

HST3900/REL3900-The History of Antisemitism
Oakland University
Department of History
Fall 2018

Course Information:

HST3900 #44700 / REL3900 #42440
MWF 10:40am-11:47am
South Foundation Hall 176

Professor Ian Greenspan

Office: 455 Varner Hall
Phone: (248) 370-4365
Email: greenspa@oakland.edu
Office Hours: By Appointment Only (mainly MWF 1:20pm-2:30pm)

Course Overview:

This course will focus on the ways in which Jewish religion, history, culture and identity have been shaped by centuries of persecution, violence, struggle, hatred, and wide-spread fear and identification of the Jews as a societal "other". Although we will take a rough chronological approach to the topic, we will primarily engage in a comparative method with respect to the various significant themes of the course: the myth of the blood libel, prevalent outsider/insider distinctions, social and economic isolation, political and societal exclusion, pogroms, scapegoating and holy crusades, social dislocation, episodic panic/fear and epidemiological scares, the pressures of conformity and the emergence of self-hatred, concepts of racial purity, eugenics and genocide, and the evolution of Jewish culture in response to the changing patterns of antisemitism. Also to be considered are the ways in which antisemitism was developed and disseminated through evolving forms of media, propaganda, stereotyping, myth-making and current political controversies and conflicts.

Requirements will include periodic book reviews/analysis and two 6-8 page papers. Students will be expected to read roughly about half a book per week, with additional sources occasionally added to the total amount. Class time will be devoted to discussions and group consideration of various in-class sources (especially film).

All scheduling information, reading assignments, and supplemental materials will be provided on Moodle (<https://moodle.oakland.edu/login/index.php>). We will discuss this online resource in class, and this website will remain your chief guide for course assignments throughout the semester. Also, please be sure to check your school-issued email account on a daily basis (or something close to that).

Texts/Sources:

- 1) Phyllis Goldstein, *A Convenient Hatred: The History of Antisemitism*
- 2) David Nirenberg, *Anti-Judaism: The Western Tradition*
- 3) Piers Paul Read, *The Dreyfus Affair*
- 4) Helmut Walser Smith, *The Butcher's Tale: Murder and Anti-Semitism in a German Town*
- 5) Neil Baldwin, *Henry Ford and the Jews: The Mass Production Of Hate*

6) Jeffrey Herf, *The Jewish Enemy: Nazi Propaganda during World War II and the Holocaust*

7) Michael Barkun, *Religion and the Racist Right: The Origins of the Christian Identity Movement*

—Possible supplementary readings, handouts, online articles and videos (supplied by the instructor)

Grade Determination:

Book Write-Ups (5): 20 points each (100 points total)

Paper #1: 100 points total

Paper #2: 100 points total

Course Total: 300 points

Grade Scale:

Percentage	Grade	Honor Points
95-100	A	4.0
90-94	A-	3.7
87-89	B+	3.3
83-86	B	3.0
80-82	B-	2.7
77-79	C+	2.3
73-76	C	2.0
70-72	C-	1.7
67-69	D+	1.3
66-60	D	1.0
59 and below	F	0.0

Major Course Assessments:

1) The five book write-ups will each contain a 7-10 sentence critical summary typically covering approximately two-three weeks of readings. This will allow me to assess the degree to which you have completed the reading assignments and have followed the in-class coverage on these materials. You are expected to be in attendance and hand in the write-up on the day on which it is due (the assignment topic/question will be posted at least one week in advance of the due date). An extension on the write-ups will only be allowed in cases where compelling evidence is given to indicate that it is extremely warranted and necessary. You should contact me as early as possible prior to the day that the write-up is due. It is entirely at my discretion to decide whether or not your circumstances are of sufficient merit to allow for extra time.

2) Paper #1 (**Due Monday, 10/29**) and Paper #2 (**Due Wednesday 12/12 at 1:00pm**) will be 6-8 pages in length and you will choose essay topic(s) that I will provide. The specific guidelines for these papers will be discussed in sufficient advance of the due dates.

The two papers will draw extensively on material from the readings and in-class discussions, as well as any handouts, web assignments and films. Your essays should not be mere recitations of spoon-fed information, but should demonstrate to me that you have developed an understanding of the course material and have synthesized informed opinions about our course topic. These intellectual accomplishments, which constitute the writing component of this course, will be presented on the papers in written prose that is clear and cogent and which conforms to accepted university-level writing standards. This aspect of the course is intended to facilitate critical thinking and its expression in written argument.

Paper Policies: All papers are to be handed in at the beginning of the class during which they are due. Your essays must arrive on standard-sized paper (no electronic submissions are permitted), with double-spacing, 12-point font and parenthetical attributions for the sources that you have used (author, page number). Papers that do not meet the minimum requirements (these will be discussed prior to the due date) and/or arrive after the due date will be penalized. For every twenty-four hour period that the paper is late (the “late” clock begins ticking from the time that class begins and continues each day thereafter), points will be deducted from your score (five from the first paper, ten from the second).

Attendance and Participation: Although you will not receive a formal grade for participation in this course, you will find that being involved, focused, attentive and (productively) vocal will go a long way toward your overall academic aptitude. You will also find that, simply by paying attention and devoting the necessary time and effort, you will perform considerably better on the course assessments.

In the case of attendance, it is entirely your responsibility to be present for our class meetings (I only recommend missing class when absolutely necessary). Although I neither take attendance nor deduct from your final grade for absences, there is a clear and direct correlation between attendance levels and overall performance—in nearly every instance, students who attend nearly all of the classes will do demonstrably better than those who only appear infrequently. In fact, those who miss class with regularity typically spend most of the semester trying to work their way out of failing range. By taking any negotiation/discussion out of the when/why/how you miss class, it is left entirely up to you to decide what circumstances necessitate missing class. And, of course, you will receive a late grade if you are not in attendance when the papers are due.

Furthermore, priority for office hours/appointment times will be given to those who attend class on a regular basis. Times often fill prior to major assessments, so it is beneficial to put yourself in the best possible position to acquire extra help as needed. In the past, I have been largely unable to create additional time for those with poor attendance.

Office Hours: If you would like to set an appointment time with me, then please do so by email (greenspa@oakland.edu). Although times will be by appointment only, I can usually be available before around 1:20pm to about 2:30pm. Please be sure to schedule with me well in advance of papers, as appointment times can fill up very quickly

Classroom Behavior: You all know the drill here. While we will do our best to foster a fun and easy-going learning environment, it is your responsibility to make sure that you remain focused on the end goal of acquiring as much from this course as possible. This will entail not only doing all of the readings outside of class, but also taking notes, being attentive and engaged, putting forth a positive attitude, and doing your very best to participate constructively and critically.

Use of non-classroom, non-academic technologies are forbidden during class time. If you require the use of a laptop (for taking notes, etc.), please discuss it with me first and kindly sit in the first two rows of class.

Plagiarism and Cheating: “This is a serious breach of academic honesty. It consists of using others' ideas or words without proper citation. Any such offense will be dealt with according to the Academic Conduct Policy, which is described in the University Catalog.” All transgressions in this regard will be referred to the appropriate administrative offices. Please be sure to look over school policy concerning these matters (as contained in the University Handbook and online at: <http://www.oakland.edu/?id=1610&sid=75>). If you engage in plagiarism/cheating in this class, you will not receive credit for that particular assessment—a score of zero will simply be entered and you will not be given the opportunity to change this grade.

Campus Resources:

The Writing Center: As the center's website puts it, “The center provides writers with an interested and supportive audience of well-trained consultants who help both novice and expert writers explore ideas, revise drafts, and develop the skills to craft polished works.”

<http://wwwp.oakland.edu/ouwc/>

The Tutoring Center: As their website says, “Reach your maximum academic potential with OU's Tutoring Center. We offer a host of free support services—individual and group peer tutoring, supplemental instruction, and study skills assistance.” <http://wwwp.oakland.edu/tutoring/>

The Counseling Center: This center's site explains that they “provide a broad range of mental health services which include personal counseling; psychological and psychoeducational testing; career testing and counseling; substance abuse evaluation, treatment, and prevention; consultation and outreach; crisis intervention.” <http://wwwp.oakland.edu/oucc/>

Disability Support Services: Students with disabilities who may require special accommodations should make an appointment with campus Disability Support Services. Students should also bring their needs to the attention of the instructor as soon as possible by providing the “Letter of Accommodations” created by DSS. <http://wwwp.oakland.edu/dss/>

The Gender and Sexuality Center: Their website explains that, “The Gender and Sexuality Center serves women and LGBTIQ communities by providing and fostering a campus environment that promotes inclusion and understanding around issues of gender and sexuality.” <http://wwwp.oakland.edu/csa/gsc/>

General Information: Please be sure to check the University's schedule for important dates and deadlines: http://www.oakland.edu/important_dates

Topics/Readings Schedule (To Be Revised As Needed)

Week 1: Introduction: How We Will Stop Worrying and Learn to Love History / NYT-SPLC Articles / Der Ewige Jude (film)

Week 2: No Class-Rosh Hoshanah (Monday, 9/10) / Goldstein, pp. 1-21 / Nirenberg, pp. 1-47

Week 3: Goldstein, pp. 23-53 / Nirenberg, pp. 87-134 / **Write-Up #1 (Nirenberg)**

Week 4: Goldstein, pp. 55-155

Week 5: Goldstein, pp. 157-230 / Read, pp. Preface-42

Week 6: Read, pp. 51-118, 316-352 / **Write-Up #2 (Read)**

Week 7: Smith, pp. Prologue-111

Week 8: Smith, pp. 112-216 / **Write-Up #3 (Smith)**

Week 9: Goldstein, pp. 233-256 / Baldwin, pp. 1-19, 27-35, 48-66 / **Due: Paper #1 (Monday, October 29)**

Week 9: Baldwin, pp. 67-107, 134-191, 255-267

Week 10: Goldstein, pp. 257-287 / Herf, pp. Preface-49

Week 11: Herf, pp. 50-137 / **Write-Up #4 (Herf)**

Week 12: Barkun, pp. 3-119

Week 13: Barkun, pp. 121-253 / **Book Write-Up #5 (Barkun)**

Week 14: Goldstein, pp. 289-259

Due: Paper #2 (Wednesday, December 12 at 1:00pm)