

ANTISEMITISM

History (01:510:269:01)
Jewish Studies (01:563:269:01)
2-3:20 M/W (4th period)
Van Dyck 211

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Recent years have witnessed an upsurge in antisemitic rhetoric and incidents in the United States, Europe, and elsewhere. Jews have been verbally and physically attacked and some have been murdered. The actions and statements of diverse social and political constituencies are labeled antisemitic. This course invites students to think deeply about contemporary discourses of and about antisemitism in light of their historical precedents and resonances. Students will monitor current events and analyze their representations in the media. They will also study the complex history of antisemitism—a term that has been used to denote a constellation of phenomena that disparage Jews and Judaism. The historical portion of the course will proceed chronologically, starting with an analysis of negative attitudes toward Jews and Judaism in the ancient and medieval worlds and also considering modern Europe, the United States, and the Middle East.

Throughout, attention will be devoted to the wide-ranging contexts and content of antisemitism; the functions that anti-Jewish animus has served in different societies; the roles of religion, science, and politics in anti-Jewish ideologies and actions; factors that have intensified and mitigated anti-Jewish ideologies and their expressions; and the relationships that have existed between hatred of Jews and other forms of prejudice. Students will ponder continuities and turning points in the history of antisemitism as well as the significance of antisemitism as an analytic category. They will also consider the dangers of focusing on antisemitism at the expense of other dynamics in Jewish history.

Addressing urgent questions in historical perspective, students will emerge better equipped to navigate the challenges of the contemporary world.



This course fulfills the following Core Curriculum and other requirements:

- **Contemporary Challenges [CC]:** CCD-1. Analyze the degree to which forms of human differences and stratifications among social groups shape individual and group experiences of, and perspectives on, contemporary issues. Such differences and stratifications may include race, language, religion, ethnicity, country of origin, gender identity, sexual orientation, economic status, abilities, or other social distinctions and their intersections.
- **Historical Analysis [HST]:** HST-1. Explain the development of some aspect of a society or culture over time.
- Observe current developments and their representations in the media with critical distance
- Understand connections between contemporary and historical expressions of antisemitism
- Understand continuities and turning points in the history of antisemitism as well as the significance of antisemitism as an analytic category

TEXTS

- **Deborah Lipstadt, *Antisemitism: Here and Now*** (New York: Schocken Books, 2019). \$17.00. ISBN978-0805243376. Available for purchase the Rutgers University Bookstore, Ferren Mall, One Penn Plaza, 732-246-8448.
 - **All other assigned and optional readings and materials are posted on Canvas.**
 - Several of these readings are from *Key Concepts in the Study of Antisemitism*, ed. Scott Ury (Palgrave, 2021), which you may purchase if you prefer the convenience of a book. \$23.00. ISBN978-3030516574
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GRADING

Attendance and participation.....10%

Attendance is required and will be taken at every class. Email me IN ADVANCE to excuse an absence. Class starts promptly at 2pm. Please be on time. Thoughtful contributions to class discussions are encouraged.

2 News Analyses.....(10% each) 20%

1 page (250-300 words) each. Detailed instructions are posted in the top module on Canvas. See below for due dates.

2 Text Analyses.....(15% each) 30%

1 page (250-300 words) each. Detailed instructions are posted in the top module on Canvas. See below for due dates.

4 Quizzes.....(10% each) 40%

Prior to each quiz, a study guide will be distributed and there will be an in-class review session. See below for dates.

COURSE SCHEDULE

I. CONTEXTS AND DEFINITIONS

1. **Wed. Jan 18. Introduction**

- Lipstadt, *Antisemitism*, ix–10
- Skim: [Anti-Defamation League \(ADL\) Audit of Antisemitic Incidents, 2021](#)

2. **Mon. Jan 23. Defining Antisemitism**

- Lipstadt, *Antisemitism*, 11-25
- David Berger, “Anti-Semitism: An Overview,” in *History and Hate: The Dimensions of Antisemitism*, ed. David Berger (1986), 3-14.

3. **Wed. Jan 25. Who are Jews?**

- 2020 Pew Research Center Survey, 1-3, 56, 70-71

4. **Mon. Jan 30. Taxonomies of Antisemites**

- Background: Skim: Lipstadt, *Antisemitism*, 29–80 (Chap. 2)
- Sources:

- [Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, "Where Is the Outrage Over Anti-Semitism in Sports and Hollywood?" *The Hollywood Reporter*, July 14, 2020](#)
- ["I Spoke to the Creators of Belgium's Anti-Semitic Carnival Float. They're Not Sorry," *Jewish Telegraph Agency*, March 6, 2019](#)
- ["She Was Excited for a New School. Then the Anti-Semitic 'Jokes' Started," *The New York Times*, March 7, 2020](#)

5. Wed. Feb. 1. Theories of Antisemitism News analysis 1 due

- Background:
 - Jonathan Judaken, "Anti-Semitism (Historiography)," in *Key Concepts in the Study of Antisemitism*, ed. Scott Ury (2020), 25-38.
- Sources:
 - Sigmund Freud, *Moses and Monotheism* (1939), 146-48.
 - Hannah Arendt, *The Origins of Totalitarianism* (1951), 5-10.

6. Mon. Feb 6. Review session for Quiz 1

7. Wed. Feb. 8. Quiz 1

II. ANTIQUITY & THE MIDDLE AGES

8. Mon. Feb. 13. Pre-Christian Hatred of Jews in the Ancient World

- Background:
 - Peter Schaefer, "Egypt," "Syria-Palestine," and "Rome," in *Judeophobia: Attitudes Toward the Jews in the Ancient World* (1997), 163-195.
- Sources:
 - Egyptian versions of "the Exodus" (Hecataeus, Manetho, and Lysimachus)
 - Apion's ritual murder narrative (Josephus, *Against Apion*, 2:8)

9. Wed. Feb. 15. Early Christian anti-Judaism

- Background:
 - Rosemary Radford Ruether, "The Adversus Judaeos Tradition in the Church Fathers: The Exegesis of Christian anti-Judaism," in *Essential Papers on Judaism and Christianity in Conflict*, ed. J. Cohen, 174-192.
- Sources:
 - Gospel of Matthew 23:1-33, 27:11-31 and Gospel of John 8:31-42, 18:38-19:16
 - Excerpt from Augustine, *City of God*

10. Mon. Feb. 20. Middle Ages 1: The Legacy of the Myth of Deicide Source Analysis 1 due

- Background:
 - Kenneth R. Stow, "The Crusades," in *Alienated Minority: The Jews of Medieval Latin Europe* (1998), 102-120.
 - Hillel Kieval, "The Blood Libel," in *Key Concepts*, 53-64.
- Sources:
 - Medieval ritual murder accounts (Thomas of Monmouth, *The Life and Miracles of St. William of Norwich*, 1173 and *The Chronica majora* of William Paris on Hugh of Lincoln, c. 1255)

- “Passau host desecration,” in *The Jew in the Medieval World: A Sourcebook*, 315-1791, ed. Jacob Rader Marcus (1990), 174-177.

11. Wed. Feb. 22. Middle Ages 2: New Myths about Jews and Money

- Background:
 - Kenneth R. Stow, “Instability and Decline: The Mythical Jewish Protagonist,” in *Alienated Minority*, 231-242.
 - Sara Lipton, “The Root of All Evil: Jews, Money, and Metaphor,” in *Images of Intolerance: The Representation of Jews and Judaism in the Bible Moralisée* (1999), 30-53.
- Sources:
 - Edict expelling the Jews from France (1182)
 - Decrees of the Fourth Lateran Council (1215)

12. Mon. Feb. 27. Purity of Blood Legislation

- Background:
 - John Edwards, “Jewish Expulsion and Dispersion from Spain,” in *The Jews in Christian Europe 1400-1700* (1998), 28-38.
- Sources:
 - *Sentencia-Estatuto de Toledo* (1449)

13. Wed. March 1. Review session for Quiz 2

14. Mon. March 6. Quiz 2

III. MODERN TIMES

15. Wed. March 8. Emancipation and its Discontents

- Background:
 - Frederick Beiser, “Emancipation,” in *Key Concepts*, 93-104.
- Sources:
 - François-Marie Arouet Voltaire, “Jews,” in *A Philosophical Dictionary* (1756), trans. William F. Fleming (2011).
 - Christian Wilhelm von Dohm, “Concerning the Amelioration of the Civil Status of the Jews” (1781), in *Readings in Modern Jewish History*, ed. Ellis Rivkin (1957), 12-69.

Mon. March 13. NO CLASS SPRING BREAK

Wed. March 15. NO CLASS SPRING BREAK

16. Mon. March 20. Crises of Modernization and the Dreyfus Affair

- Background:
 - Robert S. Wistrich, “Radical Antisemitism in France and Germany (1840-1880),” *Modern Judaism* 15 (1995): 109-135
 - [Racial Antisemitism, 1875-1945](#) (US Holocaust Memorial Museum)
- Sources:
 - Karl Eugen Duehring, “The Question of the Jew is a Question of Race” (1881), in *The Jew in the Modern World: A Documentary History*, Second Edition, ed. Paul Mendes-Flohr and Jehuda Reinharz (1995), 333-334.

- Wilhelm Marr, "[The Victory of Judaism over Germandom](#)" (1879)
- Documents on French antisemitism and the "Dreyfus Affair," in *Antisemitic Myths*, ed. M. Perry and F. M. Schweitzer, 90-103.

17. Wed. March 22. Guest lecture by Ilya Slavutskiy: Pogroms and *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion*
News analysis 2 due

- Background:
 - Oleg Budnitskii, "Shots in the Back: On the Origins of the Anti-Jewish Pogroms of 1918-1921," in *Jews in the Eastern European Borderlands*, ed. E. M. Avrutin and H. Murav (2012), 187-201
 - Paul Hanebrink, "The Idea of Judeo-Bolshevism" in *A Spectre Haunting Europe: The Myth of Judeo-Bolshevism* (2018), 11-45.
- Sources:
 - Excerpt from "the Protocols of the Elders of Zion" (1903), trans. Victor E. Marsden

18. Mon. March 27. American Exceptionalism?

- Background:
 - Jonathan D. Sarna, "Antisemitism in America, 1654-2020," in *The Cambridge Companion to Antisemitism* (2022), 392-411
- Sources:
 - Excerpt from Henry Ford, "The International Jew: The World's Problem"
 - Letter of Harvard president A. Lawrence Lowell to Judge Julian Mack

19. Wed. March 29. Review session for Quiz 3

20. Mon. April 3. Quiz 3

Wed. April 5. NO CLASS, PASSOVER

21. Mon. April 10. The "Final Solution" Source Analysis 2 due

- Background:
 - Doris L. Bergen, "Nazism," in *Key Concepts*, 173-186.
- Sources:
 - Adolf Hitler, "A Letter on the Jewish Question" and "Mein Kampf," in *The Jew in the Modern World: A Documentary History*, Third Edition, ed. Paul Mendes-Flohr and Jehuda Reinharz (2010), 716-719.
 - "The Jew in Nazi Wartime Propaganda," in *Antisemitic Myths*, 190-96.

IV. CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGES

22. Wed. April 12. The Middle East, before and after 1948

- Gudrun Krämer, "Anti-Semitism in the Muslim World. A Critical Review," in *Die Welt des Islams* 46 (2006): 243-76.

23. Mon. April 17. Holocaust Denial

- Background:
 - Lipstadt, *Antisemitism*, 139-63 (Chap. 5)

- Sources:
 - “David Irving’s Failed Libel Suit,” in *Antisemitic Myths*, 283-290.
 - [“Why Iran Takes Issue with the Holocaust,”](#) BBC News, 9 October 2013

24. Wed. April 19. Anti-Zionism

- Background (choose one of these two):
 - Lipstadt, *Antisemitism*, 167–222 (Chap. 6)
 - James Loeffler, “Anti-Zionism,” in *Key Concepts*, 39-51.
- Sources:
 - “The Rise of Anti-Semitism on the Left,” *The Washington Post*, August 13, 2019
 - [“Women’s March Roiled by Accusations of Anti-Semitism,”](#) *The New York Times*, December 23, 2018

25. Mon. April 24. Antisemitism on the Far-Right **News Analysis 2 due**

- Background:
 - [Eric Ward, “Skin in the Game: How Antisemitism Animates White Nationalism,”](#) *The Public Eye Magazine*, June 29, 2017
- Sources:
 - “Computers and the American Patriot,” *Inter-Klan Newsletter*, 1984
 - [“The Buffalo Attack: An Analysis of the Manifesto,”](#) International Centre for Counter-Terrorism, 18 May 2022
 - Jonathan D. Sarna, [“A scholar of American anti-Semitism explains the hate symbols present during the US Capitol riot,”](#) *The Conversation*, Jan 8, 2021

26. Wed. April 26. Review Session for Quiz 4

27. Mon. May 1. **Quiz 4**

COURSE POLICIES

Recording Class: *In order to respect the privacy of everyone in the class, and to protect the copyright of materials used and the professor’s lectures, students are prohibited from recording or distributing any class materials or any portion of a class meeting. Students with approved accommodations that permit recording should contact the professor to discuss the process of accessing any recordings.*

Attendance: *More than 3 unexcused absences will lower the final course grade (for example, from an A to a B). In order to have an absence excused, contact the professor either before or asap after the absence.*

Late Work *will be marked down a full letter grade every 24 hours (for example, from a B+ to a C+). After one week, it will receive an F.*

Missing Work *Failure to turn in an assignment or take an exam will result in failure of the course.*

Academic Integrity: *Rutgers University takes academic dishonesty very seriously. By enrolling in this course, you assume responsibility for familiarizing yourself with the Academic Integrity Policy and the*

possible penalties (including suspension and expulsion) for violating the policy. As per the policy, all suspected violations will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct. For more details, visit <http://nbacademicintegrity.rutgers.edu/home/academic-integrity-policy/> and check out these two short videos: [Violation Types & Violation Levels and Outcomes](#). For more resources on Academic Integrity, visit: <https://nbprovost.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-students>

Special Needs: If you need special arrangements for exams or other coursework, please contact the Office for Disability Services (<http://disabilityservices.rutgers.edu/>) and provide the instructor with documentation as soon as possible.

WELLNESS RESOURCES

The faculty and staff at Rutgers are committed to your success. Students who are successful tend to seek out resources that enable them to excel academically, maintain their health and wellness, prepare for future careers, navigate college life and finances, and connect with the RU community. Resources that can help you succeed and connect with the Rutgers community can be found at success.rutgers.edu, and nearly all services and resources that are typically provided in-person are now available remotely. If you are having personal or other problems, there are many options at Rutgers for assistance:

When you don't know where to start looking for assistance, contact the Dean of Students office. If you are in need of **mental health** services, please contact Rutgers Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS): <http://rhscaps.rutgers.edu/>

If you need some **temporary guidance**, there is "Lets Talk" – which is a CAPS service offering drop-in hours at a number of locations across campus. No appointment is necessary. <http://health.rutgers.edu/medical-counselingservices/counseling/therapy/community-based-counseling/#runbhc>

If you are in need of **physical health** services due to illness, please reach out to the Rutgers Health Services: <http://health.rutgers.edu/>

If you do not have enough **food**, there is a Food Pantry on the College Ave campus that is exclusively for Rutgers Students: <http://ruoffcampus.rutgers.edu/food/>

If you need **accommodation for a disability**, obtain a Letter of Accommodation from the Office of Disability Services that provides student-centered and inclusive services: <https://ods.rutgers.edu>

If you are a **military** veteran or are on active military duty, you can obtain support through the Office of Veteran and Military Programs and Services: <http://veterans.rutgers.edu/>

If you are in need of **legal services**, please visit <http://rusls.rutgers.edu/>

If you are in need of additional **academic assistance**, please contact the Rutgers University New Brunswick Learning Center: <https://rlc.rutgers.edu/>

If you or somebody you know has been **victimized by a crime or interpersonal violence** (e.g., stalking, sexual assault), support is available at the Rutgers Office for Violence Prevention and Victim assistance: <http://vpva.rutgers.edu>

