

COURSE SYLLABUS
ANTISEMITISM IN A POST HOLOCAUST WORLD
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DRAFT

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Course Justification: Antisemitism is on a precipitous rise throughout the world and universities, in particular the humanities, have not done an adequate job in addressing and challenging this issue. The course, **Antisemitism in a Post Holocaust World**, is designed to be an introduction to undergraduate students from all fields of study to comprehend the prevalence and perils of Antisemitism and how this persists in impacting our world.

General Description: The Holocaust is perhaps the most transcendent event in modern history. The Nazis and their allies were responsible for the deaths of approximately six million Jews and millions of non-Jews as this reign of terror coincided with the devastation of the Second World War that engulfed Europe and the Soviet Union. However, the story of the Holocaust did not end with liberation and a post Holocaust world continues to be traumatized by unresolved evils, not the least, the perpetuation of Antisemitism that casts a perennial shadow over the global Jewish community and humanity as a whole.

Contemporary Antisemitism emanates from multiple fronts to include: Right-wing extremism, the radical left and political Islam. The threat to Judaism and the Jewish people is ever-present, whether that is the call for the destruction of the state of Israel or targeted violence perpetrated against Jewish minorities throughout the world. Despite its prevalence, Antisemitism, the most ancient of all hatreds, is not being taken seriously and is alarmingly on the rise as new generations become ensnared in the web of antisemitic ideology.

During the 14 week course, **Antisemitism in a Post Holocaust World**, we will conceptually examine how Antisemitism is being committed in the modern context and investigate the devastating repercussions that Antisemitism has laid in its wake. This specific course will serve as a general introduction to the theme of Antisemitism and no pre-requisites are required.

Required Text:

- Deborah E. Lipstadt, *Antisemitism: Here and Now*, (Schocken, January 29, 2019), ISBN-10: 0805243372

Goals

1) To develop a broad understanding of the concept of Antisemitism and how this prejudice has evolved.

- 2) To analyze historic Antisemitism and its humanitarian consequences.
- 3) To establish diagnostic skills and critical thinking with respects to comprehending contemporary Antisemitism.
- 4) To conduct an original investigation pertaining to themes related to our course work.

Class Schedule and Assignments

WEEK 1: Class introduction and presentation of syllabus. Why Antisemitism?

This week we will be examining the definition and interpretation of Antisemitism and the essential necessity of understanding and studying historic and contemporary Antisemitism.

Selected Readings:

OHCHR, “The working definition of Anti-Semitism: What does it mean, why is it important, and what should we do with it?”, *Global Jewish Advocacy*, (New York, 2019).

Madeline Roach, “Surge in Anti-Semitic Attacks Has Caused a 'Sense of Emergency' Among Jews Worldwide, New Report Says”, *Time*, (May 2, 2019),
<https://time.com/5580312/kantor-center-anti-semitism-report/>

WEEK 2: Anti-Judaism from a religious context

This week we will be analyzing the historic hatred for the Jewish people emanating from the theological and religious divisions between Christianity and Judaism.

Selected Readings:

Gerard S. Sloyan, “Christian Persecution of Jews over the Centuries”, *The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum*,
<https://www.ushmm.org/research/about-the-mandel-center/initiatives/ethics-religion-holocaust/articles-and-resources/christian-persecution-of-jews-over-the-centuries/christian-persecution-of-jews-over-the-centuries>

Dr. Franklin Littell, *The Crucifixion of the Jews: The Failure of Christians to Understand the Jewish Experience*, (Mercer University Press, February 24, 2017 (Selected Chapters).

Julie Zauzmer Weil, “How anti-Semitic beliefs have taken hold among some evangelical Christians”, *The Washington Post*, (August 22, 2019),
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/religion/2019/08/22/how-anti-semitic-beliefs-have-quietly-taken-hold-among-some-evangelical-christians/>

WEEK 3: Racial Antisemitism

This week we will discuss the “new” Antisemitism that is linked to perceptions of race and became popularized with Social Darwinism, pseudoscience and racial eugenics that marginalized the Jewish people.

Selected Readings:

Jerome Friedman, “Jewish Conversion, the Spanish Pure Blood Laws and Reformation: A Revisionist View of Racial and Religious Antisemitism”, *The Sixteenth Century Journal*, Vol. 18, No. 1, (Spring 1987).

David Turner, “Eugenics, euthanasia and American race improvement”, *The Jerusalem Post*, (February 1, 2012),

<https://www.jpost.com/blogs/the-jewish-problem---from-anti-judaism-to-anti-semitism/eugenics-euthanasia-and-american-race-improvement-366149>

Daniel A. Gross, “A Brutal Genocide in Colonial Africa Finally Gets its Deserved Recognition”, *Smithsonian Magazine*, (October 28, 2015),

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/brutal-genocide-colonial-africa-finally-gets-its-deserved-recognition-180957073/>

WEEK 4: The Holocaust

This week we will discuss the greatest crime in modern history, the Holocaust of the European Jews perpetrated by the Nazis and their allies.

Selected Readings:

Yad Vashem, “Antisemitism”, *YouTube*, (November 17, 2015, 14:52),

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=re3kZcrKPmM>

Yad Vashem, “The Development of the Final Solution”, (2011),

<https://www.yadvashem.org/education/educational-videos/video-toolbox/hevt-final-solution.html>

Doris L. Bergen, *War & Genocide: A Concise History of the Holocaust*, (Lanham, Rowman and Littlefield, 2016), (Selected Chapters).

WEEK 5: The establishment of Israel and geopolitical existential threats.

This week we will be discussing the founding of the Jewish state of Israel along with the imminent regional resistance and aggressive stance from state and non-state actors. We will also examine how Israel continues to be a nation under assault.

Selected Readings:

Hizky Shoham, “Great History” to “Small History”: The Genesis of the Zionist Periodization”, *Israel Studies*, Vol. 18, No.1, (Spring 2013).

Michael B. Oren, “Escalation to Suez: The Egypt-Israel Border War, 1949-56”, *Journal of Contemporary History*, Vol. 24, No. 2, Studies on War (Apr., 1989), pp. 347-373

Abraham J. Edelheit, “The Holocaust and the rise of Israel: A Reassessment Reassessed”, *Jewish Political Studies Review*, Vol. 12 No. 1/2, Spring 2000.

Tom O’Connor, “Israel Security Officials Reveal the Top Threats They Face on Four Fronts This Year” *Newsweek*, (January 19, 2021),
<https://www.newsweek.com/israel-security-officials-reveal-top-threats-four-borders-1562840>

WEEK 6: Antisemitism and neo-fascism

This week we will analyze Antisemitism emanating from the far Right, from the emergence of neo-fascism to the elements that perpetrate violence and threaten democracy.

Selected Readings:

Deborah E. Lipstadt, *Antisemitism: Here and Now*, (Schocken, January 29, 2019), (Selected Chapters).

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, “Origins of Neo-Nazi and White Supremacist Terms and Symbols”,
<https://www.ushmm.org/antisemitism/what-is-antisemitism/origins-of-neo-nazi-and-white-supremacist-terms-and-symbols>

Emma Green, “Why the Charlottesville Marchers Were Obsessed with Jews”, *The Atlantic*, (August 15, 2017),
<https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2017/08/nazis-racism-charlottesville/536928/>

Associated Press, “Anti-Semitism Seen in Capitol Insurrection Raises Alarms” *US News and World Report*, (January 13, 2021),
<https://www.usnews.com/news/politics/articles/2021-01-13/anti-semitism-seen-in-capitol-insurrection-raises-alarms>

Southern Poverty Law Center, “Hate Map”, (2020),
<https://www.splcenter.org/hate-map>

WEEK 7: Antisemitism and the hijacking of social movements

This week we will examine Antisemitism originating from the far Left and how extremist groups and politics have hijacked social movements propagating an antisemitic agenda.

Selected Readings:

Deborah E. Lipstadt, *Antisemitism: Here and Now*, (Schocken, January 29, 2019), (Selected Chapters).

Jeffrey Herz, “The Anti-Zionist Bridge: The East German Communist Contribution to Antisemitism's Revival After the Holocaust”, *Antisemitism Studies*, Volume 1, Number 1, (Spring 2017), pp. 130-156.

Lars Rensmann and Samuel Salzborn, “Modern Antisemitism as Fetishized Anti-Capitalism: Moishe Postone's Theory and its Historical and Contemporary Relevance”, *Antisemitism Studies*, Vol. 5, No. 1, (Spring 2021), pp. 44-99.

Mark Townsend, “UK left activists attended events with far right antisemites”, *The Guardian*, (February 22, 2020),
<https://www.theguardian.com/news/2020/feb/22/uk-left-activists-at-far-right-events-antisemites-holocaust-deniers>

WEEK 8: Antisemitism and political Islam

This week we will discuss political Islam and ideologies of Antisemitism authored by groups such as the Muslim Brotherhood and Hamas.

Selected Readings:

Deborah E. Lipstadt, *Antisemitism: Here and Now*, (Schocken, January 29, 2019), (Selected Chapters).

Joseph S. Spoerl, Parallels between Nazi and Islamist Anti-Semitism, *Jewish Political Studies Review*, Vol. 31, No. 1/2 (Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs, 2020), pp. 210-244.

David Patterson, “The Muslim Brotherhood and the Evolution of Jihadist Antisemitism”, ISGAP, (January 17, 2018),
<https://isgap.org/flashpoint/the-muslim-brotherhood-and-the-evolution-of-jihadist-antisemitism/>

Katajun Amirpur, “Iran's Policy towards Jewish Iranians and the State of Israel. Is the Present Iranian State Islamofascist?”, *Die Welt des Islams*, Vol. 52, Issue 3/4 (2012), pp. 370-399.

WEEK 9: Holocaust denial and distortion

This week we will analyze the contemporary trend of denying and distorting the memory of the Holocaust and how the falsification of history imperils the future of the Jewish people.

Selected Readings:

Dr. Ewelina U. Ochab, “Why Challenging Holocaust Denial and Distortion Matters”, *Forbes*, (January 27, 2020),
<https://www.forbes.com/sites/ewelinaochab/2020/01/27/why-challenging-holocaust-denial-and-distortion-matters/?sh=6c3cd55f3738>

Jelena Subotic, *Yellow Star, Red Star: Holocaust Remembrance after Communism*, (Ithaca, Cornell University Press, 2019), (Selected Chapters).

Manfred Gerstenfeld, “The Multiple Distortions of Holocaust Memory”, *Jewish Political Studies Review*, Vol. 19, No. 3/4, (Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs, Fall 2007), pp. 35-55.

WEEK 10: Antisemitism in higher education

This week we will examine the disturbing trend of Antisemitism in higher education as an institutional reality and how extremist groups have funded an antisemitic political agenda within universities

Selected Readings:

Matthew Bronfman, “What Jewish Students Need from University Leaders Right Now”, *The New York Times*, (June 24, 2021),
<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/06/24/opinion/international-world/colleges-antisemitism.html>

Leonard Saxe, Graham Wright, Shahar Hecht, Michelle Shain, Theodore Sasson, Fern Chertok, “Hotspots of Antisemitism and Anti-Israel Hostility on US Campuses”, Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies, (Brandeis University, October 2016),
<https://www.brandeis.edu/cmjs/noteworthy/ssri/hotspots-antisemitism.html>

Charles Asher Small, Unreported Foreign Donations to Universities Foment Anti-Semitism, *Newsweek*, (August 9, 2021),
<https://www.newsweek.com/unreported-foreign-donations-universities-foment-antisemitism-opinion-1546139>

WEEK 11: Endangered Jewish minorities

This week we will discuss how Jewish minorities living across the globe find themselves under constant threat due to Antisemitism and violence.

Selected Readings:

Jeffrey Goldberg, “Is it Time for the Jews to Leave Europe?”, *The Atlantic*, (April 2015),
<https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2015/04/is-it-time-for-the-jews-to-leave-europe/386279/>

Andrea Mifano, “The expulsion of Jews from Arab countries and Iran – an untold history”, *World Jewish Congress*, (February 2, 2021),

<https://www.worldjewishcongress.org/en/news/the-expulsion-of-jews-from-arab-countries-and-iran--an-untold-history>

Zack Beauchamp, “What’s behind the anti-Semitism surge in the US”, *Vox*, (June 2, 2021),

<https://www.vox.com/policy-and-politics/2021/6/2/22455622/anti-semitism-israel-gaza-hamas-new-york-los-angeles-2021>

WEEK 12: The social media and Antisemitism

This week we will analyze how technology and social media has been a tool to spread Antisemitism and conspiracy theories targeting Jews.

Selected Readings:

Associated Press, “Facebook bans Holocaust denial, distortion posts”, *Politico*, (October 12, 2020),

<https://www.politico.com/news/2020/10/12/facebook-bans-holocaust-denial-posts-428950>

BBC News, “Anti-Semitic social posts 'not taken down' in 80% of cases”, (August 2, 2021),

<https://www.bbc.com/news/technology-58058428>

Ewan Palmer, “Nearly Half of QAnon Followers Believe Jews Plotting to Rule the World”, *Newsweek*, (June 28, 2021),

<https://www.newsweek.com/qanon-antisemitism-morning-consult-survey-1604752>

WEEK 13: Presentation of Final Projects

This week we will present a summary of our final projects and your final papers will be collected.

WEEK 14: Concluding Thoughts

This week we will conclude our course and look at what we all can do to combat Antisemitism in the present and the future.