The American Jewish Experience
From Shtetl to Suburb

A century and a half ago, the United States was a backwater of the Jewish world, then centered in Europe and the Ottoman Turkish Empire. Yet, by the 1950s, the United States became home to the largest, most prosperous, and most secure Jewish community in modern history.

• Why did millions of Jews come to the United States?
• How has life in a liberal political and capitalist economic order shaped the Jewish experience in America?
• In turn, how have Jews influenced American culture, politics, and society?

This course surveys the history of American Jews from the eighteenth century to the twenty-first century. Topics include patterns of:

• politics
• social mobility
• Jewish culture in Yiddish and English
• inter-ethnic group relations
• gender and sexuality
• religion
• problems in community building.

This past year, 5,143 seats in History courses were filled by students from dozens of majors across campus. History is one of the top ten departments in the College of Letters and Science, with 54 faculty and 479 current majors.
Fall 2015 courses open to first-year students taught by the UW–Madison History Department

“High-school history treats history as something that happens to others. We treat history as something that happens to each of us.”

Professor Charles L. Cohen, E. Gordon Fox Professor of American Institutions, UW-Madison

- HISTORY 101: American History to the Civil War Era: the Origin and Growth of the United States
- HISTORY 102: American History: Civil War Era to the Present
- HISTORY 103: Introduction to East Asian History: China
- HISTORY 104: Introduction to East Asian History: Japan
- HISTORY 105: Introduction to the History of Africa
- HISTORY 108: Introduction to East Asian History: Korea
- HISTORY 119: The Making of Modern Europe: 1500–1815
- HISTORY 120: Europe and the Modern World: 1815 to the Present
- HISTORY 123: English History: England to 1688
- HISTORY 125: Green Screen: Environmental Perspectives through Film
- HISTORY 150: American Histories: The Nineteenth Century
- HISTORY 160: Asian American History: Movement and Dislocation
- HISTORY 200 [001]: Mass Violence in Europe: 1900–1950
- HISTORY 200 [003]: The Seven Deadly Sins in American History
- HISTORY 200 [004]: North Korean History: Origins to the Twenty-First Century
- HISTORY 205: The Making of the Islamic World: The Middle East, 500–1500
- HISTORY 219: The American Jewish Experience: From Shtetl to Suburb
- HISTORY 220: Introduction to Modern Jewish History
- HISTORY 225: Explorations in the History of Race and Ethnicity
- HISTORY 230: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam: Braided Histories
- HISTORY 242: Modern Latin America: 1898 to the Present
- HISTORY 244: Introduction to Southeast Asia: Vietnam to the Philippines
- HISTORY 270: Eastern Europe since 1900
- HISTORY 277: Africa: An Introductory Survey
- HISTORY 283 [001]: Intermediate Honors Seminar: What is Antisemitism?
- HISTORY 283 [002]: Intermediate Honors Seminar: Health, Healing, and Science in Africa
- HISTORY 283 [003]: Intermediate Honors Seminar: Women and Gender in World History