

**CARLETON UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF THE HUMANITIES
RELIGION PROGRAM: RELI 3842B, FALL 2009**

**Topics in Judaism:
GERMAN-JEWISH ENCOUNTERS WITH MODERNITY:
FROM THE ENLIGHTENMENT TO THE PRESENT**

Mon. and Wed., 1:05-2:25 pm, Room B146 LA

Instructor: Prof. James Casteel

Office: 2A60 Paterson Hall

Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 3:00-4:00 pm

Tel.: 613-520-2600, ext. 1934

Email: james_casteel@carleton.ca (this is the most effective way to reach me)

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' belonging to the German "national community." We will discuss the ramifications to Jewish social and cultural life of the Nazis coming to power and Jewish responses to Nazi persecution during 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 experience 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. 5, 2009
Research Paper (10-12 pages, plus notes and bibliography)	30%	Mon, Nov. 30, 2009
Final Examination (Scheduled by Examination Services)	35%	TBA

Attendance and Participation: My expectation is that all students will attend class on a regular basis and 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. On the designated discussion days, all students should be prepared to discuss the assigned readings and documents as indicated on the course outline.

Discussion Assignment: For the discussion assignment, each student will prepare a presentation based on some of the documents for a particular week (A sign-up sheet listing the documents for presentations will be distributed during the first class). She or he will give a brief presentation about the document(s) (5-10 minutes) and what it tells us about the German-Jewish experience in the modern world. Presenters will also prepare at least four questions to encourage student discussion of some of the issues raised in the document. The presentation should not just summarize the document (since all students will have read the documents for that week), but rather provide an interpretation of the document and its significance in the context of German-Jewish history.

Some questions that students might think about in interpreting the document(s) are: who was the author/creator of the document? For what purpose did she or he create the document? Who was the audience? What does the document tell us about the historical context in which it was created? What is its broader significance?

Students are also free to draw on lectures and other assigned readings for the course in developing their interpretation. While students' presentations and questions will largely focus on the document(s) they selected, it will be assumed that presenters will have done all the required readings for the day that they present.

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 (religion, history, literature, film studies, philosophy, social sciences, art history, etc.). A proposal for the paper will be due on Mon. Oct. 5, 2009. 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., Nov. 30, 2009. 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. As many of the topics covered in this course are historical in nature, students may find the History Department guidelines for writing an essay to be a helpful and informative resource (<http://www.carleton.ca/history/resources/essayguide.html>).

My preferred citation format is Turabian/Chicago Manual of Style, preferably footnotes or endnotes rather than parenthetical citation. Both the proposal and bibliography as well as the final paper and bibliography should be in the proper bibliographic 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:

The book by Elon and a coursepack are available for purchase at Havenbooks, 43 Seneca Street (at Sunnyside), 613-730-9888, www.havenbooks.ca, open 10am-6pm, Mon-Sat. Additional materials are available online and/or through library reserve. I have included links to online material in WebCT.

Materials are marked on the course outline: (O) for Online, (CP) for Coursepack.

The textbook by Elon provides a useful and readable survey of the period we are discussing (at least up until 1933). I have assigned the text in order to provide a general background on the period. In our discussion, we will focus on the arguments in the other assigned readings, both secondary literature (i.e. journal articles and book chapters by scholars in the field) and primary sources (i.e. documents created by individuals who lived at the time). For each week, secondary literature is listed under the rubric "Readings" and primary literature under the rubric "Documents." All of these readings are required.

Coursebooks

Amos Elon, *The Pity of it All: A Portrait of the German-Jewish Epoch, 1743-1933* (Picador 2003), ISBN 978-0312422813 (paperback)

CLASS SCHEDULE:

Week 1: Jewish Life in the German lands before Modernity

Mon, Sept. 14 Course Introduction
Wed, Sept. 16 Lecture

Readings:

Amos Elon, *The Pity of it All*, 13-100

Documents:

Gershom Sholem, *On Jews and Judaism in Crisis: Selected Essays* (New York: Schocken, 1976), 61-64. (CP)

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

Mon., Sept. 21 Lecture
Wed., Sept 23 Discussion Readings and Documents Weeks 1 and 2

Readings:

Amos Elon, *The Pity of it All*, 101-148

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:

- Christian Wilhelm von Dohm, Johann David Michaelis and Moses Mendelssohn in *The Jew in the Modern World: A Documentary History*, ed. Paul Mendes-Flohr and Jehuda Reinharz (New York: Oxford UP, 1995), 28-36, 42-44 (CP)
- Moses Mendelssohn, *Jerusalem or On Religious Power and Judaism*, trans. Allan Arkush (Brandeis UP: 1983), 132-139 (CP)
- Moses Mendelssohn, "On Burials" in *Selections from his Writings*, ed. and trans. by Eva Jospe (New York: Viking, 1975), 102-104 (CP)

Week 3: The Promise of Emancipation and its Postponement

- Mon., Sept 28 *** NO CLASS: YOM KIPPUR ***
- Wed., Sept 30 Lecture

Readings:

- Amos Elon, *The Pity of it All*, 149-184
- 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:

- Gabriel Riesser and Heinrich Paulus; documents on Jewish identity (von Arnsteinter, Abraham Mendelssohn and Heinrich Heine, and Ludwig Boerne) in *The Jew in the Modern World: A Documentary History*, ed. Paul Mendes-Flohr and Jehuda Reinharz (New York: Oxford UP, 1995), 144-145, 256-261. (CP)

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

- Mon., Oct. 5 Lecture *** PROPOSAL DUE! ***
- Wed., Oct. 7 Discussion Readings and Documents Weeks 3 and 4

Readings:

- Amos Elon, *The Pity of it All*, 185-220
- 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. (CP)

Documents:

- Hamburg Temple documents, Zecharias Frankel, Samson Raphael Hirsch, and Immanuel Wolf in *The Jew in the Modern World: A Documentary History*, ed. Paul Mendes-Flohr and Jehuda Reinharz (New York: Oxford UP, 1995), 161-166, 194-202, 219-221. (CP)
- Abraham Geiger in Alan Levinson, *An Introduction to Modern Jewish Thinkers: From Spinoza to Soloveitchik*, 2nd ed (Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield, 2006), 60-65 (CP)

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

- Mon., Oct. 12 *** NO CLASS: Happy Thanksgiving! ***
- Wed., Oct. 14 Lecture

Readings:

- Amos Elon, *The Pity of it All*, 221-258
- 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:

- Treitschke and Mommsen in *The Jew in the Modern World: A Documentary History*, ed. Paul Mendes-Flohr and Jehuda Reinharz (New York: Oxford UP, 1995), 343-350 (CP)

Eduard Silbermann in *Jewish Life in Germany: Memoirs from Three Centuries*, ed. Monika Richarz (Bloomington: Indiana UP, 1991), 80-93 (CP)

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

Mon., Oct. 19 Lecture

Wed., Oct. 21 Discussion Readings and Documents Weeks 5 and 6

Readings:

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

Todd Samuel Presner, "Clear Heads, Solid Stomachs, and Hard Muscles": Max Nordau and the Aesthetics of Jewish Regeneration" *Modernism/Modernity*, 10, no. 2 (2003), 269-296. (O)

Documents:

Kurt Katsch in *Jewish Life in Germany: Memoirs from Three Centuries*, ed. Monika Richarz (Bloomington: Indiana UP, 1991), 188-197. (CP)

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

Georg Simmel, "The Stranger" (O)

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

Mon., Oct. 26 Lecture

Wed., Oct. 28 Discussion Readings and Documents Week 7

Readings:

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

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:

Arnold Tänzer and Bernhard Kahn in *Jewish Life in Germany: Memoirs from Three Centuries*, ed. Monika Richarz (Bloomington: Indiana UP, 1991), 270-289. (CP)

Martin Buber and Hermann Cohen on Zionism in *The Jew in the Modern World: A Documentary History*, ed. Paul Mendes-Flohr and Jehuda Reinharz (New York: Oxford UP, 1995), 571-579 (CP)

Week 8: Jewish Society and Culture in Weimar Germany

Mon., Nov. 2 Lecture

Wed., Nov. 4 Discussion Readings and Documents Week 8

Readings:

Amos Elon, *The Pity of it All*, 355-403

Michael Brenner, *The Renaissance of Jewish Culture in Weimar Germany* (New Haven: Yale UP, 1996), 129-152 (CP).

Documents:

Ephraim Frisch, Arnold Zweig, Joseph Roth, and Central Verein Flyer in *The Weimar Republic Sourcebook*, ed. Anton Kaes, Martin Jay, Edward Dimendberg (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1994), 253-257, 263-267, 272-275 (Documents 99, 100, 105. (CP)

Franz Rosenzweig, "Renaissance of Jewish Learning and Living" in *Franz Rosenzweig: His Life and Thought*, ed. Nahum N. Glatzer (New York: Schocken, 1961), 214-234 (CP).

Walther Benjamin, "On the Concept of History" (O)

Week 9: Jewish Responses to Nazi Rule

Mon., Nov. 9 Lecture

Wed., Nov. 11 Discussion Readings and Documents Week 9

Readings:

Marion Kaplan, "Keeping Calm and Weathering the Storm: Jewish Women's Responses to Daily Life in Nazi Germany, 1933-1939" in *Women in the Holocaust*, ed. Dalia Ofer and Lenore J. Weitzman (New Haven: Yale UP, 1998), 39-54 (CP)

Nicosia, Francis R. "Jewish Farmers in Hitler's Germany: Zionist Occupational Retraining and Nazi Jewish Policy," *Holocaust and Genocide Studies* 19, no. 3 (2005): 365-89 (O).

Documents:

Marta Appel in *Jewish Life in Germany: Memoirs from Three Centuries*, ed. Monika Richarz (Bloomington: Indiana UP, 1991), 351-361 (CP)

Jürgen B., Hildegard F., and Friedrich S. in Donald Niewyk, *Fresh Wounds: Early Narratives of Holocaust Survival* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1998), 257-288 (CP)

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

Mon., Nov. 16 Lecture

Wed., Nov. 18 Discussion Readings and Documents Week 10

Readings:

Atina Grossmann, "Home and Displacement in a City of Bordercrossers: Jews in Berlin 1945-1948," in *Unlikely History: The Changing German-Jewish Symbiosis, 1945-2000*, ed. Leslie Morris and Jack Zipes (New York: Palgrave-Macmillan, 2002), 63-99 (CP)

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)

Documents:

Ernst Landau and Arno Lustiger in Michael Brenner, *After the Holocaust: Rebuilding Jewish Lives in Postwar Germany* (Princeton: Princeton UP, 1997), 79-86, 90-94 (CP)

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. (CP)

Week 11: After the Holocaust: Rebuilding Lives in Emigration

Mon., Nov. 23 Lecture

Wed., Nov. 25 Discussion Week 11 Readings

Readings:

Marion Berghahn, *German-Jewish Refugees in England: The Ambiguities of Assimilation* (London: Macmillan, 1984), 173-215. (CP)

Michael Geyer, "Virtue in Despair: A Family History From the Days of the Kindertransports." *History & Memory* 17, no. 1/2 (2005): 323-65. (O)

Documents:

Hertha Nathorff and William Niederland in *Hitler's Exiles: Personal Stories of the Flight from Nazi Germany to America*, ed. Mark M. Anderson (New York: The New Press, 1998) 69-77, 215-222, 299-310, 317-324 (CP)

Week 12: From Jews in Germany to the New German Jewry?

Mon., Nov. 30

Lecture

*** FINAL PAPER DUE ***

Wed., Dec. 2

Discussion Week 12 Readings

Readings:

Y. Michal Bodemann, "Between Israel and Germany From the "Alien Asiatic People" to the New German Jewry," *Jewish History* 20 (2006): 91-109. (O)

Robin Ostrow, "The Post-Soviet Immigrants and the *Jüdische Allgemeine* in the New Millennium: Post-Communism in Germany's Jewish Communities," *Eastern European Jewish Affairs*, 2003, no. 2 (O)

Documents:

John Borneman and Jeffrey M. Peck, *Sojourners: The Return of German Jews and the Question of Identity* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1995), 221-259 (CP).

Wladimir Kamirer in *Germany in Transit*, ed. Deniz Göktürk, David Gramling, and Anton Kaes (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2007), 421-423 (Document 15) (CP)

Week 13: The German-Jewish Past and the Future of Jewish Life in Europe

Mon., Dec. 7

Concluding Session and Discussion

Readings:

Diana Pinto, "Third Pillar? Toward a European Jewish Identity" (O)

Daniel Cohn-Bendit, Meike Wöhlert, Micha Brumlik et al., Michael Brenner in Deniz Göktürk, David Gramling, and Anton Kaes, eds. *Germany in Transit* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2007), 204-206, 209-212, 214-219 (Documents 6, 8, 10, and 11). (CP)

FINAL EXAMINATION:

To be scheduled by Examination Services during the **exam period Dec 9-22, 2009** (date, time and place 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 “*presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.*” This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in “*substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs.*”

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	Failure with no deferred exam allowed -- assigned only when the student has failed the course on the basis of inadequate term work as specified in the course outline.

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean.

WITHDRAWAL WITHOUT ACADEMIC PENALTY

The last date to withdraw from Fall term courses is November 16, 2009. The last day to withdraw from Fall/Winter (full year) and Winter term courses is March 12, 2010.

REQUESTS FOR ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy obligation: write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the Equity Services website: http://www.carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/student_guide.htm

Religious obligation: write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the Equity Services website: http://www.carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/student_guide.htm

Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Documented disabilities could include but are not limited to mobility/physical impairments, specific Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/psychological disabilities, sensory disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), and chronic medical conditions. Registered PMC students are required to contact the PMC, 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 **only** require accommodations for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodations to PMC by the last official day to withdraw from classes in each term. For more details visit the PMC website: http://www.carleton.ca/pmc/students/acad_accom.html

You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at <http://carleton.ca/equity/accommodation>

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: (Area Code 613)

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
Learning Commons 520-1125	4 th floor Library