This course was first offered in Winter 2023 by Professor Deidre Butler and Professor Pamela Walker at Carleton University in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. The course is jointly offered as a History and Religion course at the 3rd year level. We are so grateful to ISGAP and our ISGAP colleagues who have been so instrumental in sharpening and broadening our thinking about antisemitism in historical and contemporary perspectives as well as the pedagogical issues that need be addressed in developing such a course. Teaching this together enriches the course in powerful ways as we both bring our own disciplinary perspectives and research interests to this material. It was very important to us to connect the historical with the contemporary focusing on continuity and change. The course reflects our emphasis on using primary sources in historical context including art, propaganda, political speech, sacred texts, sermons, music, film, oral testimony and memoir etc.

Carleton University
College of the Humanities: Religion Program
Department of History

Antisemitism, Then and Now
RELI 3840/HIST3908C: Winter 2023
Monday/Wednesday 1:05 to 2:25 PA240
Instructors: Dr. Deidre Butler and Dr. Pamela Walker

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Professor Deidre Butler (Religion)</th>
<th>Professor Pamela Walker (History)</th>
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<td><a href="mailto:deidre.butler@carleton.ca">deidre.butler@carleton.ca</a></td>
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<td>In person: Wednesdays 3:00-4:00pm Paterson 2a49</td>
<td>In person: Monday 11am to noon Paterson 417</td>
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<td>Online Zoom: Tuesdays 4:00-5:00 pm or by appointment (link on Brightspace)</td>
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Course Description: We examine the long history of antisemitism to understand how historical forms of antisemitism continue into the present but also change. Co-taught by Religion and History professors, we will draw on religious texts, legislation, political propaganda, oral histories, and film.
This third-year course moves through the earliest expressions of antisemitism, sometimes referred to as anti-Judaism, in religious contexts from the ancient world through the medieval period. We begin to trace modern forms of antisemitism through the 19th and early 20th centuries in Europe, North America and the Middle East and Africa to provide a context for the genocidal antisemitism of the Holocaust. The second half of the course focuses on post-Holocaust and contemporary expressions of antisemitism with attention to politics and popular culture, including films, social media, and the press.

There are no prerequisites for the course. Second year standing or above is required. This course will include disturbing material that is difficult. Course materials include examples of hate speech, antisemitic propaganda, detailed descriptions of antisemitic violence and genocide and gendered violence.

We acknowledge that the land on which we gather to meet for this course is the traditional unceded and unsurrendered territory of the Algonquin Anishnaabeg people.

Course Requirements:
10% Class contribution: Contemporary Antisemitism (2)
20% In-class weekly writing. (10)
10% In-class presentation on antisemitism and film (March 1)
10% In-class final presentation on antisemitism in popular culture (April 10)
50% Three Short Essays (Feb 1, March 8, March 27)

Graded Work Details:
1. **Class Contribution:** Share one example of antisemitism twice during the semester. Your example should be drawn from the news, social media, print media, music, or other contemporary sources. Share briefly in class (5 minutes maximum, sign up for dates), and then on Brightspace. Post in the Antisemitism in the news discussion forum on Brightspace. We will collect these posts as a repository of contemporary examples on Brightspace and revisit them later in the course. Individual. (2x)
2. **In-class writing:** In response to the assigned reading and class lectures. The highest 10 grades will count towards final course grade. This in-class writing cannot be replaced if absent. Individual. (x10)
3. **In-class presentation on a film:** In class presentation and discussion of one film selected from an assigned list. (1)
4. **Final presentation:** Find an example of antisemitism in modern culture and place that example in its historical and contemporary context, and present in class. (1)
5. **Short-Essays:** Religion and antisemitism (Feb 1), Antisemitism 19th century to 1946 (March 8); Antisemitism in the 20th century (March 22)

**Bonus marks:** Attend a lecture or program that focuses on antisemitism. Who was the audience? What was the central question being addressed? What were the major issues? What
connections do you hear in our course? Up to 5 points. 2-3 pages with citations. Submit online within 2 weeks of the event and email Dr. Butler.

Required Course Materials:
All required readings and videos are available through ARES on Brightspace or are linked from Brightspace to external web sites. Recommended readings are also available through ARES on Brightspace.

Learning Outcomes:
At the end of this course, students will be able to:
1. Describe the historical development, key themes and disciplinary vocabulary associated with the academic study of antisemitism.
2. Rehearse the historical development of antisemitism and its relationship to present day antisemitic ideas and practices.
3. Analyze and assess primary texts and secondary texts that are significant to the academic study of antisemitism in historical and contemporary perspectives.
4. Recognize antisemitic language, images, and discourse whether explicit or implicit.
5. Trace historical change and continuity in the expression and experience of antisemitism.
6. Distinguish between scholarly and insider or faith-based approaches and deploy them in ways appropriate to the disciplines.
7. Articulate how Jewish communities experience and engage with antisemitism in diverse historical and contemporary contexts.
8. Develop written and oral arguments and analyses that critically relate antisemitism to other historical changes.

Important Note on Intellectual Property and Privacy:
Classroom teaching and learning activities, including lectures, discussions, presentations, etc., by both instructors and students, are the intellectual property of their respective author(s). All course content and materials, whether deriving from the instructor or fellow students, including PowerPoint presentations, outlines, Briefing Notes, Final Project, and other shared materials, are protected by copyright and remain the intellectual property of their respective author(s). Infringement violates the law.

Do not record the class (video, voice, photo or any other form) nor post any materials from the class in any form. To do so violates Canadian Privacy laws.

Students are not permitted to reproduce or distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly for commercial or non-commercial purposes.

Please also make sure you read and understand the University guidelines on plagiarism (at the end of this document).

Students registered with the Paul Menton Centre will have guidelines particular to their own academic needs.
Course Culture: 
*It is crucial for us to work together build a supportive classroom environment and forge collective knowledge. This process requires active engagement and listening intently to one another. Many issues we explore will be challenging, personal, and potentially painful. Therefore, we must work together to create a space in which we can hear, support, and be accountable to one another as we search for ways to dismantle oppressive systems and create more just and humane systems.*

Classroom/Community Values:
- **Our communication, both written and oral, should be respectful and civil.**
- **Share your stories with kindness and leave room for other people’s stories.**
- **Stick close to the text(s) in discussion.** Keep your readings open. When appropriate, be prepared to cite specifics in the language of the text to support, challenge, or question.
- **Collaborate, don’t compete.** This learning space is not one of debate, but one of discussion. Discussion is collaborative: multiple sides work toward shared understanding. Debate is oppositional: opposing sides try to prove each other wrong.
- **Affirm comments made by other students.** Encourage others to clarify or expand ideas that might be foggy. Ask for more information or further explanation. Discuss ideas rather than one another’s opinions.

Course Schedule:

**Class 1: Week 1: Jan. 09: Introductions**

**Topics:**
1. Welcome: Syllabus overview, Class culture
3. What is antisemitism? What does it look like?
4. How has antisemitism developed over time? How does understanding how antisemitism operated in the past help us understand antisemitism today? What are the continuities and what are the changes?
5. How does listening to Jewish voices, historically and in contemporary contexts, enrich our understanding.
6. How does thinking about antisemitism sharpen our thinking about race, ethnicity, religious identity and diversity? Why are definitions of antisemitism so fraught today?

**Group work:** Read in class:
Class 2: Week 1: Jan 11: Definitions

Read Before class:

- Eric K. Ward “Skin in the Game: How Antisemitism Animates White Nationalism” https://politicalresearch.org/2017/06/29/skin-in-the-game-how-antisemitism-animates-white-nationalism This essay takes a different starting point and the question it raises here is how does this argument allow us to define antisemitism, does it add to what the other essays say?

Topics:

1. Why are we starting with antisemitism definitions? Would we do this in a class on racism or sexism? Why are definitions of antisemitism so fraught
2. IHRA, Sharansky 3 Ds, Jerusalem definitions
3. Jewish studies / History definitions

Workshop: Read in class:

- IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism https://www.holocaustremembrance.com/resources/working-definitions-charters/working-definition-antisemitism
- Jerusalem Declaration: https://jerusalemdeclaration.org

Recommended sources: These sources directly address questions of definitions of antisemitism that will be useful for all assignments. Come back to these as helpful.

- Antisemitism on the Left and Right: how to recognise it and how to fight it (Natan Sharansky) 11
Class 3: Week 2: Jan 16: Ancient to Antique Antisemitism Early Christianity

Read Before Class:

Topics:
1. Anti-Judaism and its relation to antisemitism
2. New Testament sources
3. Church Fathers

Workshop: Read in Class
- Matthew: Chapter 27, verses 24-25 (NSRV)
- Acts 7:51-53 (NSRV)
- Thessalonians 2:14-16 (NSRV)
- John, Chapter 8: verses 37-49, New Testament (NSRV)

Recommended:
- Lange, Armin. “Jew-Hatred in Antiquity: Cultural, Legal, and Physical Forms of Antisemitic Persecution.” Comprehending Antisemitism through the Ages. 41-78., 2021. Print. Antiquity here refers to the 8th century b.c.e through the Muslim conquest and allows us to think about Jew hatred through this period across pagan, Christian and pre-Muslim contexts.
- Garroway, Joshua. “Church Fathers and Antisemitism from the 2nd Century through Augustine (End of 450 CE).” Chapter. In The Cambridge Companion to Antisemitism,
This article focuses on the early Church Fathers who set the stage for Jew hatred in Christian Europe. Note particularly Augustine’s strategy and how it works to protect Jews while also making them a target of anti-Judaism.

- Levine, Amy-Jill. “When the Bible Becomes Weaponized: Detecting and Disarming Jew-Hatred.” Studia theologica 75.2 (2021): 182–204. This article is particularly helpful for thinking about how the New Testament is used to advance antisemitism in contemporary contexts.

Class 4: Week 2: Jan 18: Medieval to Early Modern Antisemitism in Christian Europe Workshop

Read before class:

Topics:
1. Augustine’s Legacy
2. Antisemitic Imagery
3. Violence: Crusades, Blood Libels, Host Desecrations, Well poisonings, Inquisition
4. Martin Luther and Reformation

Workshop:
- View in class: Images from Strickland
- View in class: Sculpture – Ecclesia and Synagoga
- Read in class: Martin Luther, “On The Jews and their Lies”

Recommended:
- “Jews and Christians in Teruel: The Fuero of Teruel, 1176 CE.” Medieval Internet Sourcebook. https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/source/1276teruel.asp This city charter became an important model for how Jews should be treated under the law.

Class 5: Week 3: January 23: Monday: Antisemitism & Islam and the Arab world: Early Islam through Medieval to early Modern

Guest Speaker: Dr. Syed Adnan Hussain, Associate Professor, Religious Studies, St-Mary's University. Professor Hussain will join us by Zoom in our in-person classroom. Please attend in-person as usual for in-class updates and in-class writing.

Read before class:

Topics:
1. Jews in the Qu’ran and Hadith (Bani Israel, Yahud and Yahudi)
2. Jews in the Early Muslim community
3. Sources: Quran, Hadith, Pact of Umar (history and reception)
4. Jews and Medieval Islam to early Modern

Recommended:
Class 6: Week 3: January 25: Wednesday: 19th Century: Europe

The Jews should be denied everything as a nation but granted everything as individuals. They must be citizens...It is intolerable that the Jews should become a separate political formation or class in the country. Every one of them must individually become a citizen. If they do not want this, they must inform us and we shall then be compelled to expel them. The existence of a nation within a nation is unacceptable to our country.

Count de Clermont Tonnerre

Read before class:

- Karl Marx, On the Jewish Question (1844)
  https://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1844/jewish-question/

Topics:

1. How is Antisemitism modern?
2. The Enlightenment and the Jews
3. Marx and the Jews

Workshop: Read in Class.

- Napoleon’s Sanhedrin (1807) https://www.jewishhistory.org/napoleons-sanhedrin/ In 1807, Napoleon attempted to revive the Great Sanhedrin, the religious court that oversaw
Jewish religious legal questions that had existed in Biblical and Talmudic times. Preparatory to its convening, Napoleon convened a “Council of Notables.” He put before this Jews “Council of Notables” a series of 12 questions outlines here.


**Recommended:**
- Zola, Emile “An Open Letter to the President of the Republic, I accuse (J’Accuse)” First Published: L’Aurore, 13 January 1898. [https://www.marxists.org/archive/zola/1898/jaccuse.htm](https://www.marxists.org/archive/zola/1898/jaccuse.htm)

**Class 7: Week 4: January 30 Monday: 19th Century: Middle East North Africa**

**Read before class:**

**Topics:**
1. The Damascus Blood Libel 19th century
2. Antisemitism 19th century

**Recommended:**

**Class 8: Week 4: February 1 Wednesday: 20th Century: WW1-1930s**
Read before class:

Topics:
Antisemitism in early 20th century in relation to other racial categories

Workshop:
Antisemitism in Caricature in the US

Recommended:

Class 9: February 6 Week 5: Monday: Antisemitism in the Weimar Republic and the Third Reich

Read before class:

Topics:
1. Antisemitism in Hitler’s early thought and as the Nazi’s rise to power
2. Anti-Jewish laws
3. Christian contexts

Workshop:
Christian responses to rising Antisemitism

Recommended:

**Class 10: February 8 Week 5 Wednesday: Antisemitic Propaganda**

**View before class:**
  [https://archive.org/details/derewigejudeenglishsubtitles_201908](https://archive.org/details/derewigejudeenglishsubtitles_201908) Please note that this is antisemitic propaganda produced by the Nazis aimed at depicting Jews as intent on world domination; parasitic, manipulative, depraved. It includes graphic imagery and historical falsifications. In order to represent the Jewish religion as barbaric, it includes a staged “kosher slaughter” of a cow and sheep.

**Read before class:**

**Topics:**
1. Nazi Propaganda in Europe
2. Nazi Propaganda aimed at Middle East and North Africa

**Recommended:**
• Explore the online exhibit: “State of Deception: The Power of Nazi Propaganda” [https://exhibitions.ushmm.org/propaganda/home](https://exhibitions.ushmm.org/propaganda/home)

Class 11: February 13 Week 6  Monday:  Oral Histories and the experience of Antisemitism and the Shoah

Read Before Class:
TBD

Topics:
1. Shoah
2. Oral histories
3. Resistance stories

Workshop: Oral histories

Recommended:

Class 12: February 15 Week 6  Wednesday: Everyone Loves Dead Jews? When Responses to the Holocaust are tangled with antisemitism

To do today: Meet your group for Antisemitism Film presentation. Choose which films you will watch over reading week. Exchange contact info.

Read Before Class:
• Dara Horn, People Love Dead Jews chapter one “Everyone’s (Second) Favourite Dead Jew”

Topics:
1. Popular representations of the Holocaust & reinscribing antisemitic tropes
2. What are Mischievous questions?
3. Explicit versus implicit antisemitism
Workshop:
Berel Lang “Uncovering Certain Mischievous Questions About the Holocaust” United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

Reading Week February 20-22
Watch any 2 films listed here over Reading Week: Those that are available through Carleton are noted with a * Others may be available through other means. Choose films you know you can access.

Films that are antisemitic
Jud Suss (1940) This extremely successful Nazi propaganda film Depicts an 18th century banker named Suss Oppenheimer who was financial adviser to a German duke. Jews are generally depicted as ugly, immoral, and dirty while the banker is depicted as a sexual deviant who rapes the blond Aryan heroine. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dMTHwUQnIKA

*Passion of the Christ (2004)  
This Mel Gibson directed film was a worldwide box office success and aroused considerable controversy in the media as many critics, including senior scholars, argued that its representations of the Jews in the story of Jesus’ persecution and death reinforced and amplified ancient antisemitic narratives.

Hebrews to Negroes (2018)  
This is the film that NBA player Kyrie Irving referenced in his antisemitic tweets and interviews. It argues that certain people of colour, including Black Americans, are the true descendants of the Israelites of the Hebrew Bible. It includes many familiar antisemitic arguments and tropes including Jews control the media, fabricated the Holocaust, a global Jewish conspiracy that particularly targets Black Americans, that Jews are responsible for the transatlantic slave trade, and that Jews today are actually descended from the Khazars and have no historical link to the land of Israel.

Films that represent antisemitism
Mr Skeffington (1944)  
A Hollywood classic that was produced during the war years. Focusing on Bette Davis as a flighty socialite who marries the Jewish Claude Rains character to restore the family fortune and protect their place in society. The treatment of Rains is a subtle portrayal of antisemitism with off-screen references to the Holocaust. The film does not actually use the word Jewish anywhere in the script.

*Gentleman’s Agreement (1947)  
Academy award winning film from Hollywood’s golden age, produced after the Holocaust when newsfootage of the liberation of concentration camps were familiar images. The main character is assigned to write an expose of antisemitism and decides to assume the identity of a Jew.
Crossfire (1947)
Another classic Hollywood film from the post-war years. The film tells the story of an antisemitically motivated murder and the subsequent investigation.

Chosen and Excluded-The Hate on Jews in Europe
This documentary narrates a description of antisemitism in Europe that includes anti-Zionist discourses. The documentary was commissioned by two European broadcasters and was rejected on the basis that it represents claims that anti-Zionism crosses the boundary of reasonable critique and can move into antisemitism. This aroused charges of censorship and media bias.

*School Ties (1992)
A working-class Jewish student conceals his Jewish identity at a wealthy prep school. When his Jewish identity is revealed he faces increasing victimization.

*American History X (1998)
Edward Norton plays the part of a neo-Nazi in Los Angeles.

Denial (2016)
Based on the true story of antisemitism and Holocaust scholar Deborah Lipstadt’s libel trial in the UK. David Irving sued her for libel when she described him as a Holocaust denier in her academic work. The trial involved bringing evidence to refute Irving’s claims which minimized or denied the scale of the Holocaust.

*Jojo Rabbit (2019)
This film received critical acclaim and considerable criticism for its representation of a member of the Hitler youth becoming aware of the plight of the Jews in Nazi Germany through his experience of his mother hiding a Jewish girl in their home. The satirization of the Nazis and its focus on the redemption of good Nazis are particular objects of criticism.

The Fablemans (2022)
A post-World War II coming of age story in America.

Class 13: February 27 Week 7 Monday: Antisemitism and Film

Read Before Class:

Topics:
1. Antisemitism in Hollywood
2. Invisible Jews / Silence and the Holocaust
Workshop: Working with your group, finalize your group presentation

- Write about your film in terms of questions
- Come back and group presentation in class
- How to represent Holocaust / antisemitism in film
- How to use film to think about social issues

Recommended:

Class 14: March 1 Week 7 Wednesday
Group Presentations on films

Class 15: March 6 Week 8 Monday: Post-Holocaust Canada

Read before class:

Topics:
1. Civil Disabilities
2. Holocaust survivors

Recommended
Class 16 March 8 Week 8 Wednesday: Operation Wedding film
Operation Wedding film
Watch on your own before class
In-class discussion

Class 17: March 13 Week 9 Monday: Post-Holocaust Soviet Union
Guest Speaker: Izabella Tabarovsky,

Read Before Class:
- Izabella Tabarovsky, “Soviet Anti-Zionism and Contemporary Left Antisemitism”
  https://fathomjournal.org/soviet-anti-zionism-and-contemporary-left-antisemitism/

Topics:
1. Soviet Antisemism
2. Soviet Anti-Zionism
3. Legacies

Recommended:
- Yuli Kosharovsky, We are Jews Again: Jewish Activism in the Soviet Union (2017)
- William Korey Russian Antisemitism, Pamyat and the Demonology of Zionism 1995

Class 18: March 15 Week 9 Wednesday: Post-Holocaust Germany: Munich Olympics

Before this date: Watch After Munich (CBC GEM)

NO CLASS MEETING TODAY: Please note, we are arranging a zoom meeting with the director of the film, Francine Zukerman. Because of time differences, she will be unable to join us during our regularly scheduled class meeting. Therefore, this class will be rescheduled for an evening time slot. We hope you can attend, if you cannot, arrange for notes from a fellow student. We will confirm the scheduled time / date closer to the date.
Class 19: March 20 Week 10 Monday: Antisemitism and Holocaust Denial

Read Before Class:

Topics: Holocaust Denial: US, Canada, Poland and Iran

Workshop: Holocaust denial cartoons

Recommended:

Class 20: March 22 Week 10 Wednesday: A Contemporary China: Antisemitism

Guest speaker Dr. Mary Ainslie

Read Before Class:

Choose sources for next class

Class 21: March 27 Week 11 Monday Antisemitism in contemporary politics

Read before class: Primary sources

- Farrakhan’s words: https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/minister-louis-farrakhan-in-his-own-words

Workshop: Before this class we will ask you to get into groups and divide these sources to discuss in class. Read before class.


Topics:
1. Jeremy Corbyn, Ken Livingstone, Margery Taylor Greene, Louis Farrakhan
2. Antisemitism in politics in contemporary contexts
3. Conspiracy theories
4. Intersectionality

Recommended:
• Irwin Cotler, “Global Antisemitism: Assault on Human Rights”, *The Yale Papers: Antisemitism in Comparative Perspective* (ISGAP)


Read & view before class:

• Syrian drama television series. Jews kill Christian child to use his blood to bake Passover matzah [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=augLMZVqo8o&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=augLMZVqo8o&feature=youtu.be)
• Egyptian Prof. of Hebrew: Jews Eat Matzos Prepared with Human Blood (Donated by Jews) on Passover [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KxvYsb-ITCM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KxvYsb-ITCM)
• Anti-Semitic Cartoons (Gaza war) [https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/gaza-war-anti-semitic-cartoons](https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/gaza-war-anti-semitic-cartoons)

Topics:

1. Antisemitism in MENA contexts
2. How are these ideas different or similar to the material examined on March 27
3. How can we understand these texts in relation to historical ideas and to contemporary issues

Workshop: Discuss primary source examples you read for this class (videos and texts)

Recommended:

Class 23: April 3 Week 12: Monday: the culture of popular antisemitism
Ye, Kyrie Irving, Mel Gibson, celebrity culture

Read & view online sources before class:
- https://isgap.org/media/2020/08/the-history-of-louis-farrakhan-and-antisemitism/
- Nation of Islam Leader Louis Farrakhan on Kyrie Irving, Kanye West Antisemitism Scandals https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RGwFNYudyZI

Topics
1. Online hate
2. Celebrity culture and antisemitism
3. Popular culture and academic research

Workshop:
Students should read through all our Antisemitism in the News forum posts on Brightspace to consider what we see, how we analyze it, and how we respond to the concepts present in these sources.

Class 24: April 5 Week 12; Wednesday: Campus Antisemitism

Read before class:

Workshop:

Recommended: TBD
Class 25: April 10  Week 13  Monday: Antisemitism on Social Media Group Presentations

Read before class:


Topics:

1. Final Presentations
2. Conclusions