

Religion (College of the Humanities)
RELI 3505B, Topics in Judaism, Fall 2008
Mon. and Wed., 4:05 pm - 5:25 pm, Paterson Hall 201

**GERMAN JEWISH ENCOUNTERS WITH MODERNITY:
FROM THE ENLIGHTENMENT TO THE PRESENT**

Instructor: Dr. James Casteel
Office: 1303 Dunton Tower
Office Hours: Fridays, 12:30-2:00 pm or by appointment
Tel.: 613-520-2600, ext. 2996
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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course will explore the remarkable transformations of Jewish society, culture and religious practice in German lands from the Enlightenment to the present. In the first half of the course we will trace the prolonged process of Jews' social and political emancipation and acculturation into non-Jewish society over the course of the long nineteenth-century. We will pay particular attention to the dynamics of inclusion and exclusion, examining the ways in which they influenced Jews' negotiations of their identities as both Germans and Jews and also the extent to which they contributed to the vibrancy of Jewish German cultural and intellectual life.

In the second half of the course we will turn to the impact of World War I on Jewish Germans and discuss the novel opportunities that opened up to Jews in the Weimar Republic, Germany's first democratic government. In particular, we will be concerned with the question of why at the moment when Jews reached the height of their social and political inclusion in German society did social movements emerge that vehemently challenged Jews' right to belong to the German "national community." We will discuss the rapidly deteriorating conditions of Jews in Germany after the Nazi rise to power and Jewish responses to the Holocaust.

The final sessions of the course will address the less studied experiences of Jewish Germans after the Holocaust and the reestablishment of Jewish communities in the postwar German states. We will explore the ways in which German-Jewish émigrés rebuilt their lives in their new homes in emigration and their attempts to come to terms with the traumatic rupture of the Holocaust. We will also examine the transformation of the postwar Jewish community in Germany and its renewal at the end of the Cold War with the immigration of Jews from the former Soviet Union. We will conclude by discussing the broader legacy of German-Jewish experiences of modernity and its continued relevance for our contemporary world.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING SCHEME:

In order to receive a final grade for the course, students must complete all course requirements:

<u>Assignments:</u>	<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Due Date</u>
Attendance and Participation	20%	
Discussion Assignment	10%	
Paper Proposal	5%	Mon, Oct. 6, 2008
Research Paper (10-12 pages, plus notes and bibliography)	30%	Mon, Dec. 1, 2008
Final Examination (Scheduled by Examination Services)	35%	TBA

Attendance and Participation: Students are expected to attend class on a regular basis and to come to class having prepared the assigned readings. With a few exceptions (indicated on the course schedule), I will usually lecture during the Monday class. Wednesdays will be devoted to student discussion assignments and general discussions of readings and other materials. Students should be prepared to discuss the assigned readings on the designated discussion day.

Discussion Assignment

Students are asked to choose one of the main scholarly readings for the week. They will then give a brief presentation of some of the main issues and arguments of that reading (5-10 minutes) and prepare at least four questions to encourage student discussion of the issues raised in the article. While students presentations and questions will largely focus on the reading they selected, it will be assumed that students have done all the required readings for the day that they present. Students may also choose to relate the readings to other readings or the primary documents assigned for that week.

Written Assignment: Students will write a research paper (10-12 pages, plus notes and bibliography) on a topic related to the themes of the course. While the course takes a historical approach, you may approach your project from different or multiple disciplinary perspectives (history, literature, religion, philosophy, social sciences, art history, etc.). A proposal for the paper will be due on Mon. Oct. 6, 2008. The proposal should include a one-page description of the topic and your preliminary research question and thesis statement. In addition, a working bibliography with *at least* six academic sources (journal articles and monographs) as well as primary sources should be attached. The final research paper is due on Mon., Dec 1., 2008. More details about the paper and proposal will be discussed in class.

All papers are due at the beginning of class on the date specified in the syllabus. Late papers will be penalized a third of a letter grade per day late including weekends (i.e. from B+ to B, etc.). Extensions will be granted only in cases of serious illness (with doctor's note), bereavement, or religious observance. Papers that are not submitted in class may be submitted in the Religion program drop box on Paterson Hall, floor 2A.

Papers will be evaluated according to the following criteria: soundness of thesis, use of evidence to support thesis, depth of research, coherence of argument, logical structure, writing style, grammar and spelling. Students who have not written a historical essay before may find the History Department guidelines for writing an essay to be a helpful and informative introduction (<http://www.carleton.ca/history/resources/essayguide.html>).

My preferred citation format is Turabian/Chicago Manual of Style, however students who have been trained in other disciplines or formats (MLA, APA, etc. may use those as well). Both the proposal bibliography and the notes and bibliography for the final paper should be in a proper format.

I encourage students to consult with me while preparing their essays during my office hours or by appointment. Students with questions about the writing process may also wish to consult the Writing Tutorial Service (215 Patterson, 520-6632, www.carleton.ca/wts/index.html).

Final Examination: The final exam will consist of short identifications and questions based on the course readings, discussions and lectures. Details will be discussed in class. The final exam will be cumulative. There will be no make-up tests except in cases of serious illness (with doctor's note), bereavement, or religious observance. The Final Exam time and location will be assigned by the university. Consult <http://www.carleton.ca/ses/> for details.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

All books are available for purchase at Havenbooks, 43 Seneca Street (at Sunnyside), 613-730-9888, www.havenbooks.ca, open 10am-6pm, Mon-Sat. Additional course readings have been placed in a binder in the Religion lounge on floor 2A of Paterson Hall for students to consult. I have also put some materials on reserve in the library.

Materials are marked on the course outline: (O) for Online, (B) for Binder. For articles in the *Leo Baeck Institute Year Book* the library has ordered a subscription that hopefully will be online in time for you to use them this term. I have marked these (O*) since they will eventually be online, but I can't guarantee that they will be available electronically before the week we read them. All of the online articles have also been included in the binder.

When completing your readings for each week, the Elon text is meant as a general and readable survey to provide background for the week's topics. For presentations and discussions we will focus on the arguments in the secondary literature as well as the primary sources for the week.

Coursebooks

- Amos Elon, *The Pity of it All: A Portrait of the German-Jewish Epoch, 1743-1933* (Picador 2003), ISBN 978-0312422813 (paperback)
Helmut Walser Smith, *The Butcher's Tale: Murder and Antisemitism in a German Town*, (W.W. Norton, 2002), ISBN 978-0393325058 (paperback)
Marion Kaplan, *Between Dignity and Despair: Jewish Life in Nazi Germany* (Oxford UP, 1996), ISBN 978-0195130928 (paperback)
Jeffrey Peck, *Being Jewish in the New Germany* (Rutgers UP, 2007), ISBN 978-0813542065 (paperback)

CLASS SCHEDULE:

Note: Sessions preceded by an * may end earlier than usual due to Jewish holidays

Week 1: Jewish Life in the German lands before Modernity

Mon, Sept. 8 Course Introduction
Wed, Sept. 10 Lecture

Readings:

- Amos Elon, *The Pity of it All*, 13-100
David Sorkin, *The Transformation of German Jewry, 1780-1840* (New York: Oxford UP, 1987), 41-78. (B)

Documents:

- Glückl of Hameln, *The Memoirs of Glückl of Hameln*, trans. Marvin Lowenthal (New York: Schocken, 1977), 45-56, 95-99. (B)
Gershom Sholem, *On Jews and Judaism in Crisis: Selected Essays* (New York: Schocken, 1976), 61-64. (B)

Week 2: A New Sociability: Jewish Enlightenment (*Haskalah*)

Mon., Sept. 15 Lecture
Wed., Sept 17 Discussion (Readings Weeks 1 and 2)

Readings:

- Amos Elon, *The Pity of it All*, 101-148
David Sorkin, "The Case for Comparison: Moses Mendelssohn and the Religious Enlightenment," *Modern Judaism*, Vol. 14, No. 2, (May, 1994), pp. 121-138. (O)

John M. Efron, "Images of the Jewish Body: Three Medical Views From the Jewish Enlightenment," *Bulletin History of Medicine* 69 (1995): 349-66. (O)

Documents:

The Jew in the Modern World: A Documentary History, ed. Paul Mendes-Flohr and Jehuda Reinharz (New York: Oxford UP, 1995), 28-36, 42-49, 70-74. (B)

Week 3: The Promise of Emancipation and its Postponement

Mon., Sept 22 Lecture
Wed., Sept 24 Discussion Week 3 Readings

Readings:

Amos Elon, *The Pity of it All*, 149-184
Reinhard Rürup, "Jewish Emancipation and the Vision of Civil Society in Germany." *Leo Baeck Institute Year Book* 51 (2006), 43-50. (O*)
Deborah Hertz, "The Lives, Loves and Novels of August and Fanny Lewald, the Converted Cousins From Köngisberg," *Leo Baeck Institute Year Book* 46 (2001): 95-112. (O*)

Documents:

The Jew in the Modern World: A Documentary History, ed. Paul Mendes-Flohr and Jehuda Reinharz (New York: Oxford UP, 1995), 105-111, 141-145, 151-154, 257-261. (B)
Jewish Life in Germany: Memoirs from Three Centuries, ed. Monika Richarz (Bloomington: Indiana UP, 1991), 50-65. (B)

Week 4: Becoming Bourgeois: Social, Cultural and Religious Transformations

*Mon., Sept 29 Lecture
Wed., Oct. 1 Discussion Week 4 Readings

Readings:

Amos Elon, *The Pity of it All*, 185-220
Benjamin Maria Baader, "When Judaism Turned Bourgeois: Gender in Jewish Associational Life and in the Synagogue, 1750–1850," *Leo Baeck Institute Year Book* 46 (2001), 113-123. (O*)
Robin Judd, "The Circumcision Questions in the German-Speaking Lands, 1843-1857" in *Contested Ritual: Circumcision, Kosher Butchering, and Jewish Political Life in Germany, 1843-1933* (Ithaca: Cornell UP, 2007), 21-57. (B)

Documents:

The Jew in the Modern World: A Documentary History, ed. Paul Mendes-Flohr and Jehuda Reinharz (New York: Oxford UP, 1995), 161-169, 177-185, 194-202, 219-221. (B)
Jewish Life in Germany: Memoirs from Three Centuries, ed. Monika Richarz (Bloomington: Indiana UP, 1991), 80-93, 148-162. (B)

Week 5: Emancipation Realized: German Citizens of the Jewish Faith

Mon., Oct. 6 Lecture
*Wed., Oct. 8 Discussion Week 5 Readings

Readings:

Amos Elon, *The Pity of it All*, 221-258
Till van Rahden, "Germans of the Jewish *Stamm*: Visions of Community Between Nationalism and Particularism, 1850-1933" in *German History From the Margins*, ed. Neil Gregor, Nils Roemer, and Mark Roseman (Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2006), 27-48. (B)

Marion A. Kaplan, "For Love Or Money: Jewish Marriage Strategies" in *The Making of the Jewish Middle Class: Women, Family and Identity in Imperial Germany* (New York: Oxford UP, 1991), 85-116. (B)

Jonathan M. Hess, "Fiction and the Making of Modern Orthodoxy, 1857-1890: Orthodoxy and the Quest for the German-Jewish Novel," *Leo Baeck Institute Year Book* 52 (2007): 49-86. (O*)

Documents:

The Jew in the Modern World: A Documentary History, ed. Paul Mendes-Flohr and Jehuda Reinharz (New York: Oxford UP, 1995), 205-206, 343-351. (B)

Jewish Life in Germany: Memoirs from Three Centuries, ed. Monika Richarz (Bloomington: Indiana UP, 1991), 173-180, 211-220. (B)

Week 6: Jewish-German Society and Culture at the Fin de Siècle

Mon., Oct. 13 *** NO CLASS: Happy Thanksgiving! ***

Wed., Oct. 15 Lecture

Readings:

Amos Elon, *The Pity of it All*, 259-296

Begin Smith, *The Butcher's Tale* (To be discussed Week 7)

Todd Samuel Presner, "Clear Heads, Solid Stomachs, and Hard Muscles": Max Nordau and the Aesthetics of Jewish Regeneration" *Modernism/Modernity*, 10, no. 2, 269-296. (O)

Nils Roemer, "Between the Provinces and the City: Mapping German-Jewish Memories," *Leo Baeck Institute Year Book* 51 (2006), 61-77. (O*)

Documents:

Georg Simmel, "The Stranger" in *The Sociology of Georg Simmel*, trans. and ed. Kurt H. Wolff, (New York: Free Press, 1950), 402-408. (B)

Jewish Life in Germany: Memoirs from Three Centuries, ed. Monika Richarz (Bloomington: Indiana UP, 1991), 165-173, 188-197, 258-270. (B)

Franz Kafka, Letter to His Father, in *Dearest Father: Stories and Other Writings* (New York: Schocken 1954), 171-176. (B)

Week 7: The Impact of World War I: From Assimilation to Dissimilation?

Mon., Oct. 20 Lecture

Wed., Oct. 22 Discussion Week 6 and Week 7 Readings (including Smith)

Readings:

Amos Elon, *The Pity of it All*, 297-354

Finish Smith, *Butcher's Tale*

Ulrich Sieg, "Nothing More German Than the German Jews"? on the Integration of a Minority in a Society At War" in *Toward Normality? Acculturation and Modern German Jewry*, edited by Rainer Liedtke, and David Rechter (Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2003), 201-16. (B)

William W. Hagen, "Murder in the East: German-Jewish Liberal Reactions to Anti-Jewish Violence in Poland and Other East European Lands 1918-1920," *Central European History* 34, no. 1 (2001): 1-30. (O)

Documents:

The Jew in the Modern World: A Documentary History, ed. Paul Mendes-Flohr and Jehuda Reinharz (New York: Oxford UP, 1995), 571-579. (B)

Jewish Life in Germany: Memoirs from Three Centuries, ed. Monika Richarz (Bloomington: Indiana UP, 1991), 220-224, 270-289. (B)

Week 8: Jewish Society and Culture in Weimar Germany

Mon., Oct 27 Lecture
Wed., Oct 29 Discussion Week 8 Readings

Readings:

Amos Elon, *The Pity of it All*, 355-403
Begin Kaplan, *Between Dignity and Despair* (to be discussed Week 9)
Till van Rahden, "Mingling, Marrying and Distancing: Jewish Integration in Wilhelmian Breslau and its Erosion in Early Weimar Germany" in *Jüdisches Leben in der Weimarer Republik*, ed. Wolfgang Benz, et. al. (Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 1998), 197-221. (B)
Jacob Borut, "'Verjudung des Judentums': Was There a Zionist Subculture in Weimar Germany?," in *In Search of Jewish Community: Jewish Identities in Germany and Austria, 1918-1933*, ed. Michael Brenner & Derek J. Penslar (Bloomington, Indiana UP, 1998), 92-114. (B)

Documents:

Jewish Life in Germany: Memoirs from Three Centuries, ed. Monika Richarz (Bloomington: Indiana UP, 1991), 315-323, 338-342. (B)
The Weimar Republic Sourcebook, ed. Anton Kaes, Martin Jay, Edward Dimendberg (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1994), 250-258, 263-267, 272-275. (B)

Week 9: Jewish Life under Nazi Rule

Mon., Nov. 3 Lecture
Wed., Nov. 5 Discussion Week 9 Readings (Kaplan, *Between Dignity and Despair*)

Readings:

Finish Marion Kaplan, *Between Dignity and Despair*

Documents:

Jewish Life in Germany: Memoirs from Three Centuries, ed. Monika Richarz (Bloomington: Indiana UP, 1991), 306-315, 351-378, 412-424. (B)
Victor Klemperer, *I Will Bear Witness 1942-1945: A Diary of the Nazi Years*, Trans. Martin Chalmers (New York: Modern Library, 2001), 3-7, 160-161, 400-416. (B)

Week 10: Reconstructing Communities: Jewish Life in the Postwar Germanies

Mon., Nov. 10 Lecture
Wed., Nov. 12 Discussion Week 11 Readings

Readings:

Begin reading Peck, *Being Jewish in the New Germany* (to be discussed Week 12)
Atina Grossmann, "Home and Displacement in a City of Bordercrossers: Jews in Berlin 1945-1948," *Unlikely History: The Changing German-Jewish Symbiosis, 1945-2000*, ed. Leslie Morris and Jack Zipes (New York: Palgrave, 2002), 63-100. (B)
Mendel, Meron. "The Policy for the Past in West Germany and Israel: The Case of Jewish Remigration." *Leo Baeck Institute Year Book* 49 (2004): 121-36. (O*)
Y. Michal Bodemann, "Between Israel and Germany From the "Alien Asiatic People" to the New German Jewry," *Jewish History* (2006): 91-109. (O)

Documents:

Michael Brenner, *After the Holocaust : Rebuilding Jewish Lives in Postwar Germany* (Princeton: Princeton UP, 1997), 79-86, 90-94. (B)
Barbara Honigmann, "On My Great-Grandfather, My Grandfather, My Father and Me," *Voices of the Diaspora: Jewish Women Writing in Contemporary Europe*. Edited by Thomas Nolden, and Frances Malino. Evanston: Northwestern UP, 2005, 123-133. (B)

Ralph Giordano, "Auschwitz and Life: Why I Have Remained in Germany," in *Speaking Out: Jewish Voices from the United Germany*, ed. Susan Stern (Carol Stream, IL: Edition Q, 1995), 39-49. (B)

Week 11: After the Holocaust: Rebuilding Lives in Emigration

Mon., Nov. 17 Lecture
Wed., Nov. 19 Discussion Week 10 Readings

Readings:

Continue reading Peck, *Being Jewish in the New Germany* (to be discussed Week 12)
Walter Laqueur, *Generation Exodus : The Fate of Young Jewish Refugees From Nazi Germany* (London: I. B. Tauris, 2004), 94-128. (B)
Michael Geyer, "Virtue in Despair: A Family History From the Days of the Kindertransports." *History & Memory* 17, no. 1/2 (2005): 323-65. (O)
Marion Berghahn, *German-Jewish Refugees in England: The Ambiguities of Assimilation* (London: Macmillan, 1984), 173-215. (B)

Documents:

Michael Brenner, *After the Holocaust : Rebuilding Jewish Lives in Postwar Germany* (Princeton: Princeton UP, 1997), 117-119, 125-129. (B)
Hannah Arendt, "What Remains? The Language Remains. A Conversation with Günther Gaus" in *Essays in Understanding, 1930-1954*, ed. Jerome Kohn (New York: Schocken, 1994), 1-23. (B)
Hermann Levin Goldschmidt, "My 1933" in *The Legacy of German Jewry* (New York: Fordham UP, 2007), 245-249. (B)

Week 12: Jewish Life in Contemporary Germany

Mon., Nov. 24 Lecture
Wed., Nov. 26 Discussion Week 12 Readings (Peck, *Being Jewish in the New Germany*)

Readings:

Finish Peck, *Being Jewish in the New Germany*

Documents:

Deniz Göktürk, David Gramling, and Anton Kaes, eds. *Germany in Transit* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2007), 203-206, 209-212, 214-219, 226-228, 421-423. (B)

Week 13: Legacy of German Jewry

*** FINAL PAPER DUE ***

Mon., Dec. 1 Concluding Session and Discussion

Readings:

Hermann Levin Goldschmidt, *The Legacy of German Jewry* (New York: Fordham University Press, 2007), 205-244. (B)

FINAL EXAMINATION:

To be scheduled by Examination Services during the **exam period Dec 4-20, 2008** (date TBA)

REGULATIONS COMMON TO ALL HUMANITIES COURSES

COPIES OF WRITTEN WORK SUBMITTED

Always retain for yourself a copy of all essays, term papers, written assignments or take-home tests submitted in your courses.

PLAGIARISM

The University Senate defines plagiarism as “*to use and pass off as one’s own idea or product the work of another without expressly giving credit to another.*” This can include:

- Copying from another person's work without indicating this through appropriate use of quotation marks and footnote citations.
- Lengthy and close paraphrasing of another person's work (i.e. extensive copying interspersed with a few phrases or sentences of your own).
- Submitting written work produced by someone else as if it were your own work (e.g. another student's term paper, a paper purchased from a term paper "factory", materials or term papers downloaded from the Internet, etc.).
- Handing in "substantially the same piece of work to two or more courses without the prior written permission of the instructors...involved." (University Senate)

Plagiarism is a serious offence which cannot be resolved directly with the course’s instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They range from a mark of zero for the plagiarized work to a final grade of "F" for the course, and even suspension from all studies or expulsion from the University.

GRADING SYSTEM

Letter grades assigned in this course will have the following percentage equivalents:

A+ = 90-100 (12)	B+ = 77-79 (9)	C+ = 67-69 (6)
A = 85-89 (11)	B = 73-76 (8)	C = 63-66 (5)
A - = 80-84 (10)	B - = 70-72 (7)	C - = 60-62 (4)
D+ = 57-59 (3)	D = 53-56 (2)	D - = 50-52 (1)

F	Failure. No academic credit
WDN	Withdrawn from the course
ABS	Absent from the final examination
DEF	Official deferral (see "Petitions to Defer")
FND	“Failed, no Deferral” – assigned when the student is absent from the final exam and has failed the course on the basis of inadequate term work as specified in the course outline.

WITHDRAWAL WITHOUT ACADEMIC PENALTY

The last date to withdraw from Fall term courses is November 7th, 2008. Last day to withdraw from Fall/Winter (full year) and Winter term courses is March 6th, 2009.

REQUESTS FOR ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

For Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Registered PMC students are required to contact the centre, 613-520-6608, every term to ensure that I receive your letter of accommodation, no later than two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations. If you require accommodation for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodation to PMC by November 7, 2008, for December examinations, and March 6, 2009, for April examinations.

For Religious Obligations:

Students requesting academic accommodation on the basis of religious obligation should make a formal, written request to their instructors for alternate dates and/or means of satisfying academic requirements. Such requests should be made during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist, but no later than two weeks before the compulsory event. Accommodation is to be worked out directly and on an individual basis between the student and the instructor(s) involved. Instructors will make accommodations in a way that avoids academic disadvantage to the student.

Students or instructors who have questions or want to confirm accommodation eligibility of a religious event or practice may refer to the Equity Services website for a list of holy days and Carleton’s Academic Accommodation policies, or may contact an Equity Services Advisor in the Equity Services Department for assistance. (613-520-5622)

For Pregnancy:

Pregnant students requiring academic accommodations are encouraged to contact an Equity Advisor in Equity Services to complete a *letter of accommodation*. The student must then make an appointment to discuss her needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first academic event in which it is anticipated the accommodation will be required.

PETITIONS TO DEFER

Students unable to complete a **final** term paper or write a **final** examination because of illness or other circumstances beyond their control or whose performance on an examination has been impaired by such circumstances may apply in writing within five working days to the Registrar's Office for permission to extend a term paper deadline or to write a deferred examination. The request must be fully and specifically supported by a medical certificate or other relevant documentation. Only deferral petitions submitted to the Registrar's Office will be considered.

ADDRESSES

College of the Humanities 520-2809	300 Paterson
Classics and Religion Office 520-2100	2A39 Paterson
Registrar's Office 520-3500	300 Tory
Student Academic Success Centre 520-7850	302 Tory
Paul Menton Centre 520-6608	500 Unicentre
Writing Tutorial Service 520-6632	4 th floor Library