

Week Fourteen: A Literary Analysis of Antisemitism

Miller, Arthur. *Focus*. New York: Penguin Books, 2001.

Week Fifteen: Antisemitism through the Lens of Jewish Thought; Research Papers due

Prager, Dennis and Joseph Telushkin. *Why the Jews? The Reason for Antisemitism*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2003.

Grading Policy

Students will be evaluated on the basis of (1) an analytical research paper of at least 5000 words, (2) a research paper proposal of three to four pages plus bibliography, and (3) class participation. The paper will account for 75% of the grade, the proposal 15%, and class participation 10%. Students are encouraged to submit rough drafts of proposals and papers and to have one-on-one discussions of their topics and research with the professor: *this is a dialogical process*. Because class participation is part of the grade, the seminar will have a significant discussion component.

Course & Instructor Policies

No work will be accepted late except under extenuating circumstances. Students are responsible for all information and all instructions given in class. Students are also responsible for all information sent to their UTD email accounts.

Technical Support

If you experience any problems with your UTD account you may send an email to: assist@utdallas.edu or call the UTD Computer Helpdesk at 972-883-2911.

Student Conduct & Discipline

The University of Texas System and The University of Texas at Dallas have rules and regulations for the orderly and efficient conduct of their business. It is the responsibility of each student and each student organization to be knowledgeable about the rules and regulations which govern student conduct and activities. General information on student conduct and discipline is contained in the UTD printed publication, *A to Z Guide*, which is provided to all registered students each academic year.

The University of Texas at Dallas administers student discipline within the procedures of recognized and established due process. Procedures are defined and described in the *Rules and Regulations, Series 50000, Board of Regents, The University of Texas System*, and in Title V,

Rules on Student Services and Activities of the university's *Handbook of Operating Procedures*. Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations (SU 1.602, 972/883-6391) and online at <http://www.utdallas.edu/judicialaffairs/UTDJudicialAffairs-HOPV.html>

A student at the university neither loses the rights nor escapes the responsibilities of citizenship. He or she is expected to obey federal, state, and local laws as well as the Regents' Rules, university regulations, and administrative rules. Students are subject to discipline for violating the standards of conduct whether such conduct takes place on or off campus, or whether civil or criminal penalties are also imposed for such conduct.

Academic Integrity

The faculty expects from its students a high level of responsibility and academic honesty. Because the value of an academic degree depends upon the absolute integrity of the work done by the student for that degree, it is imperative that a student demonstrate a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work.

Scholastic Dishonesty, any student who commits an act of scholastic dishonesty is subject to discipline. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.

Plagiarism, especially from the web, from portions of papers for other classes, and from any other source is unacceptable and will be dealt with under the university's policy on plagiarism (see general catalog for details). This course will use the resources of turnitin.com, which searches the web for possible plagiarism and is over 90% effective.

Withdrawal from Class

The administration of this institution has set deadlines for withdrawal of any college-level courses. These dates and times are published in that semester's course catalog. Administration procedures must be followed. It is the student's responsibility to handle withdrawal requirements from any class. In other words, I cannot drop or withdraw any student. You must do the proper paperwork to ensure that you will not receive a final grade of "F" in a course if you choose not to attend the class once you are enrolled.

Student Grievance Procedures

Procedures for student grievances are found in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities, of the university's *Handbook of Operating Procedures*.

Incomplete Grade Policy

As per university policy, incomplete grades will be granted only for work unavoidably missed at the semester's end and only if 70% of the course work has been completed. An incomplete grade must be resolved within eight (8) weeks from the first day of the subsequent long semester. If the required work to complete the course and to remove the incomplete grade is not submitted by the specified deadline, the incomplete grade is changed automatically to a grade of **F**.