Proseminar in Modern European History
European Jewish History: 1648-1945

Professor Sorkin   4117 Humanities; IRH/Washburn Observatory, 2-8151
History 891/Fall 2006 Office Hours: by appt.
5245 Humanities
Friday, 2:30-4:30 dj@sorkin@wisc.edu

***All required books are available for purchase at University Book Store; all required articles
are on electronic reserve at the College library (Helen C. White)***

Requirements for the course: a five-page book review and an oral report;
a twenty-page review paper.

Introduction: The Study of Modern Jewish History (September 8)

Salo Baron, "Ghetto and Emancipation," Menorah Journal (1928)
and Seth Forman eds. Great Jewish Speeches Throughout History (Northvale, NJ,
Michael Meyer, "Where does the Modern Period of Jewish History Begin?" (1975) in idem.,
Judaism within Modernity: Essays on Jewish History and Religion (Detroit, 2001)
21-31.
Jonathan Frankel, "Assimilation and the Jews in nineteenth-century Europe: towards a new
historiography? in Frankel & Zipperstein ed. Assimilation & Community in European
Jewry, 1815-81 (1992) 1-37
Todd Endelmann, "The Legitimization of the Diaspora experience in recent Jewish

I. Early Modern Europe: The Decline of the autonomous Community

Week 2 The Autonomous community & Hasidism (September 15)

Jacob Katz, Tradition & Crisis (New York, 1992)
Shmuel Ettinger, "The Hasidic Movement -- Reality and Ideals," in Gershon Hundert ed.,
Essential Papers on Hasidism, 209-225

Reading for Oral Report

Samuel Dresner, The Zaddik (New York, 1965)
Moshe Rosman, Founder of Hasidism: A quest for the Historical Ba'al Shem Tov (Berkeley,
1996)
M.J. Rosman, The Lords' Jews: Magnate-Jewish Relations in the Polish-Lithuanian
Commonwealth during the Eighteenth Century (Cambridge, MA 1990)

Week 3 Mercantilism, Haskalah & Port Jews (September 22)

Jonathan Israel, European Jewry in the Age of Mercantilism, 1550-1750 (Oxford, 1991)
1-69; 87-206; 237-274


Reading for Oral Report

Adam Sutcliffe, Judaism and Enlightenment (Cambridge, 2003)
Azriel Shohat, Im Hilufei Tekufot (Jerusalem, 1960)
S. Ettinger, "The Beginnings of the Change in the Attitude of European Society Towards the Jews," Scripta Hierosolymitana 7 (1961) 193-219

David Katz, Philosemitism and the Readmission of the Jews to England (Oxford)
D. Sorkin, The Berlin Haskalah and German Religious Thought (London, 2000)

Shmuel Feiner, Haskalah and History: The Emergence of a Modern Jewish Historical Consciousness (London, 2001)

Adam Sutcliffe, Judaism and Enlightenment (Cambridge, 2003)

Miriam Bodian, Hebrews of the Portuguese Nation: Conversos and Community in Early Modern Amsterdam (Bloomington, 1997)
Elishava Carlebach, Divided Souls: Converts from Judaism in Germany, 1500-1750 (New Haven, 2001)

II. The First Stage of Transformation

Week 4 Emancipation (September 29)

Jacob Katz, Out of the Ghetto (New York) 1-56, 161-75

Salo W. Baron, "Newer Approaches to Jewish Emancipation," Diogenes 29 (Spring 1960) 56-81


Reading for Oral Report
Simon Schwarzfuchs, Napoleon, the Jews and the Sanhedrin (London, 1979)
Tama ed., Transactions of the Parisian Sanhedrin (Lanham, Md., 1985)
Dagmar Herzog, Intimacy and Exclusion: Religious Politics in Pre-Revolutionary Baden (Princeton 1996)
M.C.N. Salbstein, The Emancipation of the Jews of Britain (Rutherford, NJ, 1982)
Shulamit Magnus, Jewish Emancipation in a German City: Cologne, 1798-1871 (Stanford, 1997)

Week 5 Eastern Europe (Oct. 6)

Benjamin Nathans, Beyond the Pale: The Jewish Encounter with Late Imperial Russia (Berkeley, 2002) 21-79

Reading for Oral Report

Steven Zipperstein, The Jews of Odessa (Stanford, 1985)
John Klier, Russia Gathers her Jews; The Origins of the "Jewish" Question in Russia (Dekalb, 1986)
Dovid Fishman, Russia's First Modern Jews: The Jews of Shklov (New York, 1995)
Marcin Wodzinski, Haskalah and Hasidism in the Kingdom of Poland: A History of Conflict (Oxford, 2005)

Week 6 Social Change (Oct. 13)

Jacob Katz, Out of the Ghetto (Schocken) 176-219
Steven Lowenstein, "The Pace of Modernization of German Jewry in the Nineteenth Century," Leo Baeck Institute Yearbook 21 (1976) 41-56
David Sorkin, The Transformation of German Jewry, 107-123

Reading for oral Report

Avraham Barkai, "German Jews at the Start of Industrialization" in Mosse, Paucker, Rürup ed. Revolution and Evolution: 1848 in German-Jewish History (Tubingen, 1981) 123-149
David Sorkin, "Emancipation and Assimilation: Two Concepts and Their Application to German-Jewish History," Leo Baeck Institute Yearbook 35 (1990) 17-33
Bill Williams, The Making of Manchester Jewry, 1740-1875 (Manchester, 1985)
Steven Lowenstein, The Mechanics of Change: Essays in the Social History of German Jewry (Atlanta, 1992)

Week 7  Ideological & Religious Change (Oct. 20)

David Sorkin, The Transformation, 41-104
Moshe Samet, "The Beginnings of Orthodoxy," Modern Judaism (October, 1988) 249-269
Mordechai Breuer, "Emancipation and the Rabbis," Niv HaMidrashia
Michael Meyer, "The German Model of Reform and Russian Jewry" in idem., Judaism within Modernity: Essays on Jewish History and Religion (Detroit, 2001) 278-303

Reading for Oral Report

Robert Liberles, Religious conflict in Social Context: The Resurgence of Orthodox Judaism in Frankfurt am Main (Westport, Conn, 1985)
Jacob Katz ed., Toward Modernity: The European Jewish Model (Transactions, 1987)
Phyllis Cohen Albert, The Modernization of French Jewry: Consistory and Community in the Nineteenth Century (Hanover, NH, 1977)
Susannah Heschel, Abraham Geiger and the Jewish Jesus (Chicago, 1998)
David Ellenson, Rabbi Esriel Hildesheimer and the creation of a modern Jewish orthodoxy (Tuscaloosa, 1990)

III. The Second Stage of Transformation

Week 8  Mass Migration (Oct. 27)

Marsha Rozenblit, The Jews of Vienna (SUNY, 1983) 13-47
Lloyd Gartner, The Jewish Immigrant in England (Detroit, 1960) 24-99, 270-282
Paula Hyman, From Dreyfus to Vichy; The Remaking of French Jewry (New York, 1979) 63-114.
David Feldman, Englishmen and Jews: Social Relations and Political Culture, 1840-1914 (New Haven 1994) ?????. Drop Gartner????

Reading for Oral Report

Steven Beller, Vienna and the Jews, 1867-1938 (Cambridge)
Nancy Green, The Pletzl of Paris: Jewish Immigrant Workers in the "Belle Epoque" (New York, 1986)
Nancy Green ed., Jewish Workers in the Modern Diaspora (Berkeley, 1998)
Steven Aschheim, Brothers and Strangers: The East European Jew in German and German Jewish Consciousness, 1800-1923 (Madison, 1982)  

Week 9  Antisemitism (Nov 3)  

T. van Rahden, "Words and action: Rethinking the Social History of German Antisemitism, Breslau, 1870-1914," German History 18 (3) 2000, 413-438.  
Peter Pulzer, The Rise of Political Anti-Semitism in Germany and Austria (London, 1988) 27-183  
Hans Rogger, "The Jewish Policy of Late Tsarism", "The Beilis Case" & "Russian Ministers and the Jewish Question" in Rogger, Jewish Policies and Right-Wing Politics, 25-112  
Mary Louise Roberts, Disruptive Acts: The New Woman in Fin-de-Siècle France (2002) ch. 5 “Caught in the Act,” 131-164  

Reading for Oral Report  

Paul Massing, Rehearsal for Destruction (1949)  
R.F. Byrnes, Antisemitism in Modern France (1950)  
Jacob Katz, From Prejudice to Destruction (Harvard, 1980)  
Uriel Tal, Christians and Jews in Germany (Cornell, 1975)  
I Michael Aronson, Troubled Waters: The Origins of the 1881 Anti-Jewish Pogroms in Russia (Pittsburgh, 1990)  
Stephen M. Berk, Year of Crisis, Year of Hope: Russian Jewry and the Pogroms of 1881-82 (Westport, Conn., 1985)  
Heinz-Dietrich Loewe, The Tsars and the Jews (Chur, Switzerland, 1993)  
Pierre Birnbaum, Antisemitism in France: A Political History from Leon Blum to the Present (Oxford, 1992)  
Stephen Wilson, Ideology and Experience: antisemitism in France at the time of the Dreyfus Affair (Rutherford, NJ, 1982)  

Week 10  New Politics 1 (Nov 10)  

Jonathan Frankel, "Crisis as a Factor in Modern Jewish Politics," in Jehuda Reinharz ed. Living with Antisemitism; Modern Jewish Responses, (Hanover, 1987) 42-58  
Arnold Paucker, "The Jewish Defense Against Antisemitism in Germany, 1893-1933," in Reinharz, Living with Antisemitism, 104-132  
Steven Beller, Herzl (London, 1991)
Oral Report

Ismar Schorsch, Jewish Reactions to German Antisemitism (Columbia)
Jehuda Reinharz, Fatherland or Promised Land (Michigan, 1975)


Marjorie Lamberti, Jewish Activism in Imperial Germany: The Struggle for Civil Equality (New Haven, 1978)


Michael Graetz, Jews in nineteenth-century France: from the French Revolution to the Alliance israélite universelle (Stanford, 1996)

Mitch Hart, Social Science and the Politics of Modern Jewish Identity (Stanford, 2000)


David Kertzer, The Kidnapping of Edgardo Mortara (New York, 1997)

Week 11  New Politics 2 (Nov 17)

Eli Lederhendler, "Modernity without emancipation or assimilation? The case of Russian Jewry," in Frankel & Zipperstein ed. Assimilation & Community, 324-343


Jonathan Frankel, Prophecy and Politics (CUP, 1981), 171-257.


Oral Report

Ezra Mendelsohn, Class Struggle in the Pale (Cambridge, 1970)

M. J. Tobias, The Jewish Bund in Russia from its origins to 1905 (Stanford, 1972)

Simon Dubnow, Nationalism and History; Essays on Old and New Judaism (New York, 1970)

Michael Stanislawski, Zionism and the Fin- de Siècle: Cosmopolitanism and Nationalism from Nordau to Jabotinsky (Berkeley, 2001)

Michael Berkowitz, Zionist Culture and West European Jewry Before the First World War (Cambridge, 1993)

Christoph Gassenschmidt, Jewish Liberal Politics in Tsarist Russia, 1900-1914 (New York, 1995)

Week 12  Gender (Dec 1)

Paula Hyman, Gender and Assimilation in Modern Jewish History (Seattle, 1995)

Marion Kaplan, "Gender and Jewish History in Imperial Germany," in Frankel & Zipperstein ed., Assimilation & Community, 199-224

Chava Weissler, Voices of the Matriarchs: Listening to the Prayers of Early Modern Jewish Women (Boston, 1998) 3-85

Oral Report
Natalie Davis, Women on the Margins (Cambridge, MA, 1995)
Marion A. Kaplan, The Jewish Feminist Movement in Germany: The Campaign of the
Jüdischer Frauenbund, 1904-38 (Westport, Conn, 1979)
Marion A. Kaplan, The Making of the Jewish Middle Class: Women, Family and Identity in
Imperial Germany (New York, 1994)
Michael Galchinsky, The Origin of the Modern Jewish Woman Writer: Romance and Reform in
Victorian England (Detroit, 1996)
Carole Balin, To Reveal our Hearts: Jewish Women Writers in Tsarist Russia (Detroit, 2000)
ChaeRan Y. Freeze, Jewish Marriage and Divorce in Imperial Russia (Hanover, 2002)
Irish Parush, Reading Jewish Women: Marginality and Marginalization in Nineteenth-Century
Eastern European Jewish Society (Hanover, NH, 2004)
Pauline Wengeroff, Rememberings: The World of a Russian-Jewish Woman in the Nineteenth
Century (Bethesda, Md., 2000)
Jewish Women in Eastern Europe (Polin, vol. 18)

IV. Mass Society

Week 13  WWI & Inter-War Europe (Dec 8)

Ezra Mendelsohn, The Jews of East Central Europe Between the World Wars (Indiana, 1983) 1-
128
Peter Pulzer, Jews and the German State (Blackwell, 1992) 1-27, 194-323

Oral Report

David H. Weinberg, A Community on Trial: The Jews of Paris in the 1930s (Chicago, 1977)
Stephen Poppel, Zionism in Germany, 1897-1933 (JPS, 1976)
Donald Niewyck, The Jews in Weimar Germany (Baton Rouge, LA 1980)
Joel Colton, Leon Blum: Humanist in Politics (New York, 1966)
Zvi Gitelman, Jewish Nationality and Soviet Politics: The Jewish Sections of
the CPSU, 1917-30 (Princeton, 1972)
Michael Brenner, The Renaissance of Jewish Culture in Weimar Germany (New Haven, 1996)
Pierre Birnbaum, Jews of the Republic: A Political History of State Jews in France from
Gambetta to Vichy (Stanford, 1996)

Week 14  Nazism and the Holocaust (Dec 15)

Michael Marrus, The Holocaust in History
Christopher Browning, Nazi Policy, Jewish Workers, German Killers (Cambridge, 2000) 116-42

Oral Report

Isaiah Trunk, Judenrat: The Jewish Councils in Eastern Europe under Nazi Occupation (New
York, 1972)
Walter Laqueur, The Terrible Secret (Harmondsworth, 1980)
Saul Friedlander, Nazi Germany and the Jews (New York, 1997)
Henry Friedlander, The Origins of Nazi Genocide: From Euthanasia to the Final Solution
(Chapel Hill, 1995)
Ulrich Herbert ed., National Socialist Extermination Policies: Contemporary German
Perspectives and Controversies (New York, 2000)