



Lectures: T-Th 2, SS1083

| | | | |
|---------------------|--|----------------|---|
| Instructor | Alexandra Guerson (Fall) Derek Penslar (Winter) | E-mail | alexandra.guerson@utoronto.ca derek.penslar@utoronto.ca |
| Office | Guerson: WE 54L Penslar: SS2064 | Phone | Guerson: 416.978.2636 Penslar: 416.978.0339 |
| Office hours | Guerson: T & Th 3-4 Penslar: W 2-4 | Website | http://portal.utoronto.ca |

Teaching Assistant: Samuel Cohen samuel.cohen@utoronto.ca

Description

This course will survey the history of the Jews throughout the world over the past two thousand years. Beginning c. 300 CE, the first term will be devoted to the premodern period, paying special attention to migration, acculturation, relations with non-Jews, and change and continuity within Jewish communities throughout Europe and the Mediterranean. The second half of the course will cover the modern period. Students will have opportunity to engage with a variety of primary and secondary sources; written assignments will allow students to analyze primary sources directly.

Goals

- To understand how the Jewish community changed over time and space
- To become familiar with the social, cultural, and legal mechanisms that shaped the lives of the Jews over time
- To further develop critical reading and writing skills

Grading Scheme

Tutorial attendance and informed participation (20%)
Document analysis I (800-1000 words) - Due Oct 18 (10%)
Midterm exam – Exam period (15%)
Document analysis II (800-1000 words) – Due Feb 2 (10%)
1500-word analytical essay – Due Mar 29 (15%)
Three-hour cumulative final examination – Exam period (30%)

Required Readings [available at U of T Bookstore]

- John Efron, et al., *The Jews: A History*. Upper Saddle River, N.J.: Prentice Hall, 2009.
- Jacob Rader Marcus, ed., *The Jew in the Medieval World. A Source Book: 315-1791*. Revised ed. Cincinnati: Hebrew Union College Press, 1999. [also available online]
- Paul Mendes-Flohr and Jehuda Reinharz, eds., *The Jew in the Modern World: A Documentary History*. 3rd ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 2011.

Supplementary reading will be available on the course website.

Blackboard/Portal

Blackboard is the course management platform used by this course, which is available through the Portal. In addition to a blog where you may interact with other students, it's where you can download all the handouts and keep up to date on announcements. It is your responsibility to check it regularly. Occasionally, instructors might send emails to the class as a whole using Blackboard. All email sent via Blackboard will go to your UTOR email address. It is your responsibility to check your UTOR email regularly.

Assignments

- **Document Analysis (2 x 10%)**: The aim of these assignments is to put in practice the historical skills that we learn in class in the analysis a primary source. Students will write two of these over the course of the year: one in the Fall term and one in the Winter term. The essays should be 4 double-spaced pages.
- **Midterm Test (15%)** – December exam period. The goal of this test is to evaluate your understanding of the material presented in the first half of the course and challenge you to integrate it into the main themes of the course. This will also be an opportunity to prepare you for the final exam.
- **Analytical Essay (15%)** – This assignment asks you to write a 5-6 page essay on one of several topics that will be proposed to you by the instructor. This is not a research essay, and no outside sources are required. This assignment evaluates your ability to synthesize relevant course readings and to present a well-substantiated historical argument in clear, lucid prose.
- **Final Exam (30%)** – April exam period: The goals of the exam are to evaluate whether you have understood the main issues and themes covered in the course and to assess your ability to use the information that you have learned for form convincing and thoughtful arguments.
- **Tutorials (20%)** - The tutorial sessions of this course are designed to provide you with the opportunity to focus upon lecture topics in more depth and to analyze primary source documents, the main job of a historian. It also gives you the chance to learn and/or practice skills that will be helpful well beyond this course and your university years. Students should read carefully and be prepared to

discuss in tutorial the assigned weekly readings. It is **essential** that you attend tutorials regularly if you want to do well in this course. If you cannot fit a tutorial into your schedule, you may not enrol in this course.

Please note that students must submit all written assignments in order to receive standing in the course.

Course Policies

EXTENSIONS: Requests for extensions for term work may be granted by your TA for up to a maximum of one week, provided that you request the extension a week in advance of the due date and for a reason the University considers legitimate. If you have trouble keeping up with course work, it is your responsibility to seek help.

LATE PENALTIES: No papers will be accepted via e-mail and computer problems are **not** an excuse for late work. **NO LATE PAPERS will be accepted**, except in cases of medical emergencies or family death, and only with appropriate documentation. Protect yourself by managing your time and backing up your work. **Do not leave your work for the last possible minute.** Consider using Dropbox to save your work instead of memory keys, print drafts of your essays to protect yourself against hard drive problems.

ASSIGNMENTS: All assignments must be submitted **both** electronically (in .pdf or .doc formats only) onto Blackboard **and** in print in class on the day they are due. Detailed instructions on how to upload assignments to Blackboard will be distributed before the first assignment is due.

OFFICE HOURS & EMAIL ETIQUETTE: Students are strongly encouraged to come to office hours to introduce themselves and to discuss any aspect of the course. There is no need to make an appointment, as instructors and the TA will be available during office hours precisely for that purpose. If office hours are not suitable to your schedule, please contact the instructor/TA for an alternative arrangement.

If you email the instructors or TA, you may expect an answer within 24 hours during the week or 48 hours on the weekend. Please do not use email as a substitute for conversation in person, which is much more helpful and effective.

PLAGIARISM: Plagiarism is using information or original wording in a paper without giving credit to the source of that information or wording; it is also an academic offense that can result in severe penalties. Do not submit work under your name that you did not do yourself; you may not submit work for this class that you did for another class. Refer to <http://www.utoronto.ca/writing/plagsep.html> for further information. **Be forewarned that this class adopts a zero-tolerance policy towards plagiarism.**

Lectures and reading schedule – Fall 2011

[Please, note that documents marked with an * are available on Blackboard. Tutorials will focus on texts from the previous week.]

Sept 13 & 15 Introduction to the course

Jewish Identity and Geography ca. 300 CE
Efron, chapters 1-3.

NO TUTORIAL

Sept 20 & 22 Jews in a Christianizing Roman Empire

Efron, Chapter 4
Marcus, Doc. 1 & 2

Church Fathers and the Jews

Efron, Chapter 5
Marcus, Doc. 19, 21

NO TUTORIAL

Sept 27 & 29 Jews in Early Medieval Europe

Efron, 147-8, 157-8 (Spain), 160-1 (Italy), 161-2 (France), 164 (Germany)
Marcus, Doc. 4, 22, and 72

Jews and the Rise of Islam

Efron, 116-122
Marcus, Doc. 3-1, 48

TUTORIAL BEGINS – discussion of documents from week 2

****Document analysis posted****

Oct 4 & 6 Jews in Medieval Islamic State and Society

Efron, 122-145
Marcus, Doc. 38, 57, 58, 59

Jewish Cultural Flourishing under Medieval Islam

Marcus, Docs. 62, 73, 75

Oct 11 & 13 Jews in the Medieval European State

Efron, 147-67
Marcus, Doc. 6, 7, 8

* Royal Grants to the Jewish Community of Barcelona (1241-1271)

* A Business Partnership between a Jew and Christian in Barcelona (1235-1242)

Anti-Judaism and Antisemitism (?) in Medieval Europe

Marcus, Doc. 5, 9, 24

* Deposition of Baruch to Jacques Fournier, the Bishop of Pamiers

Oct 18 & 20 Medieval Jewish Society and Politics

Efron, 166-9
Marcus, Docs. 40, I & II; 60; 63
****Document analysis due Oct 18th****

Medieval Jewish Women and Family Life
Marcus, Doc. 79, 81, 90
* Barcelona Jewish Court Documents (1293): A daughter's inheritance and
A widow and her daughter

Oct 25 & 27 Medieval Jewish Religious and Intellectual Life I (Mediterranean)
Efron, 170-2
Marcus, Doc. 47

Medieval Jewish Religious and Intellectual Life II (Northern Europe)
Marcus, Doc. 74, 39, 77

Nov. 1 & 3 Conversion, Inquisition, and Expulsion in Spain and Portugal
Efron, 174-89
Marcus, Doc. 11, 12, 35
* Meyerson, Mark D. "Religious Change, Regionalism, and Royal Power
in the Spain of Fernando and Isabel." In *Iberia and the Mediterranean
world of the Middle Ages*, edited by Larry J Simon, 96-112. Brill, 1995.

Jews in the Ottoman Empire
Marcus, Doc. 65, 83

Nov 8 & 9 **FALL BREAK: NOVEMBER 7 & 8**

Jews in Renaissance Italy
Efron, 193-198
Marcus, Doc. 51, 78, 82, 84, 88

Nov 15 & 17 Jewish Cultural and Religious Change in the 16th Century
Efron, 189-193; 198-200
Marcus, 42, 52

Jews, Protestant Reformers, and Christian Hebraists
Efron, 200-2
Marcus, Doc. 14, 32, 33

Nov 22 & 24 Jews and Conversos in Western-Central Europe ca. 1570-1700
Efron, 213-26
Marcus, 15, 16, 41

Rise of East European Jewry
Efron, 204-13
Marcus, Doc. 43, 67, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95

Nov 29 Rise of East European Jewry II

Dec 1 Messiahs and Skeptics in the 17th Century
Efron, 222-229
Marcus, Doc. 53, 69

Dec 6 Review & loose ends

Lectures and reading schedule – Winter 2012

***On Blackboard**

Jan 10 & 12 The End of the Jewish *Ancien Regime*
Efron, 231-244
Mendes-Flohr: Docs I:9, 10, 13, 14

State-Building, Revolution and Jewish Emancipation
Efron, 244-253
Mendes-Flohr: Docs III:2, 12, 14, 16
NO TUTORIAL

Jan 17 & 19 Religious Revival in Eastern Europe
Efron, 260-267
Mendes-Flohr: Docs VII:11-12
*Lucy Dawidowicz, ed., *The Golden Tradition*, 94-107
*Gershom Sholem, "*Devekut*, or Communion With God"

The Jewish Enlightenment
Efron, 269-77
Mendes-Flohr: Docs II:8, 9, 11, 15, 16, 23

Jan 24 & 26 The Jewish Reformation
Efron, 282-288
Mendes-Flohr: Docs IV: 8, 9, 10, 14
*Richard Cohen, "Urban Visibility and Biblical Visions: Jewish Culture in Western and Central Europe in the Modern Age"

Jewish Counter-Reformation: The Birth of Orthodoxy
Efron, 288-293
Mendes-Flohr: Docs IV: 4, 6, 13, 15, 16
****Document analysis posted****

**Jan 31
& Feb 2** Russian Jewry in the Nineteenth Century: Integration Without
Emancipation?
Efron, 253-258

Mendes-Flohr, Docs VII: 4, 8, 9, 10

Russian Jewry and the Possibilities for Reform
Efron, 277-282

*S. Y. Abramovitch (Mendele Moykher Sforim), "The Brief Travels of Benjamin the Third"

****Document analysis due****

Feb 7 & 9 Antisemitism and the Crisis of Liberalism
Efron, 294-309
Mendes-Flohr: Docs VI:1, 4, 14, 18, 20, 21, 22, 27

The "Jewish Question" in Eastern Europe
Efron, 309-313
Mendes-Flohr: Docs VI: 19, 29, 30; VII:23, 26
****Essay guidelines posted****

Feb 14 & 16 Responses to Antisemitism: Assimilation and Revolution
Efron, 313-332
Mendes-Flohr: Docs VI: 7, XII: 7, 10, 13, 14
Shalom Aleikhem, "Lekh-Lekho"
I. L. Peretz, "Bontshe Shvayg"

Responses to Antisemitism: Jewish Nationalism
Mendes-Flohr: Docs X:2, 6, 7, 9, 10

Feb 28 World War I and its Aftermath
Mar 1 Efron, 334-57
Mendes-Flohr: Docs VII: 40, 42, 44, 46
Isaac Babel, "Gedali," "The Rabbi," "The Rabbi's Son"

The New Jewish Heartland in North America
*Abraham Cahan, "Yekl"

Mar 6 & 8 Sephardic and Middle Eastern Jewry: Dual Colonization?
Efron, 252-253, 369-72
Mendes-Flohr: 435-39; Docs VIII: 2, 4, 5, 7, 8

The Rise and Fall of the "Arab Jew"
Mendes-Flohr: Docs VIII: 14, 16, 17, 18, 26, 28, 29, 30, 32

Mar 13 & 15 The Zionist Project
Efron, 357-369
Mendes-Flohr: Docs VIII: 20, X: 22, 30, 32, 34, 37,

The Origins of the Jewish State
*Haim Hazzaz, "The Sermon"
Mendes-Flohr: Docs VIII: 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 50, 51

Mar 20 & 22 The Holocaust: De-Emancipation
Efron, 374-386
Mendes-Flohr: Docs XI: 2, 7, 11, 12, 13, 16, 20
*Susannah Heschel, "When Jesus Was an Aryan"

The Holocaust: Genocide
Efron, 386-404
Mendes-Flohr: Docs XI: 24, 26, 27, 30, 36
*Christopher Browning, "One Day in Josefow"

Mar 27 & 29 The State of Israel and Diaspora Jewry: Continuity or Rupture?
Efron, 406-414, 429-438
Eliezer Don-Yehiya, "Political Religion in a New State"

The State of Israel and the Arab World
Efron, 414-419
*A.B. Yehoshua, "Facing the Forests"
****Essays due****

NO TUTORIAL

Apr 3 & 5 Post-1945 North American Jewry: The Era of Consensus
Efron, 419-429
Mendes-Flohr: Doc IX:52
*Stephen Whitfield, "Declarations of Independence: American Jewish Culture in the Twentieth Century"

The End of Consensus, the End of Modern Jewish History?
*Phillip Roth, "Eli, the Fanatic"
*Amos Oz, "How to Cure a Fanatic"