**Anti-Judaism, the Holocaust, and the new Antisemitism**

**Professor Yudit K. Greenberg**

**Course Description**

This interdisciplinary course is a comprehensive study of the history of anti-Judaism and its evolution from antiquity to modern and contemporary times. The course will be divided into three parts: In the first part, we will examine historical and literary sources which demonstrate rivalry and hate towards the Jews. These include primary sources such as the New Testament and writings of the Early Church, the Qur’an and Hadith, as well as anti-Jewish iconography through the middle ages and up to the enlightenment. In the second part of the course, we will look at Jewish life in Europe since the emancipation, the rise of the nation-states, national socialism and Nazi policies and crimes, and finally the genocide of the Jews in the Shoah. We will then take our field study to Auschwitz Birkenau during our spring break. In the third part of the course, we will read, view, and listen to accounts of contemporary forms of anti-Semitism including Neo-Nazism, Holocaust denial, anti-Zionism, Jihadism, as well as Antisemitic tropes on the right, the left, and in popular culture.



The Warsaw ghetto in 1943. Photograph: Roger Viollet /Getty Images

**Course Objectives**

* Gain an understanding of the roots and evolution of anti-Judaism from its textual inception in the Christian Gospels, followed by Islamic anti-Judaism, to medieval conspiracies and blood libels, to the most violent implementation of anti-Semitic policies under the totalitarian regime of Nazism in the Shoah, and more recently to Holocaust denial and anti-Israel propaganda.
* Critically analyze through oral and written assignments the complexities of Jew-hatred by diverse groups of people, their religious dogmas, their social, economic, and political status and circumstances, their fears, their ignorance, and the dialectics of nativism, nationalism, and globalism.

**Required Texts**

Doris Bergen, L. *War and genocide: A concise history of the Holocaust*

David Nirenberg, Anti-Judaism: The Western Tradition

Elie Wiesel, *Night*

**Selections on Canvas:**

* The New Testament
* The Qur’an and Hadith
* Hannah Arendt, Antisemitism: Part One of the Origins of Totalitarianism.
* Deborah Lipstadt. Denying the Holocaust: The Growing Assault on Truth
* Sara Lipton, Dark Mirror: The Medieval Origins of Anti-Jewish Iconography
* David Patterson, Antisemitism and its Metaphysical Origins**,**

## Eunice Pollack, ed. From Antisemitism to Anti-Zionism: The Past & Present of a Lethal Ideology.

* W. Shakespeare, The Merchant of Venice

## Charles A. Small, The ISGAP Papers: Antisemitism in Comparative Perspective, Volume Three

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

**Course Schedule**

**Week 1**

**Topics:** Introduction; Anti-Judaism in Antiquity

**Readings:** Nirenberg, Introduction; Chapter 1

**Week 2**

**Topics:** Early Christian Anti-Judaism; The Early Church

**Readings: C,** Selections from the New Testament; Nirenberg, Chapters 2&3

**Week 3**

**Topics:** Early Islamic Anti-Judaism; Jews in the Qur’an

**Readings: C,** Selections from the Qur’an and Hadith; Nirenberg, Chapter 4

**Week 4**

**Topics:** The Jews in the Middle Ages; The Origins of Anti-Jewish Iconography

**Readings:** Nirenberg, Chapters 5& 6; **C**, Selections from *Dark Mirror: The Medieval Origins of Anti-Jewish Iconography*by Sara Lipton

**Week 5**

**Topics:** Luther and the Reformation; Shakespeare’s The Merchant of Venice

**Readings:** Nirenberg, 7& 8; **C**, *The Merchant of Venice*

**Week 6**

**Topics:** Christian politics; the Enlightenment; the French Revolution; Philosophical Anti-Judaism

**Readings:** Nirenberg, Chapters 9-12**.**

**Week 7**

**Topics:** The Nation-state; the birth of Modern Antisemitism

**Readings, C,** Selections from Arendt, The Origins of Totalitarianism: Part One: Antisemitism

**Week 8**

**Topics:** National Socialism, Genocide, and the Holocaust

**Readings:** Bergen, Doris L. *War and genocide: A concise history of the Holocaust*

**Week 9**

**Field study in Auschwitz Birkenau**

**Readings:** Wiesel, *Night*

**Week 10**

**Topics:** ContemporaryPhilosophical and Psychological Theories of Anti-Semitism

## **Readings: C,** Selections from *Antisemitism and its Metaphysical Origins***,** David Patterson***;*** *A Lethal Obsession: Anti-Semitism from Antiquity to the Global Jihad*, Wistrich, Robert S.

**Viewing**: *The Longest Hatred*

## **Week 11**

**Topics:** Contemporary Antisemitism: Neo-Nazism; Holocaust Denial

## **Readings: C,** Selections from*Denying the Holocaust: The Growing Assault on Truth***,** Deborah Lipstadt

**Viewing:** Andrew Goldberg’s PBS documentary VIRAL: ANTISEMITISM IN FOUR MUTATIONS.

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**Week 12**

## **Topics:** Anti-Zionism, Anti-Israelism, and Antisemitism

## **Readings: C,** Selections, From Antisemitism to Anti-Zionism: The Past & Present of a Lethal Ideology, Ed. Eunice Pollack

**Week 13**

**Topic:** Antisemitism and Jihadism

## **Readings: C,** Selections fromA Lethal Obsession: Anti-Semitism from Antiquity to the Global Jihad, Wistrich, Robert S.

**Week 14**

**Topics:** Global Antisemitism; Antisemitism in Popular Culture

**Readings: C,** Selections from Global Antisemitism: A Crisis of Modernity, ed. Charles A. Small;

**Listening and Viewing**: Selection of Hip Hop music; Sermons by L. Farrakhan

**Week 15**

**Topic:** Reflections of our study and Conclusion of the course