San Diego State University
Department of History

Modern Jewish History

HIST 488
Spring 2015
Professor Moshe Naor
Class Days: T-TH 2:00-3:15
Class Location: LSN 111
Office Hours: AL 384, TH 4-5
mnaor@mail.sdsu.edu

Course Description
The course will examine the major developments in modern Jewish history as a process of tradition and crisis, continuity and change, and the relations between East and West and between the Levant and Europe. We will study Jewish history from a comparative viewpoint, looking at Jewish life and Experience as Minority communities and at the Political, Culture and Social history of Ashkenazi Jews and Sephardic Jewry. This course will focus on the history of the Jews in Europe and America but also on the history of the Jews in the Middle East. We will examine subjects such as Immigration, Nationalism, and Identity in the "West" and among the Jews of Islamic and Arab countries as well as the relations between Jews, Muslims and Christians since 1492 to the Post Second World War.

Course Principles
The students are expected to attend all classes, show up on time and to have read the assigned readings for each session. You can miss two classes without any consequences. Every missed class not due to a verifiable medical or personal emergency after that will result in a reduction of your final grade. Mandatory class readings include the text book and the chapters and articles that are listed in the syllabus. Primary sources: documents, texts, maps and visual sources will be placed occasionally on the course blackboard website. The final take-home exam will cover course materials presented in lectures, the text book, assigned readings and class discussions. Make sure that your take-home exam is based on your original work. Footnote your sources, indicate direct quotes, and avoid closely paraphrasing your sources. Students with disabilities or who need special consideration are requested to contact me as soon as possible.

Requirements and Grading
- Midterm take-home exam (March 10) - 30%
- Five-page book review (April 7) - 30%
- Take-home final exam (May 12) - 30%
- Attendance and active participation - 10%
Text Books

Course Topics and Readings

Class 1 (Jan. 22) – Introduction: Nation and Religion

Class 2 (Jan. 27) – Rome and Jerusalem: History of the Jews before Islam
- Michael Brenner, *A Short History of the Jews*, pp.19-68

Class 3 (Jan. 29) – Jewish History between Medieval Islam and Christianity

Class 4 (Feb. 3) – The Jews of Spain

Class 5 (Feb. 5) – Sephardim and Ashkenazim after 1492

Class 6 (Feb. 10) – San Diego Jewish Film Festival: Suggested films
- "Apples from the Desert", Tuesday, February 10, 1:30 pm
  http://tickets.lfjcc.org/default.asp?SearchText=apples&Go=Go
- "The Dove Flyer", Saturday, February 14, 6:15 pm,
  http://tickets.lfjcc.org/default.asp?SearchText=Dove+Flyer%2C+The+%26+Go=Go

Class 7 (Feb. 12) – Shabbathi Zvi and the Messianic Movement
- Lloyd P. Gartner, *History of the Jews in Modern Times*, pp.47-60
- Michael Brenner, *A Short History of the Jews*, 137-150

Class 8 (Feb. 17) - Mysticism: The Hasidic Movement
- Michael Brenner, *A Short History of the Jews*, 151-166

Documents
- The Rabbinical Leaders of Vilna, Excommunication of the Hasidim (1772), pp.390-391

Class 9 (Feb. 19) – The Jewish Enlightenment
- Michael Brenner, *A Short History of the Jews*, 167-188

Documents
- Naphtali Herz Wessely, Words of Peace and Truth (1782), pp.70-74
-David Ben Nathan of Lissa, A Sermon Contra Wessely (1782), pp.74-79

Class 10 (Feb.24) – Emancipation
-loyd P. Gartner, History of the Jews in Modern Times, pp.128-190
- Michael Brenner, A Short History of the Jews, 189-208

Documents
- Napoleon's Instructions to the Assembly of Jewish Notables (1806), pp.125-6
- The Assembly of Jewish Notables, Answers to Napoleon (1806), pp.128-133

Class 11 (Feb.26) – Out of the Ghetto
- The Story of the Jews – Documentary film

Class 12 (Mar.3) – Modern Anti-Semitism

Documents
- Wilhelm Marr, The Victory of Judaism over Germandom (1879), pp.331-332
- Theodor Fritsch, The Racists' Decalogue (1883), pp.350-351

Class 13 (Mar.5) – No Class

Class 14 (Mar.10) – 1881 and Eastern Europe Jews
-loyd P. Gartner, History of the Jews in Modern Times, pp. 318-334

Class 15 (Mar.12) – The Great Immigration
-loyd P. Gartner, History of the Jews in Modern Times, pp.318-334

Class 16 (Mar.17) – American Jews
- Michael Brenner, A Short History of the Jews, 209-222

Class 17 (Mar.19) – The Jews of New York
- Michael Brenner, A Short History of the Jews, 223-254
- Film: Hester Street, Director: John Micklin Silver (1975)

Class 18 (Mar.24) – The Zionist Movement
- Michael Brenner, A Short History of the Jews, 255-272

Documents
- Leo Pinsker, Auto-Emancipation (1882), The Zionist Idea, pp.181-198

Class 19 (Mar. 26) – The Jewish community in Palestine

Class 20 (Apr.7) – The Jews of Islam
- Norman A. Stillman, Jews of Arab Lands in Modern Times, pp.47-64

Class 21 (Apr. 9) – No Class – Passover

Class 22 (Apr. 14) – Book Review Presentations

Class 23 (Apr. 16) - The Jews in Arab Countries
-Norman A. Stillman, *Jews of Arab Lands in Modern Times*, pp.47-64, 93-139

Classes 24&25 (Apr.21/23) – First World War and the Interwar Years

Classes 26&27 (Apr.28/ Apr.30) - The Second World War and the Holocaust
- Michael Brenner, *A Short History of the Jews*, 319-348

Documents
- The Nuremberg Laws (1935), pp.646-647
- Chaim Kaplan, A Warsaw Ghetto Diary (1940), pp.666-668

Classes28&29 (May.5/7) – After the War