Anti-Semitism: Its History and Politics

Dr. Shmuel Lederman

Office hours: Sunday, 12:00-14:00.
E-mail: shmulikled@gmail.com
Phone: 052-6219608

Course description:
This course explores the history and politics of anti-Semitism. We begin with “traditional” Jew-hatred in the middle ages, particularly in the Christian world, and discuss its religious, political, and economic causes. We then examine the gradual transition in the character of the hostility towards the Jews against the background of modern developments such as the emergence of the modern state; the age of Enlightenment, the Industrial Revolution, the shift to a capitalist economy and the rise of nationalism. In the second part of the course, we discuss the rise of modern anti-Semitism at the end of the 19th century, the particular character of German anti-Semitism as a “cultural code” in this period, and the re-emergence of anti-Semitism as an important political force in Germany after WWI.

Course Requirements:

Full attendance.

Weekly reading assignments: Students are required to read the assigned items for every week.

Response papers: Students are required to submit two response papers, each 3 pages long. The papers should discuss the main reasons for the hatred or hostility toward Jews in a specific period, using at least three of the texts from the relevant section in the reading list.

The final grade is determined by attendance, participation in class that reflects engagement with the reading materials, and the response papers.
**Final paper:** Students may submit a final paper: a short, referat paper or a seminar paper. Short papers are to be submitted by July 14th, 2019. Seminar papers are to be submitted by October 27th, 2019.

**Reading list:**

1. **Introduction (1): Questions in the Study of Anti-Semitism**
   

2. **Introduction (2): The Jew as a Symbol**
   
   Karl Marx, “The Jewish Question,” 1844, at [https://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1844/jewish-question/](https://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1844/jewish-question/)


   Additional reading:


3. **Early Christian Foundations**
   


Additional reading


**4. Late Medieval Anti-Judaism**


Additional reading:


Salo Baron, “Ghetto and Emancipation,” Menora (1928) reprinted at: https://archive.org/stream/ghettoemancipati00baro/ghettoemancipati00baro_djvu.txt
Robert Chazan, Reassessing Jewish Life in Medieval Europe (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010), chap. 5, 6, 8.

5. The Reformation and the Legend of Shylock


Additional reading:

6. The Age of Enlightenment


Additional reading:


7. The Jews, the Nation-State, and The Dreyfus Affair


8. East European Pogroms


Additional reading:


9. German Anti-Semitism (1)


[Excerpts from Wagner, Marr, Duehring, Renan, Toussenel, Dostoievsky, Drumont, Stoecker, Treitschke, Mommsen, Nietzsche and Fritsch] The Jew in the Modern

Additional reading:


**10. German Anti-Semitism (2)**


Additional reading:

Jacob Katz, *From Prejudice to Destruction: Anti-Semitism, 1700-1933*

11. Conclusion