

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
Modernity Faith and Crisis:
20th century German-Jewish Identity and Thought
History 600
Spring 2006

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W 3:30-5:30 (5257 Humanities)

Office Hours: W 2:00-3:30 (4265 Humanities, Phone 263-1835)

Course Description

German-Jewish identity, thought, experience and heritage are a subject of ongoing historical attention and debates. In this course we will explore diverse aspects of the German-Jewish modern experience, by reading a wide range of texts written by German-Jewish thinkers. We will focus on questions of identity, nationality, religion and theology, which constituted the modern Jewish experience, and discuss the impact of the Holocaust on post-1945 German-Jewish identity and thought.

Required Readings

Arendt Hannah, *The Origins of Totalitarianism*, New York 2004.

Aschheim Steven E. (Ed)., *Hannah Arendt in Jerusalem*, Berkeley 2001.

Baeck Leo, *Judaism and Christianity*, New York 1966.

Breines Paul, "Germans, Journals and Jews/Madison, Men, Marxism and Mosse: A Tale of Jewish-Leftist Identity Confusion in America", *New German Critique*, 20 (1980): 81-103.

Brenner Michael, *The Renaissance of Jewish Culture in Weimar Germany*, Yale 1996.

Buber Martin, *Two Types of Faith*, New York 1951.

Glatzer Nahum N., *Franz Rosenzweig, His Life and Thought*, New York 1953.

Hacohen Malachi Haim, "Dilemmas of Cosmopolitanism: Karl Popper, Jewish Identity and "Central European Culture", *The Journal of Modern History*, 71/1 (1999): 105-149.

Harnack Adolf von, *What is Christianity*, New York 1957.

Jonas Hans, *Mortality and Morality: a Search for Good after Auschwitz*, Evanston 1996.

Loisy Alfred, *The Gospel and the Church*, New York 1912.

Löwith Karl, *My Life in Germany before and after 1933*, Chicago 1994.

Löwith Karl, *Meaning in History*, Chicago 1949.

Mosse George L., *Confronting History: A Memoir*, Madison 2000.

- Mosse George L., *German Jews beyond Judaism*, Bloomington 1985.
- Mosse George L., *The Crisis of German Ideology*, New York 1964.
- Rabinbach Anson, *In the Shadow of Catastrophe, German Intellectuals between Apocalypse and Enlightenment*, Berkeley 1997.
- Ringer Fritz K., *The Decline of the German Mandarins 1890-1933*, Cambridge, 1969.
- Scholem Gershom, *From Berlin to Jerusalem, Memories of my Youth*, Jerusalem 1988.
- Scholem Gershom, *On Jews and Judaism in Crisis: Selected Essays*, New York 1976.
- Scholem Gershom, *On the Possibility of Jewish Mysticism in our Time & other essays*, Philadelphia 1997.
- Stern Frank, "The Return to the Disowned Home – German Jews and the Other Germany", *New Germany Critique*, 67 (1996): 57-72.
- Traverso Enzo, *The Jews & Germany: from the "Judeo-German Symbiosis" to the memory of Auschwitz*, Lincoln: 1995.
- Stone Lilo, "German Zionist in Palestine before 1933", *Journal of Contemporary History*, vol. 32 n. 2 (1997): 171-186.
- Wehler Hans-Ulrich, *The German Empire 1871-1918*, New Hampshire, 1985, 52-99.
- Wolin Richard, *Heidegger's Children: Hannah Arendt, Karl Löwith, Hans Jonas, and Herbert Marcuse*, Princeton 2001.
- Zweig Stefan, *The World of Yesterday*, Lincoln & London 1964.

Requirements

1. Participation (40%).
2. Preliminary Drafts of Term Paper (30%).
 - a. Bibliography (15%) due February 15.
 - b. Review of Progress (15%) due on March 1.
 - c. Thesis Statement and Outline (35%) due on March 20.
 - d. Preliminary Draft (35%) due on April 12.
3. Term paper (30%) due on May 10.

January 18. Introductory Meeting

Part I. Modern German Culture

January 25. The Crisis of Culture

Wehler, *The German*, 52-99.

Ringer, *The Decline*, 1-13, 253-304.

Part II. German-Jewish Identity and Thought

February 1. “German-Jewish Symbiosis”

Mosse, *German-Jews*, 1-41.

Brenner, *The Renaissance*, 1-35.

Traverso, *The Jews*, 3-42.

Scholem, *On Jews*, 61-92.

February 8. German-Jewish Experience

Zweig, *The World*, 1-66.

Mosse, *Confronting History*, 7-52.

Scholem, *From Berlin*, 1-35.

Löwith, *My Life*, 1-19.

February 15. Crisis and Identity

Mosse, *The Crisis*, 13-87.

Rabinbach, *In the Shadow*, 27-65.

Wolin, *Children*, 21-29.

February 22. Political Alternatives

Scholem, *From Berlin*, 116-173.

Scholem, *On the Possibility*, 27-29.

Stone “German Zionist”

March 1. Theology and Modernity

Harnack, *What is Christianity*, 152-189, 268-301.

Loisy, *The Gospel*, 139-179.

Löwith, *Meaning*, 1-19, 33-59.

March 8. Jewish Perspectives

Leo Baeck, *Judaism*, 189-292.

Buber, *Two Types of Faith*, 7-15, 51-90, 162-174.

Glatzer Nahum N., *Rosenzweig*, IX-XXXIII, 271-275, 340-348

March 22. Review of Thesis Statement and Outline

Part III. Post-1945 Identity and Thought

March 29. Émigrés

Stern Frank, "The Return"

Hacohen, "Dilemmas"

Breins, "Germans"

April 5. Political Thought

Aschheim, *Arendt*, 1-18, 93-104.

Arendt Hannah, *The Origins*, 11-116

April 12. Identity

Jonas, *Mortality and Morality*, 1-40, 131-143.

Scholem, *On the Possibility*, 3-24, 30-39, 93-100, 114-117.

Part IV. Term Paper

April 19. Review of Preliminary Draft

April 26. Class Presentations

May 3. Class Presentations

RECOMMENDED READINGS

Arendt Hannah, *The human condition*, New York 1959.

----- *On Revolution*, New York 1963

----- *Eichmann in Jerusalem; a report on the banality of evil*, New York 1964

----- *Men in dark times*. New York 1968.

----- *On Violence*, New York 1970.

Aschheim, Steven E., *The Nietzsche Legacy in Germany*, Berkeley, 1992.

----- *In Times of Crisis: Essays on European Culture, Germans, and Jews*, Madison 2001.

Baeck Leo, *The Essence of Judaism*, New York 1948.

----- *This People Israel: the Meaning of Jewish Existence*, New York 1965.

Berkowitz Michael, Tanenbaum Susan L., Sam W. Bloom, *Forging Modern Jewish Identities*, (Portland, 2003).

Bernstein-Nahar, Avi, "Herman Cohen's Teaching Concerning Modern Jewish Identity (1904-1918), *Leo Baeck Institute Year Book*, XLIII (1998): 25-47.

Blackbourn, David & Eley, Geoff, (ed.), *The Peculiarities of German History: Bourgeois Society and Politics in Nineteenth-Century Germany*, (Oxford, 1984).

----- *The Long Nineteenth Century, a History of Germany 1780-1918*, (Oxford, 1998).

- Blackbourn, David & Evans, Richard J., *The German Bourgeoisie*, (London/New York, 1992).
- Blondel Eric, *Nietzsche: The Body and Culture*, (Stanford 1991).
- Burrow, John Wyon, *The Crisis of Reason. European Thought 1848-1914*, (New Haven/London, 2000).
- Byker, Carl. *The Great War and the Shaping of the 20th Century*, (London, 1996).
- Diner Dan, *Beyond the Conceivable: Studies on Germany, Nazism, and the Holocaust*, Berkeley 2000.
- Gilman, Sander, L. & Chamberlin, Edward J. (eds.), *Degeneration - the Dark Side of Progress*, (New York, 1985).
- Green, Abigail, *Fatherlands: State Building and Nationhood in Nineteenth-Century Germany*, (New York, 2001).
- Hughes, Stuart H., *Consciousness and Society. The Re-Orientation of European Social Thought 1890-1930*, (New York, 1958).
- Jonas Hans, *The Gnostic Religion: the Message of the Alien God & the Beginnings of Christianity*, Boston 1963.
- Kaufmann, Walter, *Nietzsche: Philosopher, Psychologist, Antichrist*, (Princeton, 1950).
- Koselleck, Reinhart, *Critique and Crisis: Enlightenment and the Pathogenesis of Modern Society*, (Cambridge, 1988).
- Laqueur, Walter, *Weimar: A Cultural History 1918-1933*, (London, 1979).
- McGarth, William J., *Dionysian Art and Popular Politics in Austria*, (New Haven, 1974).
- Mendes-Flohr Paul, *Gershom Scholem : the Man and his Work*, Albany 1994.
- Mommsen, Hans, *The Rise and Fall of Weimar Democracy*, (London, 1996).
- Mosse, George L., *The Culture of Western Europe*, (Chicago, 1974).
- *The Culture of Western Europe: The 19th and 20th Century*, (Boulder, 1988).
- *The Image of Man: The Creation of Modern Masculinity*, (New York 1996).
- Peukert, Detlev, *The Weimar Republic: The crisis of Classical Modernity*, (London, 1991).
- Scholem, Gershom, *Major Trends in Jewish Mysticism*, New York 1940.
- Sorkin David, "Between Messianism and Survival: Secularization and Sacralization in Modern Judaism", *Journal of Modern Jewish Studies* 3/1 (2004): 73-86
- Schorske, Carl E., *Fin de Siècle Vienna*, (New York, 1980).
- Smith, Woodruff D., *Politics and the Sciences of Culture in Germany 1840-1920*, (New York, 1991).
- Stern, Fritz, *The Politics of Cultural Despair. A Study in the Rise of the Germanic Ideology*, (New York, 1965).
- Taubes Jacob, *The Political Theology of Paul*, Stanford 2004.
- Tiech, Michael & Porter, Roy (eds.), *Fin de Siècle and its Legacy*, (New York, 1990).
- Toller Ernst, *I was a German: the Autobiography of Ernst Toller*, New York 1934.
- Wagar W Warren, "Modern Views of the Idea of Progress", *Journal of the History of Ideas*, 28/1 (1967) 55-70.