

CET Syllabus of Term



Program: CET Prague
Course Title: Modern History of the Jews in East Central Europe
Course Code: JS250
Total Hours: 45
Recommended Credits: 3
Suggested Cross Listings: History
Language of Instruction: English
Prerequisites/Requirements: none
Professor: Daniela Bartáková
Email: daniela.bartakova@jewishmuseum.cz
Class Schedule: Mon 9:00-10:30, Thu 9:00-10:30

Description of the course

The course is a survey of the history of the Jews in the modern world, with an emphasis on European Jewry. We will examine Jewish interaction with non-Jewish society, critical issues and challenges facing Jewish society from the political, legal and international realms to the social, economic and cultural realms.

The geographical focus of the course rests upon the territory associated with the Habsburg monarchy and its successor states as well as upon some parts of Eastern Europe, such as Poland and Russia (during the era of 1772-1917). Starting with the reforms launched by Joseph II in the 1780s, the course aspires to cover both the policies of relevant governments regarding their Jewish population(s) as well as the developments and intellectual innovations coming from inside the Jewish communities themselves. As such, the course includes the lectures on Jewish enlightenment as well as those on various forms of Jewish nationalism, with issues such as pace and extent of acculturation being discussed in the meantime. Particular attention will also be devoted to the treatment/status of the Jewish minority by/in the newly created nation-states in Eastern Central Europe after the WWI, both in the era between the world wars, as well as after 1945.

The aim of the course is to explain the causes behind the respective governmental policies, highlight the profound changes taking place in Jewish community life during the era under scrutiny, illustrate the complexity of Jewish-Gentile relations and emphasize the importance of migration and demographic changes for a proper assessment of the topic. To what extent was the emancipation of the Jews in Habsburg monarchy similar to Western Europe and, on the other hand, which traits of governmental policies were comparable to Imperial Russia? How did the Habsburg Jewry fit into this East-West divide? How did the acculturation in the East differ from the one in the West? How did this difference shape the communal and political life of the Jews? What can we say about the pace of acculturation and the progress of Jewish nationalist politics in the countries like Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Poland after WWI? Were

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these two trends always contradictory? Can we speak about a Jewry or should we rather refer to a complex set of Jewish communities so far as the relevant countries are concerned?

The course is designed for students of Jewish studies, Central European history and general history as well as for all those interested in Jewish patrimony of the region. By using recent critical secondary sources as readings in the classes, the students have the opportunity to confront many cultural stereotypes.

Objectives

During this course, students:

- Achieve understanding of the causes behind the governmental policies toward the Jews during the era in question
- Examine the acculturation of Jews, comparing the processes in the Habsburg monarchy to Western Europe and Imperial Russia
- Question how the communal and political life of the Jews during the era in question was shaped by the political and cultural factors of the time
- Compare the pace of acculturation and progress of Jewish nationalist politics in various post-WWI nation states

Course Requirements

Participation & Attendance

Students are required to read all assignments before each class session. Readings average 50 to 100 pages per session. A portion of each class is devoted to discussion of the issues and students are expected to participate in discussion actively. On occasion, students submit weekly response papers wherein they question and engage with the material ahead of time.

Mandatory attendance is a primary requirement for a responsible learning experience. Please consider that every absence has the potential to lower the final grade, as it may affect the “attendance and participation” portion of your grade or result in missing key information that could appear on quizzes or exams. In addition, professors take attendance at the beginning of the class. If you are more than 10 minutes late, professors mark one hour of absence from class. Onsite visits count as regular class hours. A no-show to a site visit counts as an absence. Detailed information about the Attendance you will find in the **CET Prague Academic Policies**

Midterm Exam or Project

Students take either a comprehensive midterm examination, or complete a midterm oral project in class on a topic of their choice. Projects may involve conducting research, preparing a book review, or doing a group

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presentation. Students are encouraged to be as creative as they would like, but all projects must be approved by the instructor in advance. Oral projects must be 15 to 20 minutes in length.

Final Writing Assignment

Students complete a final writing assignment that comprises either two book reviews of about 5 to 7 pages each or a review essay of 10 to 12 pages. For the book reviews, students must read each book and present in lucid and cogent writing a discussion and evaluation of its thesis. Use of other secondary sources is encouraged. For the review essay option, students should see the instructor. For this assignment, use of secondary sources is required and students should not only assess the book but also elaborate on his/her own ideas about the topic in question.

Final Exam

Students take a comprehensive final examination consisting of multiple-choice and essay questions.

Traveling Seminar

CET Prague's Traveling Seminar is a required, credit-bearing, field-based component of the course. Students are expected to complete required reading and written assignments related to the Seminar, which are factored into the final grade as outlined below.

Grading scale:

A:	93-100%	C+:	77-79%
A-:	90-92%	C:	73-76%
B+:	87-89%	C-:	70-72%
B:	83-86%	D+:	67-69%
B-:	80-82%	D:	60-66%
		F:	59% and below

Methods of Evaluation

The final grade is determined as follows:

Participation & Attendance	15%
Traveling Seminar assignments and weekly response papers	15%
Midterm examination or oral presentation	20%
Final written assignment(s)	20%
Final examination	30%

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Primary texts:

Biale, David (ed.). *Cultures of the Jews. Volume 3: Modern Encounters*. (New York, 2006).
Butler, Judith. *Parting Ways: Jewishness and the Critique of Zionism*. (Columbia University Press, 2012).
Frieze, Eviatar. *Atlas of Modern Jewish History*. (London/New York, 1990).
Mendelsohn, Ezra. *The Jews of East Central Europe Between the World Wars*. (Indiana University Press, 1983).
Mendes-Flohr, Paul and Reinhartz, Jehuda. *The Jew in the Modern World: A Documentary History*. (New York: Oxford University Press, 1995).
Stanislowski, Michael. *Zionism and the Fin de Siècle. Cosmopolitanism and Nationalism from Nordau to Jabotinsky*. (London/Los Angeles, 2001).
Slezkine, Yuri. *The Jewish Century*. (Princeton University Press, 2004).

For the Traveling Seminar

Jan Gross, Selections from *Fear: Anti-Semitism in Poland after Auschwitz*, pp. 31 – 80, course reader 268 – 293.
Robert Szuchta “From Silence to Recognition: The Holocaust in Polish Education since 1989,” pp. 305-317, course reader 29 – 35.

Secondary texts

Boyarin, Jonathan and Boyarin, Daniel. Powers of Diaspora. Two Essays on Relevance of Jewish Culture. University of Minnesota Press, 2002. pp. 35-101.

Brenner, Michael. After the Holocaust: Rebuilding Jewish Lives in Postwar Germany. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1999. pp. 42-71.

Brumberg, Abraham. “Anniversaries in Conflict: On the Centenary of the Jewish Socialist Labour Bund” in *Jewish Social Studies* 5 (3), 1999. pp. 196-217.

Dubin, Lois C.: The social and cultural context: eighteen-century Enlightenment. In Frank, Daniel H., Leaman, Oliver (Eds.): *History of Jewish Philosophy*. (London/New York, 1997). pp. 636-659.

Ellenson, David H. Traditional reactions to modern Jewish Reform: the paradigm of German Orthodoxy. In Frank, Daniel H., Leaman, Oliver (Eds.): *History of Jewish Philosophy*. (London/New York, 1997). pp. 732-757.

Heitlinger, Alena. In the Shadow of the Holocaust and Communism: Czech and Slovak Jews Since 1945. Piscataway: Transaction Publishers, 2006. pp. 67-105.

Katz, Jacob. Jewish Emancipation and Self-Emancipation. Philadelphia, 1986. pp. 89-103.

Katz, Steven T. 19. Katz, S. T., The Shoah. In Frank, Daniel H., Leaman, Oliver (Eds.): *History of Jewish Philosophy*. (London/New York, 1997). pp. 854-873.

Kieval, Hillel. The Making of Czech Jewry: National Conflict and Jewish Society in Bohemia, 1870-1918. New York: Oxford University Press, 1988. pp. 36-63.

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Levy, Ze'ev. Jewish Nationalism. In Frank, Daniel H., Leaman, Oliver (Eds.): History of Jewish Philosophy. London/New York, 1997. pp.761-775.

McCagg, William. A History of Habsburg Jews, 1670-1918. Bloomington, 1992. pp. 47-64.

Mendelsohn, Ezra. On Modern Jewish Politics. Oxford University Press, 1993. pp. 3-36.

Nathans, Benjamin. Beyond the Pale: The Jewish Encounter with Late Imperial Russia. University of California Press, 2002. pp. 23-44.

Presner, Tod S. Muscular Judaism. The Jewish body and the politics of regeneration. Routledge, 2007. pp. 1-23.

Reinharz, Jehuda. Mendes-Flohr, Paul. The Jew in the Modern World. A Documentary History. pp. 533-554.

Silberner, Edmund. Was Marx an Anti-Semite? In Mendelsohn, Ezra (ed.), Essential Papers on Jews and the Left. New York, 1997. pp. 361-401.

Slezkine, Yuri. The Jewish Century. Princeton University Press, 2004. pp. 162-188.

Snyder, Timothy: Black Earth: The Holocaust as History and Warning. New York, 2015. pp. 58-76.

Tartakower, Arie. Jewish Migratory Movements in Austria in Recent Generations. In Fraenkel Josef (ed.). The Jews of Austria. London: Vallentine, Mitchell, 1967. pp. 285-310.

Volkov, Shulamit. Antisemitism as a Cultural Code: Reflections on the History and Historiography of Antisemitism in Imperial Germany. In The Leo Baeck Institute Year Book, Vol. 23, Issue 1. (1978), pp. 25-46.

Wein, Martin: A History of Czechs and Jews: A Slavic Jerusalem. Routledge, 2015. pp. 145-184.

Weisberger, A.M., The Jewish Ethic and the Spirit of Socialism. New York: Peter Lang Publishing, 1997. pp. 73-109.

Wistrich, Robert S. Marxism and Jewish Nationalism, the theoretical roots of confrontation. In

Wistrich, Robert S.(ed). The Left against Zion. Communism, Israel and the Middle East.

London: Vallentine-Mitchell and CO.LTD., 1979. pp. 1-15.

Outline of Course Content

Note: Students cover approximately 1 topic every week.

Topic 1 – Enlightenment and Emancipation

Haskalah in the Western and Eastern Europe (Galicia, Congress Poland, Russia) and its significance

Social-economical position of the Jews

Topic 2 - A History of the Jews in Bohemia and Moravia from the Beginnings to the 19th Century

Social and economic emancipation, first signs of Czech-Jewish rapprochement, anti-Jewish disturbances of the 1840s

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Differences of Jewish settlements in Bohemia and Moravia

Topic 3 – Jewish Religious Movements and Modern Jewish Politics

Reform Judaism, Neo-Orthodoxy and Orthodoxy

What does the modern Jewish politics mean? Jewish collective and individual identity. What should be predominant cultural (meaning above all linguistic) orientation of the Jews?

Topic 4 – Rise of Modern Antisemitism and Jewish Identification Strategies

Modern Antisemitism, continuity in the history of anti-Jewish sentiments and actions

Manifestations of Modern Antisemitism – Antisemitism in Imperial Germany and Austro-Hungarian Empire

Hep Hep riots, Dreyfus Affair, Hilsner Affair

Identification strategies of the Jews – Jews between Liberalism, Socialism and Communism

Topic 5 – Migration Trends of European Jewry

Migration before WWI, WWI and the Refugees Problem, Post-War Migration

Jewish Migration Within Europe

Intercontinental Migration

Topic 6 – Jews and the Left

Jewish National-Political Activism in the turn of the 19th and 20th Century, Russia and the Revolutions

Jewish Socialist Labour Bund

Jews, Socialism and Communism

Jews and Left in Russia, Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia

Topic 8 – Jewish Nationalism

Self-fulfillment, introspection and consolidation of Jewish national identity and its historical milestones.

Origin of Zionist movement

Topic 9 – Traveling Seminar

Traveling Seminar. An introduction to the Jewish Community in Poland and Austria. Polish-Jewish Relations and Responses to Neighbors. Holocaust Memorialization and Education.

Topic 10 – Zionism

T. Herzl and the concept of Zionist Organization

Trends and political factions prior to WWI

Muscular Judaism and politics of chosen body

Zionist movement of the 1920s and 1930s

The Labor Zionist movement and its intellectual origins

The Revisionist Zionist movement

Topic 11 – Diaspora Identity and Rethinking the Gender

Diaspora and the Image of the Jewish Man and Jewish Women

Zionism and Gender

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Topic 12 – Jews in Interwar East Central Europe

Demographic changes and social characteristics

Jewish life in Interwar East Central Europe - Patterns of political tolerance, social integration and self-autonomy

Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Austria and other countries

Topic 13 – The Crisis of Democracy and the Holocaust

European countries in 30s and the minority issue and the Jewish question

Dealing with the Shoah

Topic 14 - Jewish Communities of Eastern Central Europe after 1945

General characteristics, demography and migration shifts, hallmarks of post-war Jewish identity

Jewish life under Communism

Israel and Czechoslovakia

Topic 15 – Jewish existence in 21st Century

Jewish Identity, Diaspora-Identity, Zionism, Post-Zionism

Modern History of the Jews in East Central Europe		
	<i>Topics covered during class</i>	<i>Readings or homework required for this class</i>
<i>Week 1</i>		
Jan 26	Introduction – European Jews in Pre-Emancipation era	No required reading apart from the general reading suggested
<i>Week 2</i>		
Jan 29	Enlightenment and Emancipation in Western and Central Europe	1. Dubin, L. C., <u>The social and cultural context: eighteenth-century Enlightenment</u> . pp.636-659.
Feb 1	Enlightenment and Emancipation in Eastern Europe	2. Nathans, B., <u>Beyond the Pale: The Jewish Encounter with Late Imperial Russia</u> . pp. 23-44
<i>Week 3</i>		
Feb 5	Jews in Bohemia and Moravia – Emancipation, Social mobility, Migration and Integration I.	3. McCagg, W., <u>A History of Habsburg Jews, 1670-1918</u> . pp. 47-64.
Feb 7	Trip meeting I 17:15	

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Feb 8	Jews in Bohemia and Moravia – Emancipation, Social mobility, Migration and Integration II.	4. Kieval, H., <u>The Making of Czech Jewry</u> , pp. 36-63.
<i>Week 4</i>		
Feb 12	Traditional and Modern Religious Movements in Judaism	5. Ellenson, D., <u>Traditional reactions to modern Jewish Reform: the paradigm of German Orthodoxy</u> . pp.732-757.
Feb 15	Modern Jewish Politics	6. Mendelsohn, E.: <u>On Modern Jewish Politics</u> . pp. 3-36.
<i>Week 5</i>		
Feb 19	Modern Antisemitism	7. Volkov, S., <u>Antisemitism as a Cultural Code: Reflections on the History and Historiography of Antisemitism in Imperial Germany</u> . pp. 25-46.
Feb 22	Jewish Identification Strategies	8. Weisberger, A.M., <u>The Jewish Ethic and the Spirit of Socialism</u> . pp. 73-109.
<i>Week 6</i>		
Feb 26	Jewish National-Political Activism in Early 20th Century	9a. Brumberg, A., <u>Anniversaries in Conflict: On the Centenary of the Jewish Socialist Labour Bund</u> . pp. 196-217. and 9b. Slezkine, Y., <u>The Jewish Century</u> . pp.162-188.
Feb 26	Trip meeting II 10:45-12:12	
March 1	Mid-Term	Presentation based on reading
<i>Week 7</i>		
March 5	Migration Trends of European Jewry	10. Tartakower, A., <u>Jewish Migratory Movements in Austria in Recent Generations</u> . pp. 285-310.

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March 7	Trip meeting III	
March 8	Jews and the Left, the Left and the Jews	11. Silberner, E., <u>Was Marx an Anti-Semite?</u> pp. 361-401.
<i>Week 8</i>		
March 12	Jewish Nationalism	12. Levy, Z., <u>Jewish Nationalism</u> . pp.761-775.
March 15	Traveling Seminar	No classes
<i>Week 9</i>		
March 19	Traveling Seminar	No classes
March 22	Traveling Seminar	No classes
<i>Week 10</i>		
March 26	Zionism	13a. Katz, J.: <u>Jewish Emancipation and Self-Emancipation</u> . pp. 89-103. and 13b. Reinhartz, J., Mendes-Flohr, P., <u>The Jew in the Modern World. A Documentary History</u> . pp. 533-554.
March 29	Zionism and the Politics of Chosen Body	14. Presner, T.S., <u>Muscular Judaism. The Jewish body and the politics of regeneration</u> . pp. 1-23.
<i>Week 11</i>		
April 2	Spring Break	No classes
April 5	Spring Break	No classes
<i>Week 12</i>		
April 9	Diaspora Identity and Rethinking the Gender	15. Boyarin, J., and Boyarin, D., <u>Powers of Diaspora. Two Essays on Relevance of Jewish Culture</u> . pp. 35-101.
April 12	Jews in Interwar Eastern Central Europe I.: Demography, common	16a. Mendelsohn, E., <u>The Jews of East Central Europe between the World Wars</u> . pp. 1-8.

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	characteristics, nationalist politics and the Jews	and 16b. "Minorities Treaty" In <u>The Jew in the Modern World</u> , pp. 437-438.
<i>Week 13</i>		
April 16	Jews in Interwar Eastern Central Europe II.	17. Mendelsohn, E., <u>The Jews of East Central Europe between the World Wars</u> . pp. 131-169.
April 19	<i>Budapest Trip</i>	No classes
<i>Week 14</i>		
April 23	Democracy on the Edge – Jews in Late 30s	18. Snyder, T., <u>Black Earth: The Holocaust as History and Warning</u> . pp. 58-76.
April 26	Dealing with the Holocaust	19. Katz, S. T., <u>The Shoah</u> , pp. 854-873.
<i>Week 15</i>		
April 30	Jews in Europe after 1945: General characteristics, demography and migration shifts, hallmarks of post-war Jewish identity	20. Brenner, M., <u>After the Holocaust</u> , pp. 42-71.
<i>Week 16</i>		
May 3	Israel and Czechoslovakia	21. Wein, M., <u>A History of Czechs and Jews: A Slavic Jerusalem</u> . pp. 145-184.
May 7	Jewish Life under Communism	22. Heitlinger, A., <u>In the Shadow of the Holocaust and Communism</u> . pp. 67-105.
<i>Week 17</i>		
May 10	Jewish Identity in 21 Century and Post-Zionist Debate	23. Butler, J., <u>Parting Ways: Jewishness and the Critique of Zionism</u> . pp. 1-27.
May 14	<i>Finals and Grading</i>	