

# **Anti-Semitism: Past and Present**

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## **Course Description**

Anti-Semitism, or whatever names it takes, seems to locate both within and beyond the historical process, and its various interpretations in the wake of the Holocaust appear to be hardly escapable from being categorized as either apologetic or politically incorrect. It is arguably a pivotal, pervasive, thorny, and keenly-felt theme in Jewish studies. This survey course for graduate students will address various anti-Semitic manifestations from the Greco-Roman antiquity through medieval Christendom and Islam down to the contemporary world, trying to draw attention to the contexts in which they were emerged and to probe their historical, religious, economic, social, political, and psychological roots. The assigned readings are intended not only to form a holistic understanding of anti-Semitism in its temporal and spatial evolution and mutations, but also to offer the bibliographical knowledge necessary for independent research.

Some of the over-arching questions for the course are as follows and please be prepared to relate the reading assignments to these questions in our class discussion.

- (1) In scholarly writings we frequently encounter terms like “Judeophobia”, “anti-Judaism”, “anti-Israel”, “anti-Zionism”, so on and so forth. Are they interchangeable with “anti-Semitism”? Why is it necessary to coin a plethora of terms?
- (2) What is the pattern of continuity and change in various anti-Semitic manifestations?
- (3) Is anti-Semitism unique? How is anti-Semitism similar to and different from other prejudices or ethnic hatred?
- (4) How is anti-Semitism connected with and affected by imperialism, colonialism, (trans-)nationalism, racism, and globalization?
- (5) What can we do when facing anti-Semitic or similar discourses and praxes?

## **Requirements and Evaluations**

- Reading: Students MUST attend class having read the assigned readings each week and having prepared thoughtfully to discuss the issues raised. This will be measured through summarizing the major points and arguments of the readings.
- Attendance: One absence will be considered unremarkable. More than two absences will require explanation and will affect the final grade.
- Participation: The course will emphasize discussion. Full participation is expected.
- Presentation: Each student will make a presentation of at least 30 minutes on a topic of his/her choice.
- Final paper: The paper, with minimum 4,000 Chinese characters, should be based on the presentation. It is expected to be fully annotated and included with a bibliography.
- Grading: attendance 10%, class participation 30%, presentation 20%, and final paper 40%.

### **Required Texts:**

- (1) 徐新：《反犹太主义解析》(Xu Xin, *Studies in Antisemitism*)，上海三联书店，1996年。
- (2) 汉娜·阿伦特：《极权主义的起源》(Hannah Arendt, *The Origins of Totalitarianism*)，北京三联书店，2008年，第一部分 (Part I)。
- (3) Walter Laqueur, *The Changing Face of Anti-Semitism: From Ancient Times to the Present Day*. New York, 2008.

### **Suggested Readings:**

- (1) 阿多诺等：《权力主义人格》(T. W. Adorno, et al., *The Authoritarian Personality*)，浙江教育出版社，2002年，论反犹太主义的部分 (Part on Antisemitism)。
- (2) Bernard Lewis, *Semites and Anti-Semites: An Inquiry into Conflict and Prejudice*. London, 1986.
- (3) Institute for the Study of Global Antisemitism and Policy (ISGAP) <http://isgap.org> (Note its "Publications")

### **Week 1 : Reflections on Definitions and the Disciplinary Framework**

- (1) Dina Porat, "The Road to an Internationally Accepted Definition of Antisemitism," in *The Yale Papers: Antisemitism in Comparative Perspective*, ed. Charles A. Small, New York: ISGAP, 2015, pp. 19-32.
- (2) Charles A. Small, *Global Antisemitism: A Crisis of Modernity: An Introduction*. New York, 2013.
- (3) Benjamin Schwartz, "Presidential Address: Area Studies as a Critical Discipline," *Journal of Asian Studies*, Vol. 40, No. 1 (Nov., 1980): 15-25. (A sophisticated and benign critique on E. Said)

### **Week 2 : Judeophobia in the Greco-Roman World**

- (1) Zvi Yavetz, "Judeophobia in Classical Antiquity: A Different Approach," *Journal of Jewish Studies* XLIV.1 (1993), 1-22.
- (2) Benjamin Isaac, *The Invention of Racism in Classical Antiquity*. Princeton, 2006, Introduction, Chapter 13 (Jews), End Conclusions (Ethnic Prejudice, Proto-Racism, and Imperialism in Antiquity).

### **Week 3 : *Kata Ioudaion / Adversus Iudaeos* of the Christian Fathers**

- (1) John Chrysostom, *Discourses Against Judaizing Christians*, trans. Paul Harkins, Washington, 1979. Selections
- (2) Marcel Simon, *Verus Israel: A Study of the Relations between Christians and Jews in the Roman Empire (AD 135-425)*, London, 1996. Chapters 5-6 (Anti-Jewish Polemic), 8 (Christian Antisemitism), 11 (The Judaizers within the Church).

### **Week 4: Anti-Judaism in the Medieval Christendom**

- (1) 彭小瑜：《教会法研究——历史与理论》(Peng Xiaoyu, *Studies in the Canon Law: History and Theory*)，北京：商务印书馆，2003年，Chapter 5 (On the treatment of non-Christians in the Canon law).
- (2) 徐新：《反犹太主义解析》(Xu Xin, *Studies in Antisemitism*)，Related Part.
- (3) Selected medieval artistic representations of ritual murder, desecration of the hosts, blood libel, etc.
- (4) 马克比：《犹太教审判：中世纪犹太-基督两教大论争》(Hyam Maccoby, *Judaism on Trial: Jewish-Christian Disputations in the Middle Ages*)，山东大学出版社，1996年。【optional】

### **Week 5: Antisemitism in Modern Europe**

- (1) Paul Mendes-Flohr and Jehuda Reihartz, eds. *The Jew in the Modern World: A*

*Documentary History*, 3rd edn., New York, 2010, Selections from Part VII (Political and Racial Antisemitism)

- (2) Jacob Katz, *From Prejudice to Destruction: Anti-Semitism, 1700-1933*, Cambridge, Mass.: 1980, selections

### **Week 6: Jewish Self-Hatred**

- (1) 奥托·魏宁格：《性与性格》(Otto Weininger, *Sex and Character*), 译林出版社, 2011年, 第13章 (esp. Chapter 13)。
- (2) Robert Wistrich, *Laboratory for World Destruction: Germans and Jews in Central Europe*, Chapter 12 (Karl Kraus: an anatomy of self-hatred)
- (3) Sander Gilman, *Jewish Self-Hatred: Anti-Semitism and the Hidden Language of the Jews*, Baltimore, 1986, selections

### **Week 7: Muslim and Anti-Semitism I: Overview and Roots**

- (1) Gudrun Krämer, "Anti-Semitism in the Muslim World: A Critical Review," *Die Welt des Islams* 47:3 (2006): 243-276.
- (2) Norman Stillman, *The Jews of Arab Lands: A History and Sourcebook*, Philadelphia, 1979, pp. 149-151 (Koran on dhimmis), 157-158 (the Pact of Umar).
- (3) 宋立宏：“论‘顺民’：犹太人在伊斯兰世界中的法律和社会地位” (Lihong Song, "On Dhimmi: the legal and social status of Jews in Islam"), 载潘光等主编：《离散与避难：犹太民族难以忘怀的历史》(in Pan Guang, et al. eds., *Diaspora and Refuge*), 时事出版社, 2013年, 第31-55页。

### **Week 8: Muslim and Anti-Semitism II: Contemporary Manifestations**

- (1) Hamas Charter: <http://fas.org/irp/world/para/docs/880818.htm>  
or [http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th\\_century/hamas.asp](http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/hamas.asp)
- (2) Bernard Lewis, "Muslim Anti-Semitism," *Middle East Quarterly* 5:2 (1998): 43-49. <http://www.meforum.org/396/muslim-anti-semitism>
- (3) Efraim Karsh, "The Long Trail of Islamic Anti-Semitism," *Israel Affairs* 12:1 (2006): 1-12.
- (4) Esther Webman, "The Challenge of Assessing Arab/Islamic Antisemitism," *Middle East Quarterly* 45:5 (2010): 677-697.
- (5) Günther Jikeli, *Antisemitic Attitudes among Muslims in Europe: A Survey Review*, New York, 2015.

### **Week 9: Jews and the Modern Economic Life: Is Sombart Antisemitic or Philosemitic?**

- (1) 桑巴特：《犹太人与现代资本主义》(Werner Sombart, *The Jews and Modern Capitalism*), 上海三联书店, 2015年[1911]。Chapters 10-11。
- (2) Milton Friedman, "Capitalism and Jews," Chinese version is available.
- (3) S. Herbert Frankel, *Modern Capitalism and the Jews*, Oxford, 1983. 12pp.
- (4) Paul Mendes-Flohr, "Werner Sombart's *The Jews and Modern Capitalism*: An Analysis of its Ideological Premises," *Leo Baeck Institute Yearbook* (1976): 87-107.

### **Week 10: Shtadlanim: A Pattern of Jewish Exilic Engagement with Politics**

- (1) 张礼刚：“论17、18世纪德意志地区的宫廷犹太人” (Zhang Ligang, "The Court Jews of Germany in 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries"), 载《世界历史》2006年第6期。
- (2) Michael Walzer et al., *The Jewish Political Tradition*, Vol.4 (forthcoming). Related chapter.

### **Week 11: New Antisemitism: Anti-Zionism**

- (1) Robert Wistrich, "Anti-Zionist Connections: Communism, Radical Islam, and the Left," in *Resurgent Antisemitism: Global Perspective*, ed. Alvin Rosenfeld, Bloomington and Indianapolis, 2013, pp. 402-423.
- (2) Ernest Sternberg, "The Origin of Globalized Anti-Zionism: A conjuncture of hatreds

since the Cold War," *Israel Affairs* (2015): 1-17.

### **Week 12: Anti-Semitic Iconography: Continuity and Change**

- (1) Sara Lipton, *Dark Mirror: The Medieval Origins of Anti-Semitic Iconography*, New York, 2014. selections
- (2) Joël Kotek, *Cartoons and Extremism: Israel and the Jews in Arab and Western Media*, Portland, Oregon, 2009. selections
- (3) Yaakov Kirschen, "Memetics and the Viral Spread of Antisemitism through 'Coded Images' in Political Cartoons," in *The Yale Papers: Antisemitism in Comparative Perspective*, ed. Charles A. Small, New York: ISGAP, 2015, pp. 435-456.

### **Week 13: Contemporary Concerns: Documentary Screening**

- (1) "Crossing the Line 2: The New Face of Anti-Semitism on Campus," [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tNDCcsH\\_wgU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tNDCcsH_wgU)
- (2) "Breaking the Silence: Israeli Soldiers Talk about the Occupied Territories," DVD
- (3) Alvin Rosenfeld, "Climate of Opinion," *Jewish Review of Books* (Spring 2015). (On current BDS [boycott, divestment, sanctions] movement in the West.)

### **Week 14: Philosemitism or Antisemitism?**

- (1) Jonathan Karp and Adam Sutcliffe, eds. *Philosemitism in History*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2011, pp. 1-28 ("Introduction: A Brief History of Philosemitism.")
- (2) 张倩红：《犹太人视野中的当代中国——兼评宋鸿兵的<货币战争>》（Zhang Qianhong, "Review of Song Hongbin's *Currency War*"），载《世界民族》2010年第1期。
- (3) "广州告急！贩毒、强奸、闹事……50万黑人带来的灾难" ("Guangzhou is in danger! Drug Trafficking, Rape, Messing Around") <http://www.yjscw.cn/news/newsshow-491448.html>

### **Weeks 15-16**

Presentations