

HISTORY 3808G
Jewish Life in North America Since 1880
Fall/Winter 2021-22
Tuesday, 10:30 AM-12:30 PM
online synchronous

Instructor: Monda Halpern, Professor

Office Hours: Tuesday, 2:30-4:00, and by appointment, online synchronous
Email: halpern@uwo.ca

This is a draft syllabus. Please see your course OWL site for the final syllabus.

Course Description:

This course examines the history of Jews in the United States and Canada, highlighting their changing family, spiritual, social, and work lives, exploring themes of identity, assimilation, activism, and upward mobility, and considering how Jews have helped shape North American life through their struggles and achievements.

Prerequisite(s):

1.0 History course at the 2200 level or above.

Unless you have either the prerequisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. The decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Course Syllabus:

Between 1880 and 1920, over two million Eastern European Jews left their homelands to begin new lives in the United States and Canada. This seminar course will examine these Jewish immigrants and the generations which followed, highlighting their changing family, spiritual, social, and work lives, and both their struggles and achievements. In so doing, the course will explore a variety of themes related to ethnicity, religion, gender, and class, including cultural identity, assimilation, social activism, and upward mobility. These topics and themes will help elucidate how Jews have helped shape North American life by both conforming to and rebelling against its dominant culture.

Learning Outcomes

Students should be able to:

1. explain the central priorities, struggles, and achievements of successive Jewish generations, and the ways in which these concerns and experiences influenced, and were shaped by, various historical trends and movements.
2. explain the ways in which ethnic and religious identity intersects with issues of gender and class, and the ways in which it can change over time and across generations.

3. explain both the formal and informal ways in which Jews have conformed to and challenged the dominant culture, as well as their own traditions.

Course Materials:

See the linked and posted articles cited below.

For online primary sources, see the Weldon database *Jewish Life in America, 1654-1954*

Methods of Evaluation:

Research essay (12-15): TBA	45%
Critiques (2): TBA	30%
Seminar presentation: TBA	15%
Participation:	10%

You will sign up for a presentation date beginning in WEEK 5. On your selected date, you will present at least one of the scheduled articles. In your presentation, address, critique, and compare/contrast your articles' theses, main arguments, biases, and sources, and situate your articles in larger historiographical issues. As well, discuss your related essay topic in the context of these readings. Stimulate class discussion by asking questions and fielding comments. Feel free to incorporate audio-visual aids. You will be graded on the content of your presentation, and on your facilitation of the seminar discussion. As you may be "sharing" your presentation date with a classmate, and in order to prevent overlap in discussion topics, arrange with her/him which topics/readings that each one of you will present.

The subject of your research essay will coincide with the general seminar topic of your selected date. Your essay **(in electronic format) will be due on that same day. As your classmates rely on your research essay in order to write their critiques, research essays must be submitted on their due date. Late research essays will not be accepted for grading.**

Those students not presenting an article and submitting an essay on a given week will be required to do the assigned readings, participate in the seminar discussion, and write an essay critique. Select two student essays (which will be accessible on OWL) on which you would like to write a critique. Your critique must be submitted no later than one week following the submission of the essay about which it is written. Submitted critiques will not be seen by anyone other than me; they will be returned with a mark as soon as possible. Critiques should be two typed pages, be double-spaced, include a thesis statement, and assess the strengths and weaknesses of the papers.

Accommodation for missed tests/midterms, including Self-Reported Absences (SRA):

Students should be aware that when they have submitted an SRA for one test, they are not permitted to write a test or complete an assignment for another course during the period covered by the SRA. Failure to observe this regulation will result in the cancellation of the SRA and the possible application of late penalties.

Accommodation for missed assignment deadlines with a Self-Reported Absence:

If a student reports a SRA for an assignment (i.e. an essay) the new due date will be 48 hours after the SRA was submitted.

Course Schedule and Readings:

JANUARY 11 – Introduction, part 1: Principles of Judaism

JANUARY 18 – Introduction, part 2: From Europe to North America

JANUARY 25 – “Sensing” North American City Life

Derek Vaillant, “Peddling Noise: Contesting the Civic Soundscape of Chicago, 1890-1913,” *Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society*, 96, 3 (Autumn 2003): 257-287

<http://www.jstor.org.proxy1.lib.uwo.ca/stable/40193997>

Andrea Renner, “A Nation That Bathes Together: New York City's Progressive Era Public Baths,” *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians*, 67, 4 (December 2008): 504-531

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.1525/jsah.2008.67.4.504>

Stephen H. Norwood, “American Jewish Muscle”: Forging a New Masculinity in the Streets and in the Ring, 1890-1940,” *Modern Judaism*, 29, 2 (May 2009): 167-193

<http://mj.oxfordjournals.org.proxy1.lib.uwo.ca/content/29/2/167.full.pdf+html>

FEBRUARY 1 – Labour and Union Activism

Daniel Bender, “A Hero... for the Weak”: Work, Consumption, and the Enfeebled Jewish Worker, 1881-1924,” *International Labor and Working-Class History*, 56 (Fall 1999): 1-22

<http://www.jstor.org.proxy1.lib.uwo.ca/stable/27672593>

Richard A. Greenwald, “The Burning Building at 23 Washington Place”: The Triangle Fire, Workers and Reformers in Progressive Era New York,” *New York History*, 83, 1 (Winter 2002): 55-91

<http://www.jstor.org.proxy1.lib.uwo.ca/stable/23183517>

Daniel Sidorick, “The ‘Girl Army’: The Philadelphia Shirtwaist Strike of 1909-1910,” *Pennsylvania History*, 71, 3 (Summer 2004): 323-369

<http://www.jstor.org.proxy1.lib.uwo.ca/stable/27778620>

FEBRUARY 8 – Assimilation Projects and Alternatives to Orthodoxy (WEEK 5)

Selma C. Berrol, “In Their Image: German Jews and the Americanization of the Ost Juden in New York City,” *New York History*, 63, 4 (October 1982): 417-433

<http://www.jstor.org.proxy1.lib.uwo.ca/stable/23174045>

Elizabeth Rose, "From Sponge Cake to "Hamentashen": Jewish Identity in a Jewish Settlement House, 1885-1952," *Journal of American Ethnic History*, 13, 3 (Spring 1994): 3-23

<http://www.jstor.org.proxy1.lib.uwo.ca/stable/27501139>

Theodore H. Friedgut, "Jewish Pioneers on Canada's Prairies: The Lipton Jewish Agricultural Colony," *Jewish History*, 21, 3/4 (2007): 385-411

<http://www.jstor.org.proxy1.lib.uwo.ca/stable/20728556>

FEBRUARY 15 – Upward Mobility and Institution-Building

Michael Brown, "Divergent Paths: Early Zionism in Canada and the United States," *Jewish Social Studies*, 44, 2 (Spring 1982): 149-168

<http://www.jstor.org.proxy1.lib.uwo.ca/stable/4467168>

Daniel J. Elazar, "The Development of the American Synagogue," *Modern Judaism*, 4, 3 (October 1984): 255-273

<http://www.jstor.org.proxy1.lib.uwo.ca/stable/1396300>

Mark K. Bauman, "The Emergence of Jewish Social Service Agencies in Atlanta," *The Georgia Historical Quarterly*, 69, 4 (Winter 1985): 488-508

<http://www.jstor.org.proxy1.lib.uwo.ca/stable/40581435>

FEBRUARY 22 – NO CLASS (SPRING READING WEEK)

MARCH 1 – Family Trouble

Reena Sigman Friedman, "Send Me My Husband Who Is in New York City": Husband Desertion in the American Jewish Immigrant Community 1900-1926," *Jewish Social Studies*, 44, 1 (Winter 1982): 1-18

<http://www.jstor.org.proxy1.lib.uwo.ca/stable/4467152>

Sydney Stahl Weinberg, "Jewish Mothers and Immigrant Daughters: Positive and Negative Role Models," *Journal of American Ethnic History*, 6, 2 (Spring 1987): 39-55

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/27500526>

Richard Moss, "Creating a Jewish American Identity in Indianapolis: The Jewish Welfare Federation and the Regulation of Leisure, 1920-1934," *Indiana Magazine of History*, 103, 1 (March 2007): 39-65

<http://www.jstor.org.proxy1.lib.uwo.ca/stable/27792777>

MARCH 8 – Antisemitism in the 1920s and 30s

Cyrill Levitt and William Shaffir, "The Swastika as Dramatic Symbol: A Case-Study of Ethnic Violence in Canada," in *The Jews in Canada*, edited by Robert J Brym et al. (Toronto: Oxford University Press, 1993)

POSTED

Harold Brackman, "The Attack on "Jewish Hollywood": A Chapter in the History of Modern American Anti-Semitism," *Modern Judaism*, 20, 1 (February 2000): 1-19

<http://www.jstor.org.proxy1.lib.uwo.ca/stable/1396627>

Sarah Atwood, "'This List Not Complete': Minnesota's Jewish Resistance to the Silver Legion of America, 1936–1940," *Minnesota History*, 66 (Winter 2018–19): 142-55

<https://www.jstor.org/stable/26554803>

MARCH 15 – Responses to the Holocaust

Irving Abella and Harold Troper, "'The line must be drawn somewhere': Canada and Jewish Refugees, 1933-1939," in *A Nation of Immigrants: Women, Workers, and Communities in Canadian History, 1840s-1960s*. Edited by Franca Iacovetta, et al. (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1998)

POSTED

Amanda Grzyb, "From Kristallnacht to the MS *St. Louis* Tragedy: Canadian Press Coverage of Nazi Persecution of the Jews and the Jewish Refugee Crisis, September 1938 to August 1939," in *Nazi Germany, Canadian Responses: Confronting Anti-Semitism in the Shadow of War*, edited by L. Ruth Klein (Montreal and Kingston: McGill Queen's University Press, 2012)

POSTED

David Slucki, "A Community of Suffering: Jewish Holocaust Survivor Networks in Postwar America," *Jewish Social Studies*, 22 (Winter 2017): 116-145

<https://www.jstor.org/stable/10.2979/jewisocistud.22.2.04>

MARCH 22 – Stagnation and Transformation in the 1950s and 1960s

Vincent Brook, "The Americanization of Molly: How Mid-Fifties TV Homogenized 'The Goldbergs' (And Got 'Berg-larized' in the Process), *Cinema Journal*, 38, 4 (Summer 1999): 45-67

<http://www.jstor.org.proxy1.lib.uwo.ca/stable/1225662>

Susan A. Glenn, "The Vogue of Jewish Self-Hatred in Post: World War II America," *Jewish Social Studies*, 12, 3 (Spring-Summer 2006): 95-136

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/4467748>

Harold Troper, "A Third Solitude," AND "Let Them Have It," in *The Defining Decade: Identity, Politics, and the Canadian Jewish Community in the 1960s*, by Harold Troper (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2010)

POSTED

MARCH 29 – Images in Popular Culture

Anna Petrov Bumble, "The Intellectual Jewish Woman vs The JAP in the Works of American Jewish Women Writers," *Studies in American Jewish Literature*, 19 (2000): 26-36

<http://www.jstor.org.proxy1.lib.uwo.ca/stable/41205921>

Martha A. Ravits, "The Jewish Mother: Comedy and Controversy in American Popular Culture," *Melus*, 25, 1 (Spring 2000): 3-31

<http://www.jstor.org.proxy1.lib.uwo.ca/stable/468149>

Shaina Hammerman, "Dirty Jews: Amy Schumer and Other Vulgar Jewesses," pp. 49-72, in *From Shtetl to Stardom: Jews and Hollywood*, edited by Steven J. Ross, et al. (Indiana: Purdue University Press, 2017)

<https://www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctt1wf4dv1.7>

APRIL 5 – Conclusion: Continuity in Crisis?

Peter S. Lemish, "Hanukah Bush: The Jewish Experience in America," *Theory into Practice*, 20, 1 (Winter 1981): 26-34

<http://www.jstor.org.proxy1.lib.uwo.ca/stable/1476610>

Yaakov Ariel, "Jews and New Religious Movements: An Introductory Essay," *Nova Religio: The Journal of Alternative and Emergent Religions*, 15, 1 (August 2011): 5-21

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.1525/nr.2011.15.1.5>

Aviva Gordon, "Jewish Intermarriage in American Society: Literature Review," *Women in Judaism: A Multidisciplinary Journal*, 1, 2 (Spring 2014): 1-14

<http://wjudaism.library.utoronto.ca/index.php/wjudaism/article/view/22533>

END OF TERM

Use of Electronic Devices:

During all class lectures, discussions, and presentations, the recreational use of lap-tops (web browsing, emailing, etc.), as well as the use of all wireless handheld devices, is discouraged and could adversely affect your participation mark.

Although broadband/connectivity issues may understandably arise, please make every effort to employ the video function while attending class.

Additional Statements:

Please review the Department of History Course Must-Knows document, <https://www.history.uwo.ca/undergraduate/Docs/Department%20of%20History%20Course%20Must-Knows.pdf>, for additional information regarding:

- Academic Offences
- Accessibility Options
- Medical Issues
- Plagiarism
- Scholastic Offences
- Copyright
- Health and Wellness