

**Modern European Jewish History:
Emancipation, Integration, Reaction**

Fall 2018
EUH 3672/JST 3930
M-W-F, period 4 (10.40 am to 11.30 am)
Keene-Flint 0111

Prof. Mitchell Hart
Office: Keene-Flint 018
Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 3 pm -4 pm, and by appointment
Email: hartm@ufl.edu
Office phone: 273-3361

How did Jews in Europe respond to the revolutionary transformations that occurred in Europe beginning in the seventeenth century? How did the emergence of the modern nation-state, notions of individual rights and duties, secularism, liberalism, socialism and other political ideologies impact on the condition of the Jews? What were the effects of industrialization, capitalism, and urbanization? This course introduces students to the major themes and issues in modern Jewish history through an exploration of two of the key mechanisms of modernization: emancipation and assimilation. We will explore the idea of “Jewish modernity”; the Jewish enlightenment (*Haskalah*); the rise of Reform Judaism and neo-Orthodoxy; anti-Semitism and the Jewish response; the Jewish involvement with Socialism and Communism, and the rise of Jewish nationalism and the Zionist movement.

Required Texts

Rebecca Goldstein, *Betraying Spinoza*

All the assigned readings for the lectures and discussions are on CANVAS. They are pdf files that you can access and download. These are required readings.

Course Requirements: Attendance is required. More than three unexcused absences and your final grade will be affected. There will be three assignments in this course: two in-class midterms, and a take-home essay. The take-home essay will be 8-10 pages in length.

Class sessions will be structured around lectures and discussions. We will use one or more of the primary texts that you have been assigned (the pdf files on CANVAS). Please bring these with you to class. To get the most out of the lectures it is strongly suggested that you come to each class having read the assigned material for that week.

Grading: Each midterm is worth 25% of your final grade; the take-home paper will be worth approximately 40% of the final grade. Attendance, in-class behavior and participation are worth 10%.

The **first midterm** will be given in class on Friday, October 12.

The **second midterm** will be given on Wednesday, December 5.

The **take-home essay** will be due at the beginning of class on November 16.

Instructions for the take-home assignment can be found on Canvas, file name "Take-home essay"

Relevant University Policies:

"Please do not hesitate to contact the instructor during the semester if you have any individual concerns or issues that need to be discussed. Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office (www.dso.ufl.edu/drp/). The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation."

Students with disabilities will of course be accommodated, so long as their requests are accompanied by an official letter from UF's Office of Disabilities.

"In writing papers, be certain to give proper credit whenever you use words, phrases, ideas, arguments, and conclusions drawn from someone else's work. Failure to give credit by quoting and/or footnoting is PLAGIARISM and is unacceptable. Please review the University's honesty policy at www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/."

"Student records are confidential. UF views each student, not their parent(s), as the primary contact for all communication. For more information, see: www.registrar.ufl.edu/ferpahub.html."

Plagiarism

PLEASE NOTE: In writing papers, be certain to give proper credit whenever you use words, phrases, ideas, arguments, and conclusions drawn from someone else's work. Do

not make the mistake of copying someone else's words and passing them off as your own. Failure to give credit by quoting and/or footnoting is PLAGIARISM and is unacceptable. **IF YOU ARE CAUGHT PLAGIARIZING YOU WILL AUTOMATICALLY FAIL THE CLASS AND MAY BE PROSECUTED FURTHER.** Please review the University's honesty policy and honor code at the University Registrar's website.

Course themes and lectures

1. Introduction

Required Reading in Canvas: David Rechter, "The Jews: A European Minority," in *A Companion to Nineteenth-Century Europe, 1789-1914*

2. Pre-Modern Jewish Life

Required Reading in Canvas folder "Early Modern"

"The Writ of Excommunication Against Baruch Spinoza" (1656)
 "Uriel de Costa" Account of excommunication in *Spinoza: A Life*

3. Utilitarian Thought about Jews

Required Reading in Canvas folder "Early Modern"

Simone Luzzatto, "Discourse on the Condition of the Jews, Especially in Venice"
 Menasseh ben Israel, "How Profitable the Nation of the Jews are" (1655)
 John Toland, "Reasons for Naturalizing the Jews in Great Britain and Ireland" (1714)

4. Enlightenment and *Haskalah*

Required Reading in Canvas Folder "Enlightenment"

Michael Meyer, "Enlightenment," from *Jewish Identity in the Modern World*

Naphtali Herz Wessely, "Words of Peace and Truth" (1782)
 David ben Nathan of Lissa, "A Sermon Contra Wessely" (1782)

Moses Mendelssohn, "The Right to be Different" (1783)
 David Friedlander. "On Self-Development and the Abolishment of Jewish Autonomy" (1792)
 Joseph Wolf, "Preface to Volume One of *Sulamith*" (1806)
 "Call for Religious Enlightenment" (1808) in *Sulamith*

5. The Discourse of Emancipation, Reform and Regeneration

Required Reading in Canvas Folder "Emancipation Discourse"

Jacob Katz, "The Image of the Future," from *Out of the Ghetto*
 Robert Liberles, "From Toleration to *Verbesserung*: German and English Debates on the Jews in the Eighteenth Century"

Christian Wilhelm von Dohm, "Concerning the Amelioration of the Civil Status of the Jews" (1781)
 Johann David Michaelis, "Arguments Against Dohm" (1782)
 Moses Mendelssohn, "Response to Dohm" (1782)
 Abbé Gregoire, "An Essay on the Physical, Moral and Political Reformation of the Jews" (1789)

6. Political and Social Emancipation in Europe

Required Reading in Canvas Folder "Emancipation Civic"

Paula Hyman, "The French Revolution and the Emancipation of the Jews," from *The Jews of Modern France*
 Todd Endelman, "Gentlemen Jews: The Acculturation of the Anglo-Jewish Middle Class," from *The Jews of Georgian England*
 George Mosse, "Cultural Emancipation"

French National Assembly: "Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen";
 "Debate on Eligibility of Jews for Citizenship"; "Decree Recognizing the Sephardim as Citizens"; "The Constitution of France"; "The Emancipation of the Jews of France" (1789-1791)

Berr Isaac Berr, "Letter of a Citizen to His Fellow Jews" (1791)

"Emancipation of Dutch Jewry" (1796)

"First Emancipation in Rome" (1799)

"Emancipation in Prussia" (1812)

The Houses of Parliament of Great Britain, "The Jewish Relief Act" (1858)

"North German Confederation and Jewish Emancipation" (1869)

7. Jewish Religious Responses to Emancipation and Integration

A. Reform Judaism

Required Reading in Canvas Folder “Reform and Reaction”

Michael Meyer, “Should and Can an ‘Antiquated’ Religion become Modern? The Jewish Reform Movement in Germany as Seen by Jews and Christians,” in *The Jews in European History: Seven Lectures*

Riv-Ellen Prell, “The Vision of Woman in Classical Reform Judaism”

“Constitution of the Hamburg Temple” (1817)

Eliezer Liebermann, “The Light of Splendor” (1818)

The Reform Rabbinical Conference at Brunswick, “The Question of Patriotism” (1844)

The Reform Rabbinical Conference at Frankfurt, “Hebrew as the Language of Jewish Prayer” and “The Question of Messianism” (1845)

B. Reactions to Reform: Conservative, neo-Orthodox and Ultra-Orthodox Judaisms

Readings found in Canvas Folder “Reform and Reaction”

The Hamburg Rabbinical Court, “These are the Words of the Covenant” (1819)

Hatam Sofer, “A Reply Concerning the Question of Reform” (1819)

Zacharias Frankel, “On Changes in Judaism” (1845)

Samson Raphael Hirsch, “Religion Allied to Progress” (1854)

The Michalowce Assembly, “The Manifesto of Ultra-Orthodoxy” (1865)

8. Modern Antisemitism

Required Reading in Canvas Folder “Antisemitism”

Johann Gottlieb Fichte, “A State within a State” (1793)

Jakob Friedrich Fries, “On the Danger to the Well-Being and Character of the Germans Presented by the Jews” (1816)

Richard Wagner, “Jewry in Music” (1850)

Wilhelm Marr, "The Victory of Judaism over Germandom" (1879)
Karl Eugen Duehring, "The Question of the Jew is a Question of Race," (1881)
Edouard-Adolphe Drumont, "Jewish France" (1886)
Adolf Stoecker, "What we Demand of Modern Jewry" (1879)
"Protocols of the Elders of Zion" (c. 1902)

9. Post-Emancipatory Developments

Required Reading in Canvas Folder "Post-Emancipation"

Theodor Herzl, "A Solution of the Jewish Question" (1896)
Max Nordau, "Jewry of Muscle" (1903)
"Protest Against Zionism"