

## **The History of Antisemitism**

WOH 3931, section 28112

M-W-F, period 5, 11.45 am – 12.35 pm

Keene-Flint 101

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### **Course Description**

This course explores the history of anti-Jewish discourse and images, mainly in Europe. It is largely a class in intellectual and cultural history, focused on the production of ideas and their role in the construction of individual and collective notions of the self. What role did anti-Semitism play in the self-conception of ancient Greeks and Romans, early and medieval Christians, modern Europeans and Americans? We will begin in the ancient period, then move through the Middle Ages and end with modernity. The course will not deal with Nazi Germany and the Holocaust directly, but certainly serves to familiarize students with the themes directly relevant to a study of the 1930s and 40s.

### **Required Books:**

These texts should be purchased as part of the course requirement:

Joshua Trachtenberg, *The Devil and the Jews*

David Kertzer, *The Popes Against the Jews*

There are also a few pdf files of articles that are required. These have been uploaded to the Canvas page.

### **Course Requirements:**

Attendance is mandatory. You will be allowed to miss three class meetings without penalty; anything beyond that will affect your final evaluation and grade. After 3 missed classes you will lose five points on the next exam for each missed day.

Attendance is worth 5% of the final grade.

There will be **three in-class midterms**:

Midterm one will be given on September 27. It will be worth 30% of your final grade.

Midterm two will be given on November 1. It will be worth 30% of your final grade.

Midterm three will be given December 4. It will be worth 35% of your final grade.

## **Grading Scale**

A = 100–93 (4.0) B = 86–83 (3.0) C = 74–71 (2.0) D = 62–60 (1.0)

A- = 92–90 (3.67) B- = 82–79 (2.67) C- = 70–67 (1.63) D- = 59–56 (0.67)

B+ = 89–87 (3.33) C+ = 78–75 (2.33) D+ = 66–63 (1.33) F = below 55 (0)

For more information see:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

## **STATEMENT REGARDING ACADEMIC HONESTY:**

Students are expected to uphold the Academic Honor Code of the University of Florida. The Academic Honor Code is based on the premise that each student has the responsibility (1) to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity in the student's own work, (2) to refuse to tolerate violations of academic integrity in the University community, and (3) to foster a high sense of integrity and responsibility on the part of the University community. For a full explanation of visit: [www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/students.html](http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/students.html). An excellent website that discusses plagiarism, correct citing of references, and correct use of quotations is:

<http://mediasite.video.ufl.edu/mediasite/Viewer/?peid=adaa44500eaf460a84f238e6b9a558f9>.

## **UNIVERSITY RESOURCES:**

**Disability Accommodations:** Students requesting accommodation should first register with the Dean of Students Office so that you have documentation for all your courses. For more information about services available to University of Florida students: Dean of

Students Office Disability Resource Center, 202 Peabody Hall or 0020 Reid Hall Phone: (352) 392-1261/(352) 392-8570 or at: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>

**UF Counseling and Academic Resources:** On-campus services are available for students having personal problems or lacking clear career and academic goals. They include:

1. U Matter, We Care: If you or a friend is in distress, please contact [umatter@ufl.edu](mailto:umatter@ufl.edu) or (352) 392-1575 so that a team member can reach out to the student.
2. University Counseling Center, 301 Peabody Hall, (352) 392-1575,
3. Student Mental Health, Student Health Care Center, (352) 392-1171
4. Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS), Student Health Care Center, (352) 392-1161
5. CareerResourceCenter,ReitzUnion,(352)392-1601<http://www.crc.ufl.edu/>
6. E-learning technical support: (352) 392-4357/ email: [Learningsupport@ufl.edu](mailto:Learningsupport@ufl.edu)

<https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>.

7. LibrarySupport,<http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask>
8. WritingStudio,302TigertHall,(352)846-1138<http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>

**Important Note: The lectures and slides shown in class will not be available on Canvas and will not be distributed to you at any time during the semester. It does not matter what you hear or are told by others at the University. You are expected to take notes during the lectures.**

*Thematic Organization and Structure of the course.*

**Please note that I have not divided these into weeks, since some of these themes require either a longer or shorter period of time to discuss.**

### **1. Introduction: discussion of syllabus and overarching themes**

Reading: Joshua Trachtenberg, *The Devil and the Jews*, pages 1-7

## **2: Social Anti-Judaism: The pre-Christian Ancient World**

Readings: **Sources uploaded up to Canvas, contained in the file “Pagan Antiquity”**

Peter Schaefer, excerpt from *Judeophobia*

Tacitus on the Jews

## **3: The Theology of Difference: Early Christianity--The New Testament**

Readings: **These are found in the Canvas folder “Early Christianity”**

Primary documents: “New Testament Texts”

“Paul texts”

Rosemary Reuther, excerpt from *Faith and Fratricide*

## **4. Early Christianity--The Church Fathers**

Readings:

Primary Documents: Augustine “Slay them Not,” and John Chrysostom, sermons against the Jews, **in Canvas folder “Church Fathers”**

## **5. The Middle Ages**

5.1 The Christianization of Europe and the crystallization of anti-Judaism

Reading: Joshua Trachtenberg, *The Devil and the Jews*, pages 159-187

5.2 Legal and social restrictions of Jews in Europe and expulsions

Reading: Joshua Trachtenberg, *The Devil and the Jews*, pages 188-22

### 5.3 The Accusations Against the Jews: Poisoners, ritual murderers, host desecrators

Reading: Joshua Trachtenberg, *The Devil and the Jews*, pages 57-155

### 5.4 The Demonization of the Jews

Reading: Joshua Trachtenberg, *The Devil and the Jews*, pages 11-53

## 6. The Reformation and Renaissance

Reading:

David Kertzer, *The Popes Against the Jews*, pages 3-85

## 7. Early Modern Period

Reading:

Kertzer, *The Popes Against the Jews*, pages 86-130

## 8. The Modern World: Reactionary and Racial Antisemitism

Reading:

David Kertzer, *The Popes Against the Jews*, pages 133-236