INTRODUCTION TO JEWISH CIVILIZATION, 1492 TO THE PRESENT
SPRING 2013
HIS 306N, JS 304N, RS 313N, EUS 306
MWF 1-2 pm, WEL 2.304
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This is the second half of a two-semester survey of Jewish civilization, from the Second Temple period (c. 500 BCE) to the present. In broad strokes, the sequence will give students an understanding of a culture and history that has preserved significant continuities - but that has also undergone great transformations as Jews have migrated, encountered other cultures, and adapted to changing circumstances.

This segment of the two-semester sequence, which can be taken independently of the first, deals with Jewish civilization in the period from 1492 (the year of the expulsion of the Jews of Spain) to the present. It will give students a grasp of major Jewish migrations in this period, the impact of the Reformation on Jewish life, the emergence of new attitudes to Jews in early modern Europe, the breakdown of traditional authority, and the impact of secularization. It will deal with the following transformative events: the rise of eastern European Jewry, the impact of printing and the spread of kabbalah, Hassidism, Jewish Enlightenment (Haskalah), emancipation, modern antisemitism, nineteenth-century Jewish nationalism, Jews in the Muslim world, the development of American Jewry, the Holocaust, the establishment of the State of Israel, and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Required texts:

Eli Barnavi, *A Historical Atlas of the Jewish People: From the Time of the Patriarchs to the Present*.

Paul Mendes-Flohr and Jehuda Reinharz, eds., *The Jew in the Modern World: A Documentary History*.

Assignments and grading:

Participation (10%), two quizzes (10%), mid-term (30%), final exam (50%).

1) Jan. 14 – Introduction. Ancient and medieval antecedents.

2) Jan. 16 – The Jewish world in 1492.

   http://cojs.org/cojswiki/Overview:_Introduction_to_Jews_in_the_Early_Modern_Period

http://cojs.org/cojswiki/Jewish_Population-Overview (brief text only, not links)

3) Jan. 18 – Discussion, exercise

4) Jan. 21 – Forced conversions, expulsion from Spain, the creation of the Sephardic diaspora.

   Source: The Expulsion Edict:
   http://www.sephardicstudies.org/decree.html

   http://cojs.org/cojswiki/Sephardic_Diaspora-Regional_Trends

   Barnavi, 114-115; 120-121.

5) Jan. 23 – Jews, the written word, and the print revolution.

   http://cojs.org/cojswiki/Overview:_Impact_of_Printing

   Barnavi, 136-137.

   Recommended:

   http://www.library.upenn.edu/exhibits/cajs/exhibit1996/

6) Jan. 25 – Discussion and exercise

7) Jan. 28 – Jews in Italy and the Ottoman Empire.

   Barnavi, 130-131, 144-145, 156-7.

   http://cojs.org/cojswiki/Overview:_Jews_of_Italy

   http://cojs.org/jews_in_the_early_modern_period/pdfs/Cum%20nimis%20absurdum%201555.pdf (Cum Nimis Absurdum)

   Barnavi map, 127.

8) Jan. 30 – Reformation Germany and Poland-Lithuania.

   http://cojs.org/cojswiki/Overview:_Jews%2C_the_Reformation_and_the_Counter-Reformation

http://cojs.org/cojswiki/Overview:_Jews_in_the_Polish-Lithuanian_Commonwealth

Barnavi, 134-5, 142-3, 146-7.

9) Feb. 1 – Discussion, exercise

10) Feb. 4 - The Portuguese Jews of Golden Age Amsterdam.

http://cojs.org/cojswiki/Overview:_Northward_Expansion

http://cojs.org/cojswiki/Overview:_Innovations_among_Conversos_and_Portuguese_Jews

11) Feb 6 – The messianic Sabbatian movement.

http://cojs.org/cojswiki/Overview:_Shabbatai_Zvi_and_Sabbateanism

12) Feb. 8 – Discussion, exercise

13) Feb. 11 - European imperialism: conversos and Jews in the Americas and North Africa.

http://cojs.org/cojswiki/Overview:_The_Americas

http://cojs.org/cojswiki/Overview:_Sub-Saharan_Africa_and_the_East_Indies

Barnavi, 150-151.

14) Feb. 13 – Mercantilism and court Jews.

http://cojs.org/cojswiki/Overview:_Mercantilism

http://cojs.org/cojswiki/Overview:_Court_Jews

The Memoirs of Glueckel of Hameln, 23-35 (Blackboard).

15) Feb. 15 – Discussion, exercise

16) Feb. 18 – Haskalah: The Jewish Enlightenment.

Barnavi, 172-3, 176-7.

Mendes-Flohr and Reinharz, 28-36 (Dohm); 42-44 (Michaelis); 44-47, 48-49 (Mendelssohn).

17) Feb. 20 - Emancipation; entry into professions, political life; negative Gentile reactions.

Mendes-Flohr and Reinharz, 128-133 (answers to Napoleon's Sanhedrin); 178-183 (Reform Rabbinical Council at Hamburg on Hebrew).

[Moritz Oppenheim painting of Jewish soldier returning home for sabbath]

Mendes-Flohr and Reinharz, 309-312 (Fichte, Fries, Sessa), 463 (Kompert).

18) Feb. 22 – Discussion, exercise

19) Feb. 25 - Partitions of Poland. The Pale of Settlement and Jewish life under the czars. Pogroms of 1881 in Russia and mass emigration.

Barnavi, 162-3, 196-7, 190-191.

Mendes-Flohr and Reinharz, 377-8 (Nicolas I military statutes), 381-6, 404 (Fuenn, Gordon, Maskilim, Mendele on Yiddish).

20) Feb 27 – Modern (secular) antisemitism and the Dreyfus Affair.

Barnavi, 186-7

21) March 1 – Discussion, exercise

22) March 4 – **MID-TERM EXAM**

23) March 6 - Jewish immigrant experience in the United States, 1880s-WWI.

Barnavi, 204-5.

Mendes-Flohr and Reinharz, 474-6 (Abraham Cahan); 489-490 (Schiff on Galveston Project).

24) March 8 – Segment from the film "Hester Street."

SPRING BREAK: MARCH 11, 13, 15

25) March 18, 20 –The Zionist Movement. The Balfour Declaration. New structures of life in Palestine: the "New Yishuv." The kibbutz. The revival of Hebrew.

Mendes-Flohr and Reinharz, 532-4 (Bilu Manifesto, Herzl "Solution").

Barnavi, 198-9, 202-3, 206-7, 210-11.

Mendes-Flohr and Reinharz, 582 (Balfour Declaration), 589-592 (Churchill White Paper).

Barnavi, 208-9, 220-221, 224-5.

26) March 22 – Discussion, exercise

27) March 25 - American antisemitism. "Scientific" racism.

Mendes-Flohr and Reinharz, 512-514 (Henry Ford).

MARCH 27 – NO CLASS

28) March 29 - Weimar Germany and the Rise of Nazism.

Barnavi, 218-9

Mendes-Flohr and Reinharz, 282-4 (Rosenzweig); 287-289 (Bertha Pappenheim).

Gershom Scholem, *From Berlin to Jerusalem*, 1-35 (Blackboard).

29) April 1 – Jews in the Soviet Union.

Barnavi, 214-5, 246-7.

Mendes-Flohr and Reinharz 430-436 (Stalin on Jews; emancipation legislation; suppression of Jewish culture and Zionism).

30) April 3 – The rise of Nazism. Hitler's anti-Jewish legislation and Kristallnacht.

Barnavi, 226-9.

Mendes-Flohr and Reinharz, 637-639 (from *Mein Kampf*), 640-641 (Robert Weltsch), 646-7 (Nurenberg Laws), 652-3 (Kristallnacht report).

31) April 5 – Discussion, exercise

32) April 8 – World War II and the Final Solution.

Barnavi, 232-237.

Wandsee Protocol (Blackboard link).

33) April 10 – Mandate Palestine: British rule, Arab resistance to Jews, Jewish resistance to the British and the drive to establish a Jewish State.

Barnavi, 242-3.

1939 British White Paper (Blackboard link).

34) April 12 – Discussion, exercise

35) April 15 – The establishment of the State of Israel. The War of Independence and al-Nakba. The period of mass immigration to Israel from Arab lands. Cultural trends in Mandate Palestine/Israel.

Barnavi, 244-245, 254-259, 266-7, 272-3..

Israel's Declaration of Statehood (Blackboard link).

New York Times, May 16, 1948 (Blackboard).

Chapter on Israeli society (Blackboard).

36) April 17 - American Jewish culture and Jews in popular American culture. The ambiguities of multiculturalism. The place of the Holocaust.

37) April 19 – Discussion, exercise

38) April 22 – The international struggle for Soviet Jewry. Refuseniks of many stripes. Emigration to Israel and the United States.

Article on Soviet refuseniks (Blackboard).

39) April 24– Israeli-Arab conflict. The Six-Day War; the Yom Kippur War; the settler movement; peace with Egypt. Intifada. "Post-Zionism" and impasse in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Barnavi, 260-1, 264-5.

40) April 26 – Discussion, exercise

41) April 29 – REVIEW FOR EXAM

42) May 1 – FINAL EXAM, PART I

43) May 3 – FINAL EXAM, PART II

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