

**DRAFT SYLLABUS**

**HIS 2822G**

**THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO**

**HIS 2822G: Jewish History from the Spanish Expulsion to the Modern Era**

**The Nazi Occupation of Europe**

**Winter 2018**

**FNB 2220**

**Wednesdays, 9:30-11:30am**

**Instructor: Dr. Karen Priestman**

**Office Hours: Monday, 2:30-5:30**

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(Email will be checked on weekdays, between 10:00am and 4:00pm. If you do not receive a reply from me within 48 hours, please resend the email.)

**Course Description:**

This course is intended to introduce students to the major events, figures and themes of Jewish history from the Spanish Expulsion to the post-WWII era. It explores political, social, cultural, intellectual and religious aspects of this history. We will pay particular attention to central individuals and their experiences as a way of gaining insight into significant moments in Jewish history. We will also concentrate on the changing temporal and geographic contexts, acknowledging both commonalities and exceptional experiences of various Jewish communities. This course seeks to understand how Jews at times served as the agents of historical change, and at others reacted to changes imposed on them by non-Jewish societies. Most importantly, this course seeks to confront narratives that insist that Jewish history can simply be reduced to a tale of oppression. Instead, we will consider the vibrant and rich cultural legacy of the Jewish people.

**Learning outcomes:**

Students who complete this course will be able to:

- present and explain key developments in Jewish history and the larger contexts in which they took place;
- formulate clear and analytic arguments in written work based on primary and secondary sources;
- express themselves clearly in discussion.

**Required Textbook:**

Michael Brenner, *A Short History of the Jews*.

Other readings will be available on Owl.

**Evaluation:**

Participation:	20%
Group Presentation (x2):	15% (x2 = 30% total)
Short Paper (x2):	10% (x2 = 20% total)
Exam Question and Answer:	5%
Final Exam:	25%

**Assignments:****Participation:**

As this will be a seminar-style course, participation in class discussion is key to its success. In order to participate effectively students must complete the assigned readings and engage with them in a meaningful manner. This means asking relevant questions, responding to your classmates' inquiries and sharing your observations and insights. The goal is to stimulate continued discussion and arrive at a deeper understanding of the material and subject at hand.

**Group Presentations:**

In groups of 3-5, students will prepare two presentations (one before Reading Week and one after) on a topic chosen from a list provided. The purpose of these presentations will be to introduce your classmates to the topic and to lead a class discussion or activity related to that topic.

**Short Papers:**

For each presentation, students will write a short paper (5 pages double-spaced) which will use additional sources to explore an aspect of their presentation topic in more detail.

**Exam Question and Answer:**

Students will propose an essay question related to each of their two presentations to be considered for inclusion on the final exam. Students will also provide a proposed answer for that question. The instructor will decide which questions will be included on the final exam.

**Final Exam:**

In the final exam period students will write an exam based on course materials and class presentations.

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Lecture Titles:</b>
Week 1	The Spanish Expulsion
Week 2	Jews, the Renaissance, and the Reformation
Week 3	Messianism and Heresy
Week 4	Court Jews
Week 5	Jewish Mysticism
Week 6	Enlightenment and Emancipation
Week 7	Reform Judaism/Neo-Orthodoxy
Reading Week	
Week 8	19 <sup>th</sup> Century Antisemitism
Week 9	Responses: The <i>Alliance</i> , Zionism, and the American Diaspora
Week 10	The Interwar Period and the Rise of Nazism
Week 11	The Second World War and the Shoah
Week 12	Establishing the State of Israel
Week 13	Jews in the Modern World