

**JEWISH INTELLECTUAL AND CULTURAL HISTORY
IN THE MODERN ERA
HISTORY 380**

Fall, 2007
Professor David B. Ruderman
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Tues-Thurs 1:30-2:20 p.m, plus recitation
Office Hours: T-Th 3:15-4:15 p.m. and by appt.
Phone: 215-898-3793 or 238-1290

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. All required reading to be completed prior to class meeting.
2. Two exams: the first a take-home in the middle of the semester; the second, at the end of the course, covering the material of the second half of the course.
3. A paper on an assigned topic of moderate length [approximately 12 pages].

REQUIRED TEXTS: [all are in paperback]

Borowitz, Eugene, Choices in Modern Jewish Thought, Behrman House
Eisen, Arnold M., Rethinking Modern Judaism, Chicago
Hertzberg, Arthur, The Zionist Idea, Jewish Publication Society
Mendes-Flohr, Paul & Reinhartz, Jehuda, The Jew in the Modern World, Oxford
[All available from Penn Book Center, 130 s. 34th St.]
Course Packet available from Campus Copy Center, 3907 Walnut St.
A list of recommended readings will also be given out in the second week of the course.

9/6/07 Course Introduction, Defining the Subject Matter of the Course,
Bibliographical Introduction, Course Requirements

9/11/07 The Periodization of Modern Jewish History; The Major Issues of
Modern Jewish Thought

READING: M. Meyer, "Where Does Modern Jewish History Begin?"
Judaism (Summer, 1975), 329-38
Mendes-Flohr, pp . 3-7
Borowitz, pp. 3-25
Eisen, 1-20

9/18/07 The Crisis of Traditional Authority in the Seventeenth Century:
Messianism, Radical Enthusiasm, and Heresy; and Mingled Identities:
Conversos, Jewish Converts, and Christian Hebraists

READING: Yosef Kaplan, An Alternative Path to Modernity, 2000, pp.1-28
Gershom Scholem, Major Trends in Jewish Mysticism, pp. 287-324

9/20/07 Barukh Spinoza: The Critique of the Judeo-Christian Civilization in the
Name of Reason

READING: B. Spinoza, Theologico-Political Treatise, chaps. 4-8
Mendes-Flohr, pp. 57-60
S. Smith, Spinoza, Liberalism, and the Question of Jewish Identity, 1997, pp. 1-26.

9/25/07 Moses Mendelssohn and His Generation: His Jerusalem and Its Influence on his Contemporaries

READING: M. Meyer, The Origins of the Modern Jew, 1967, pp. 29-56
Mendes-Flohr, pp. 62-67, 70-74, 105-11, 257-59
Moses Mendelssohn, Jerusalem [May be read either in the Translation of A. Jospe or A. Arkush]
Eisen, pp. 23-43

10/2/07-10/9/07 The Generation Following Mendelssohn: The Science of Judaism and the Beginning of Modern Historical Consciousness

READING: Immanuel Wolf, "On the Concept of a Science For Judaism," Leo Baeck Yearbook II (1957), 194-204 [Republished in M. Meyer, Ideas of Jewish History, 1974), pp. 141-55]
I. Schorsch, "Ideology and History in the Age of Emancipation, in H. Graetz, The Structure of Jewish History and Other Essays, 1975, pp. 1-62
Mendes-Flohr, pp. 211-19, 234-35

10/11/07-10/18/07 Abraham Geiger and the Evolution of Reform Judaism; Zecharias Frankel's Historical Judaism

READING: M. Meyer, "Abraham Geiger's Historical Judaism," in New Perspectives on Abraham Geiger, ed. J. Petuchowski, 1975, pp. 3-16
Mendes-Flohr, pp. 161, 178-88, 194-97
R. Seltzer, Jewish People, Jewish Thought, pp. 580-84, 590-98
S. Heschel, Abraham Geiger and the Jewish Jesus, 1998, pp. 1-22

10/23/07 The Response of Religious Orthodoxy: The Contrasting Postures of Samson Raphael Hirsch and Moses Sopher

READING: Samson Raphael Hirsch, The Nineteen Letters, 1969, excerpts
Mendes-Flohr, pp. 167-73, 197-205
Seltzer, pp. 584-90
D. Ellenson, "German Jewish Orthodoxy: Tradition in the Context of Culture." in The Uses of Tradition, ed. J. Wertheimer, 1992, pp. 5-22
S. Ehrmann, "Moses Sopher" in Jacob Neusner, ed., Understanding Rabbinic Judaism, 1973, pp. 339-52
Eisen, pp. 135-55

10/25/07 Samuel David Luzzatto: Judaism versus Atticism

READING: Mendes-Flohr, pp. 235-37
Seltzer, pp. 570-75
Nathan Rotenstreich, Jewish Philosophy in Modern Times, 1968, pp. 30-42

10/30/07 Cultural Trends in Eastern Europe: Hasidim, Mitnagdim, and Maskilim

READING: Seltzer, pp. 485-96
Mendes-Flohr, pp. 381-405
Jacob Katz, Tradition and Crisis, pp. 225-74

11/1/07 The Challenge of Nationalism: Early Zionist Ideologies and the Jewish Problem

READING: Hertzberg, pp. 15-51, 101-14, 178-98, 199-231
Seltzer, pp. 684-96
Mendes-Flohr, pp. 538-41

11/6/07 The Cultural Zionism of Ahad Ha-Am; Jacob Klatzkin and the Ideal of Normalcy

READING: Hertzberg, pp. 51-72, 247-77, 314-27
Mendes-Flohr, pp. 541-43, 410-11, 496-97
Seltzer, pp. 696-704
Borowitz, pp. 75-97

11/8/07 The Challenge of Socialism: Marx and the Jewish Question; Socialist Zionism and the Ideology of the Bund

READING: Seltzer, pp. 704-19
Mendes-Flohr, pp. 261-62, 265-66, 405-06, 419-23, 425-28, 485, 552-54, 556-57, 563-65, 577-79, 600-03
Hertzberg, pp. 72-100, 116-34, 331-50, 353-66, 369-86

11/13/07-11/15/07 Twentieth Century Religious Thought: Hermann Cohen and a Religion of Reason out of Judaism; Leo Baeck's Mystery and Commandment

READING: Seltzer, pp. 728-36
Mendes-Flohr, pp. 571-77, 643-45
Leo Baeck, Judaism and Christianity, 1958, pp. 171-8
Borowitz, pp. 29-74

11/20/07-11/27/07 Religious Existentialism in Modern Jewish Thought: Martin Buber and Franz Rosenzweig

READING: Seltzer, pp. 736-49
Mendes-Flohr, pp. 241-43, 276-77, 282-84
Borowitz, pp. 125-65
Hertzberg, pp. 451-65
Franz Rosenzweig, On Jewish Learning, 1965, 72-92, 109-24
Eisen, pp. 188-215

11/29/07-12/4/07 Two American Jewish Responses to Modernity: Mordecai Kaplan and Abraham Heschel

READING: Mendes-Flohr, pp. 499-502

Seltzer, pp. 748-57

Borowitz, pp. 99-121; 167-84

Mordecai Kaplan, Questions Jews Ask, 1956, pp. 263-76

Abraham Heschel, The Insecurity of Freedom, 1966, pp.187-211

Eisen, pp. 216-28

12/6/05 Theological Responses to the Nazi Holocaust and its Aftermath: Richard Rubenstein and Emil Fackenheim

READING: Richard Rubenstein, After Auschwitz, 1966, pp. 209-25

Emil Fackenheim, God's Presence in History, 1970, pp. 67-104

Seltzer, pp. 757-66

Borowitz, pp. 187-220

Irving Greenberg, "Cloud of Smoke, Pillar of Fire" in E.

Fleischner, ed., Auschwitz: Beginning of a New Era?, 1977, pp. 7-55

To be scheduled: Feminist Jewish Theology

READING: Borowitz, pp. 313-40 [Essay by E. Umansky]

R. Seltzer and N. Cohen, eds. The Americanization of the Jews. 1995, pp. 284-308 [Articles by P. Hyman and J. Hauptman]

J. Plaskow, "Standing Again at Sinai: Jewish Memory from a Feminist Perspective," Tikkun 1(1986)

R. Adler, Engendering Judaism, 1998, pp. xiv-xxviii

To be scheduled: Some Current Trends in Jewish Theology

READING: Borowitz, pp. 221-312, 341-50

A. Eisen, "Jewish Theology in North America: Notes on Two Decades", American Jewish Year Book 1991, pp. 3-33

Eisen, pp. 228-63

Arkush, A., "Thinkers and Doers: Eisen's Rethinking Modern Judaism," Jewish Quarterly Review

XC(1999):127-36

To be scheduled: Summation and Class Meeting at the Center for Advanced Judaic Studies