

## **Modern Jewish History/JUS 370a-002**

### **The Emergence of Modern Jewish Politics, 1848-1948**

The University of Arizona/Fall 2011

Mondays and Wednesdays, 4:00-5:15PM, Psychology Building,  
Room 306

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Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 2:30-3:30PM, or by appointment

#### **Course Description:**

An old joke has it that every three Jews have (at least) four different views. Students will come to appreciate the kernel of truth in that joke during the semester, as we will examine the multifaceted spectrum of ideologies, movements, parties, and individuals that constituted the emerging Jewish politics during their formative years. Focusing primarily on three centers – Eastern Europe, the U.S., and the Land of Israel – we will look at how those different movements sought to solve what was called “The Jewish Question”. We will look at how the various forces on the Jewish street sought to settle that question, where did they think Jews should live, what language(s) should Jews speak, with which political and cultural movements in the Gentile world did they empathize, and what political tactics did they favor.

Moreover, the questions and situations faced by Jewish ideologies and political movements were often, quite literally, a matter of life or death: among other topics, our discussion would turn to patterns of collaboration and resistance under Nazi rule, or the fierce internal Zionist debates about the use of force in the increasing Jewish-Arab conflict in the Land of Israel. Those crucial dilemmas generated profound intra-Jewish controversies and divisions, some of which have continued to this very day.

## Course Format, Requirements, and Attendance Policy

This course uses a lecture format. You are expected to complete the required readings on the first meeting of the week.

**1. Attendance:** Attendance in class is required and I will take attendance each time. Any student who misses THREE or more meetings during the semester will get an “E” grade for attendance. Any student who misses **25% or more** of the course’s total number of lectures will FAIL the class. If extenuating circumstances such as illness force a student to miss one or more classes, the student remains responsible for the material covered during her/his absence. A physician’s note is required in such a case. **Tardiness** is disruptive to the class and unacceptable. If a student is tardy (arriving more than TWO minutes after the beginning of class) TWICE, it will constitute one unexcused absence. The same goes for leaving class before it ends.

**2. Preparation:** I cannot overemphasize the importance of your reading assignments. A failure to read the assigned materials will affect not only your quizzes grades, but also your ability to deal with the written assignments.

### Final Grade Breakdown:

Attendance – 10%

Two pop quizzes (at least) – 15% (combined)

Midterm exam – 25%

Term paper – 20%

Final exam – 30%.

Please note: late papers will lose 10 points for every day late.

92% and above.....	A
82-91.99%.....	B
72-81.99%.....	C
61-71.99%.....	D
Below 61%.....	E

### Standards of Student Conduct

The use of computers in class is STRICTLY FORBIDDEN. The ONLY exception would be students who can provide a formal authorization from the Disability Resources Center (DRC). The use of texting, cell phones and pagers is also strictly forbidden. Students violating these rules will be asked to leave the class for the day, and will have an absence recorded for that date.

Plagiarism and other forms academic misconduct are strictly forbidden according to the Student Code of Academic Integrity. Students may not plagiarize or represent the work of others as their own, nor modify academic work. Plagiarism is defined as using the ideas and words of others without indicating whose ideas and whose words they are. Do not plagiarize, even inadvertently. If you quote as few as three words, use quotation marks and provide the reference. If you use someone's ideas but not their actual words, provide the reference but do not use quotation marks. For the UA Code on Academic integrity see: <http://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/codeofacademicintegrity>. For further information on how to avoid plagiarism see <http://www.library.arizona.edu/help/tutorials/plagiarism/index.html>

Behavior that could be considered threatening is strictly forbidden according to UA policy (see [policy.web.arizona.edu/~policy/threaten.shtml](http://policy.web.arizona.edu/~policy/threaten.shtml)).

In keeping with University policy this professor will provide reasonable accommodation of any student's religious beliefs with regard to the scheduling of examinations and other academic requirements for this course. Please consult with the professor at least two weeks in advance of any such scheduling issues.

The information contained in the course syllabus, other than the grading policy, may be subject to change with reasonable advance notice as deemed appropriate by the professor.

### **Required Books**

Arthur Hertzberg (ed.), The Zionist Idea: A Historical Analysis and Reader  
Ezra Mendelsohn, On Modern Jewish Politics  
Anita Shapira, Land and Power: The Zionist Resort to Force, 1881-1948

All the assigned books are available for purchase at the campus bookstore. There is also a copy of each book at the Center for Judaic Studies that you can read there (but not borrow). The other readings are available online via D2L.

# Primary sources (online)

\* Secondary sources (online)

### **Week 1 (Aug. 22-24): Introduction – What are “Jewish Politics”?**

Mendelsohn, On Modern Jewish Politics, vii-ix, 3-36.

\* Daniel J. Elazar, “Introduction: The *Edah* as a Classic Republic”, in Daniel J. Elazar (ed.), Kinship and Consent: The Jewish Political Tradition and Its Contemporary Uses, 3-8.

\* “East European Jewry”, “The American Experience”, and “Zionism”, in Paul Mendes-Flohr and Jehuda Reinharz (eds.), The Jew in the Modern World, 372-374, 449-451, 529-531.

## **Week 2 (Aug. 29-31): The Old Jewish Politics and the Precursors of Jewish Nationalism**

Rabbi Zvi Hirsch Kalischer, “Seeking Zion” (1862), Hertzberg, The Zionist Idea, 109-114.

Moses Hess, “Rome and Jerusalem” (1862), Hertzberg, The Zionist Idea, 116-123, 132-134.

Peretz Smolenskin, “It Is Time to Plant”, Hertzberg, The Zionist Idea, 143-147.

# “Philadelphia Jewry Protests against Persecution of Jews in Damascus” (1840), Jacob R. Marcus (ed.), The Jew in the American World, 185-187.

# “San Francisco Jewry Appeals to the U.S. Senate to Denounce the Abduction of Edgar Mortara” (1859), Marcus (ed.), The Jew in the American World, 288-290.

\* Jacob Katz, Out of the Ghetto, 191-219.

\* Jonathan Frankel, “Introduction: Crisis as a Factor in Nineteenth-Century Jewish History”, The Damascus Affair: “Ritual Murder”, Politics, and the Jews in 1840, 1-16.

## **Week 3 (Sep. 7): 1881 – The Big Bang?**

### **Class is cancelled on Sep. 5, 2010 – Labor Day**

Excerpts by Moshe Leib Lilienblum and Leo Pinsker, Hertzberg (ed.), The Zionist Idea, 166-198.

# Judah Leib Levin, “To America or to the Land of Israel?” (1881), the “Am Olam” Movement (1883), and BILU, “Manifesto” (1882), Mendes-Flohr and Reinhartz (eds.), The Jew in the Modern World, 413-414, 477-478, 532-533.

# Pavel B. Axelrod, “Socialist Jews Confront the Pogroms”, Lucy S. Dawidowicz (ed.), The Golden Tradition: Jewish Life and Thought in Eastern Europe, 405-410.

Mendelsohn, On Modern Jewish Politics, 37-62.

\* Jonathan Frankel, “The Crisis of 1881-1882 as a Turning Point in Modern Jewish History”, David Berger (ed.), The Legacy of Jewish Migration: 1881 and Its Impact, 9-22.

## **Week 4 (Sep. 12-14): Varieties of Zionism**

Theodor Herzl, excerpts from “The Jewish State”, Hertzberg (ed.), The Zionist Idea, 201-204, 218-226.

Ahad Ha-am, “The Negation of the Diaspora”, Hertzberg (ed.), The Zionist Idea, 249-251, 270-277.

Joseph Hayyim Brenner, “Self-Criticism”, Hertzberg (ed.), The Zionist Idea, 305-312, Nahman Syrkin, “The Jewish Problem and the Socialist-Jewish State” (1898), Hertzberg (ed.), The Zionist Idea, 331-332, 340-351.

Yehiel Michael Pines, “Jewish Nationalism Cannot Be Secular”, and “Religion Is the Source of Jewish Nationalism”, Hertzberg (ed.), The Zionist Idea, 407-408, 411-414.  
Louis D. Brandeis, “The Jewish Problem and How to Solve It”, Hertzberg (ed.), The Zionist Idea, 515-523.

# Manya Shohat, “The Woman in the Bund and in Poalei Zion” (1937), Mendes-Flohr and Reinhartz (eds.), The Jew in the Modern World, 425-428.

Shapira, Land and Power, 3-82.

### **Week 5 (Sep. 19-21): Varieties of Diaspora Nationalism**

# Simon Dubnow, “Autonomism” (1901), the Bund, “Decisions on the Nationality Question” (1899, 1901, 1905, 1910), Chaim Zhitlowsky, “Our Future in America” (1915), and Israel Zangwill, “A Manifesto”, Mendes-Flohr and Reinhartz (eds.), The Jew in the Modern World, 417-423, 491-492, 550-552.

# Vladimir Medem, “The Youth of a Bundist”, Dawidowicz (ed.), The Golden Tradition, 426-434.

Mendelsohn, On Modern Jewish Politics, 63-91.

\* David E. Fishman, “The Bund and Modern Yiddish Culture”, Zvi Gitelman (ed.), The Emergence of Modern Jewish Politics, 107-119.

### **Week 6 (Sep. 26): The Emergence of Orthodox Politics**

#### **Class in cancelled on Sep. 28 (Rosh Hashanah)**

# Rabbi Zadok H. Rabinowitz, “The Zionists Are Not Our Saviors” (c. 1900), The Mizrahi, “Manifesto” (1902), and Agudat Israel, “Founding Program” (1912), Mendes-Flohr and Reinhartz (eds.), The Jew in the Modern World, 544-546, 565-566.

\* Gershon Bacon, “The Politics of Tradition: Agudat Israel in Polish Politics, 1916-1930”, Studies in Contemporary Jewry (1986): 144-163.

\* Arthur Goren, The Politics and Public Culture of American Jews, 100-109.

\* Jeffrey S. Gurock, “American Orthodox Organizations in Support of Zionism”, American Jewish Orthodoxy in Historical Perspective, 117-133.

### **Week 7 (Oct. 3-5): Revolutionary Upheavals**

# Rosa Luxemburg, “No Room in My Heart for Jewish Suffering” (1916) and Yevseksiya, “The Liquidation of Bourgeois Jewish Institutions” (1918), Mendes-Flohr and Reinhartz (eds.), The Jew in the Modern World, 261-262, 433-436.

# Excerpt from Chaim Nachman Bialik, “The City of Slaughter”

Shapira, Land and Power, 83-126

- \* Goren, The Politics and Public Culture of American Jews, 83-99.
- \* Jonathan Frankel, "The Bundists in America and the 'Zionist Problem'", Gitelman (ed.), The Emergence of Modern Jewish Politics, 181-196.

**Weeks 8-9 (Oct. 10-17): Creating a "New Jew"**

**Class is cancelled on Oct. 12 (Sukkot) and Oct. 19 (Shemini Atzeret/Simchat Torah)**

**In-class midterm exam on Monday, Oct. 10**

# Max Nordau, "Jewry of Muscle" (1903) Mendes-Flohr and Reinharz (eds.), The Jew in the Modern World, 547-548.

# Haim Hazaz, "The Sermon", The Sermon & Other Stories, 231-249.

Mendelsohn, On Modern Jewish Politics, 93-113.

Shapira, Land and Power, 257-276, 343-352.

\* Goren, The Politics and Public Culture of American Jews, 165-185.

\* Oz Almog, The Sabra: The Creation of the New Jew, 138-159.

**Week 10 (Oct. 24-26): Interwar Developments**

# Yitzhak Gruenbaum, "Why Did We Create the Minorities Bloc?" (1922), Mendes-Flohr and Reinharz (eds.), The Jew in the Modern World, 442-446.

# Vladimir Jabotinsky, "What the Zionist-Revisionists Want" (1926), Mendes-Flohr and Reinharz (eds.), The Jew in the Modern World, 594-597.

# David Frankel, "Kibbutz Hakhshara: A Memoir" (c. 1935), Mendes-Flohr and Reinharz (eds.), The Jew in the Modern World, 598-599.

# David Ben-Gurion, "On the Arab Question" (January 7, 1937), Mendes-Flohr and Reinharz (eds.), The Jew in the Modern World, 603-608.

# "The Columbus Platform" (1937), Mendes-Flohr and Reinharz (eds.), The Jew in the Modern World, 517-518.

Mendelsohn, On Modern Jewish Politics, 115-125.

Shapira, Land and Power, 173-257.

\* Daniel Blatman, "National-Minority Policy, Bundist Social Organizations, and Jewish Women in Interwar Poland"; and Samuel D. Kassow, "The Left Poalei Tsiyon in Interwar Poland", Gitelman (ed.), The Emergence of Modern Jewish Politics, 54-84.

**Week 11 (Oct. 31-Nov. 2): Dilemmas of Jewish Politics during the Holocaust – Jewish Councils and Jewish Police**

# Mordecai Chaim Rumkowski, "On the Deportation of Children from the Lodz Ghetto" (1942), Mendes-Flohr and Reinharz (eds.), The Jew in the Modern World, 690-692.

# The Journal of Emmanuel Ringelblum, 329-336.

# Excerpt from Calel Perechodnik, Am I a Murderer?

# Excerpt from Yitzhak Katznelson, Vittel Diary

\* Isaiah Trunk, Judenrat: The Jewish Councils in Eastern Europe under Nazi Occupation, xxxvii-xxlvii, 368-450.

**Week 12 (Nov. 7-9): Dilemmas of Jewish Politics during the Holocaust – Forms of Resistance**

**Term paper is due on Monday, Nov. 7**

# Jewish Fighting Organization, "Call to Resistance" (January 1943) and Mordecai Anielewicz's Last Communication as Ghetto Revolt Commander (April 1943), Mendes-Flohr and Reinharz (eds.), The Jew in the Modern World, 673-676.

\* Trunk, Judenrat, 528-547

**Week 13 (Nov. 14-16): The Yishuv Faces the Holocaust**

# Hannah Senesh, Her Life and Diary (excerpt).

# Hanoch Bartov, The Brigade, 158-162.

# Yitzhak Sadeh, "My Sister on the Beach", in Ronit Lentin, Israel and the Daughters of the Shoah, 207.

Shapira, Land and Power, 319-342.

\* Dina Porat, The Blue and Yellow Star of David, 1-2, 49-93, 212-228, 239-262.

**Week 14 (Nov. 21): American Jewry during the Holocaust**

**Class is cancelled on Nov. 23 (Thanksgiving Day)**

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver, "Toward American Jewish Unity" and "American Jewry in War and After", in Hertzberg, The Zionist Idea, 591-602.

# The American Jewish Conference (January 1943), Mendes-Flohr and Reinharz (eds.), The Jew in the Modern World, 519-522.

# The American Council for Judaism, "A Statement of Policy" (February 1944), Mendes-Flohr and Reinharz (eds.), The Jew in the Modern World, 523-524.

\* Henry L. Feingold, Bearing Witness: How America and Its Jews Responded to the Holocaust, 205-276.

**Week 15 (Nov. 28-30): A Jewish State – The Foundation of the State of Israel**

# "Proclamation of the State of Israel" (May 14, 1948), Mendes-Flohr and Reinharz (eds.), The Jew in the Modern World, 629-630.

David Ben-Gurion, "Address to the Knesset on the Law of Return" (July 3, 1950) and "The Law of Return" (July 5, 1950), Mendes-Flohr and Reinhartz (eds.), The Jew in the Modern World, 631-633.

Shapira, Land and Power, 277-319, 353-370.

**Week 16 (Dec. 5-7): The Creation of Israel – A Look from Abroad**

Mordecai M. Kaplan, "The Future of the American Jew" (1948), in Hertzberg, The Zionist Idea, 535-542.

Mendelsohn, On Modern Jewish Politics, 127-145.

**Final Exam: Monday, December 12 @ 6:00PM, location TBA**

No early or late exams will be permitted.