

History 891/History 901: Modern Jewish History in Comparative Perspective: Russian and the United States

University of Wisconsin, Madison
Fall 2011
Humanities 5245
Tuesdays: 11:00-1:00

Prof. Tony Michels
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Requirements

Active participation is crucial. I urge you to take risks, test ideas, and raise questions regardless of whether you're convinced you are "right." A successful seminar is one with lively, probing, freewheeling conversation. Thoughtfulness is welcome; circumspection is not.

Each student is expected to present the reading(s) for a given week once during the semester. Your presentations should succinctly summarize the authors' arguments and identify what you believe to be the most important issue that we should discuss. Presentations should be no longer than 15 minutes in length.

Finally, you are required to write three papers during the semester. The first two papers should be 6-page analyses of a given week's readings and will be due two weeks after their discussion date. (For instance, if you want to write on week four's readings, your paper will be due in week six.) Your third paper is due a week after the final day of class, on December 20. That paper should be 15 pages in length and address a particular historiographic issue, question, or problem. I encourage you to speak with me outside of class about your final paper topic.

Grading

First paper: 30%
Second paper: 30%
Third paper: 40%

Outside Lectures

The Center for Jewish Studies is sponsoring two lectures this semester, which may be of interest to you. Prof. Jonathan Sarna (Brandeis University) will lecture on Sept. 26 @ 4:00 in Union South on "That Obnoxious Order: Ulysses S. Grant and the Jews." On Oct. 24 @ 4:00 in Union South, Prof. Nathaniel Deutsch (University of California, Santa

Cruz) will give a lecture entitled, “Exploring the Jewish Dark Continent: Life, Death, and Ethnography in the Pale of Settlement.” Both lectures are free and open to the public.

Readings

The following books are available for purchase from Rainbow Bookstore Cooperative (426 W. Gilman):

- Hasia Diner, *We Remember with Reverence and Love: American Jews and the Myth of Silence after the Holocaust, 1945-1962* (New York Univ. Press, 2010).
- Jonathan Frankel, *Prophecy and Politics: Socialism, Nationalism, and the Russian Jews, 1862-1917* (Cambridge Univ. Press, 1981).
- Eric Goldstein, *The Price of Whiteness: Jews, Race, and American Identity* (Princeton Univ. Press, 2006).
- Daniel Greene, *The Jewish Origins of Cultural Pluralism: The Menorah Association and American Diversity* (Indiana Univ. Press, 2011).
- David Hollinger, *Post-Ethnic America: Beyond Multi-Culturalism* (Basic Books, 1995).
- Rebecca Kobrin, *Jewish Bialystok and Its Diaspora* (Indiana Univ. Press, 2010).
- Deborah Dash Moore, *At Home in America: Second Generation New York Jews* (Columbia Univ. Press, 1983).
- Kenneth Moss, *Jewish Renaissance in the Russian Revolution* (Harvard Univ. Press, 2009).
- Benjamin Nathans, *Beyond the Pale: The Jewish Encounter with Late Imperial Russia* (Univ. of California Press, 2002).
- Peter Novick, *The Holocaust in American Life* (Houghton Mifflin, Co., 1999).
- Noam Pianko, *Zionism and the Roads Not Taken: Rawidowicz, Kaplan, Kohn* (Indiana Univ. Press, 2010).
- Anna Shternshis, *Soviet and Kosher: Jewish Popular Culture in the Soviet Union, 1923-1939* (Indiana Univ. Press, 2006).
- Yuri Slezkine, *The Jewish Century* (Princeton Univ. Press, 2004).
- Joshua Zeitz, *White Ethnic New York: Jews, Catholics, and the Shaping of Post-War Politics* (Univ. of North Carolina Press, 2007).
- Steven J. Zipperstein, *The Jews of Odessa: A Cultural History, 1794-1881* (Stanford Univ. Press, 1986)

Readings

Sept. 6: Introduction

Sept. 13: Simon Dubnov and the Beginning of Russian Jewish Historiography

*Michael Stanislawski, “Eastern European Jewry in the Modern Period: 1750-1939,” in *The Oxford Handbook of Jewish Studies*, ed. Martin Goodman (Oxford Univ. Press, 2002), pp. 396-411.

*Jonathan Frankel, "S. M. Dubnov: Historian and Ideologist," in Sophie Dubnov-Erlich, *The Life and Work of S. M. Dubnov: Diaspora Nationalism and Jewish History*, trans. Judith Vowles, ed. Jeffrey Shandler (Indiana Univ. Press, 1991), pp. 1-28.

*Simon Dubnow, "The Doctrine of Jewish Nationalism," in *Nationalism and History: Essays on Old and New Judaism*, ed. Koppel S. Pinson, (Jewish Publication Society of America, 1958), pp. 73-99.

*Dubnow, "An Essay in the Philosophy of History," in *Nationalism and History*, pp. 256-272.

*Simon Dubnow, *History of the Jews in Russian and Poland: From the Earliest Times until the Present Day*, Vol. 2 (Jewish Publication Society of America, 1912), pp. 1-87.

Michael Stanislawski, *Tsar Nicholas I: The Transformation of Jewish Society in Russia, 1825-1855* (Jewish Publication Society of America, 1983), pp. 3-122.

*Eli Lederhendler, "The Politics of Cultural Transmission, The Legacy of Simon Dubnov, and Jewish Studies," *Jewish Responses to Modernity* (New York Univ. Press, 1994), pp. 189-197.

Sept. 20: Post-Nationalist Historiography

*Jonathan Frankel, "Assimilation and the Jews in Nineteenth Century Europe: Towards a New Historiography," in *Assimilation and Community: The Jews in Nineteenth Century Europe*, eds. Jonathan Frankel and Steven J. Zipperstein, (Cambridge Univ. Press, 1992), pp. 1-37.

Steven J. Zipperstein, *The Jews of Odessa: A Cultural History, 1794-1881*, entire book.

Sept. 27: Politics and Trans-national Historiography

Ezra Mendelsohn, "Jonathan Frankel and the Future of *Studies in Contemporary Jewry*," in *The Protestant-Jewish Conundrum: Studies in Contemporary Jewry, Volume XXIV* (2010), eds. Jonathan Frankel and Ezra Mendelsohn, pp. 6-14.

Benjamin Nathans, "Introduction," in *The Revolution of 1905 and Russia's Jews*, eds. Stefani Hoffman and Ezra Mendelsohn (Univ. of Pennsylvania Press, 2008), pp. 1-14.

Jonathan Frankel, *Prophecy and Politics: Socialism, Nationalism, and the Russian Jews, 1862-1917*, entire book.

Oct. 4: Emancipation and Integration Reconsidered

Michael Stanislawski, "Russian Jewry, The Russian State, and The Dynamics of Jewish Emancipation," in *Paths to Emancipation: Jews, States, and Citizenship*, eds. Pierre Birnbaum and Ira Katznelson (Princeton Univ. Press, 1995), pp. 262-283.

Benjamin Nathans, *Beyond the Pale: The Jewish Encounter with Late Imperial Russia*, entire book.

Oct. 11: Culture and Revolution

Yuri Slezkine, *The Jewish Century*, pp. 1-104.

Kenneth Moss, *Jewish Renaissance in the Russian Revolution*, entire book.

Oct. 18: The Transformation of Soviet Jewry

Slezkine, *The Jewish Century*, pp. 105-371.

Anna Shternshis, *Soviet and Kosher: Jewish Popular Culture in the Soviet Union, 1923-1939*, entire book.

Oct. 25: Immigration and Diaspora

Rebecca Kobrin, *Jewish Bialystok and Its Diaspora*, entire book.

*Brent Hayes Edwards, "The Uses of *Diaspora*," *Social Text* 66, Vol. No. 1 (Spring 2001): 45-73.

Nov. 1: Integration and Ethnicity in New York

Deborah Dash Moore, *At Home in America: Second Generation New York Jews*, entire book.

*David A. Hollinger, "Communalist and Dispersionist Approaches to American Jewish History in an Increasingly Post-Jewish Era," *American Jewish History*, Vol. 95, No. 1 (March 2009), pp. 1-32.

Responses:

*Hasia Diner, "Why American Historians Really Ignore American Jewish History," pp. 33-41.

*Alan Kraut, "Dispersionism, Pluralism, and the Nebulous Contours of Post-Jewish Identity," pp. 43-51.

*Paula Hyman, "We Are All Post-Jewish Historians Now: What American Jewish History Brings to the Table," pp. 53-60.

*Tony Michels, "Communalist History and Beyond: What Is The Potential of American Jewish History?" pp. 61-71.

Rejoinder:

*David Hollinger, "A Yet More Capacious Expanse for American Jewish History," pp. 73-78.

Nov. 8: American Jews Between White and Black

Eric Goldstein, *The Price of Whiteness: Jews, Race, and American Identity*, entire book.

*Peter Kolchin, "Whiteness Studies: The New History of Race in America," *Journal of American History*, Vol. 89, No. 1 (June 2002): 154-173.

Nov. 15: Liberalism in Post-War America

Joshua Zeitz, *White Ethnic New York: Jews, Catholics, and the Shaping of Post-War Politics*, entire book.

*Nancy MacLean, *Freedom Is Not Enough: The Opening of the American Workplace* (Harvard Univ. Press, 2006), pp. 185-224.

Nov. 22: class cancelled for Thanksgiving

Nov. 29: Cultural Pluralism

*Philip Gleason, "The Odd Couple: Pluralism and Assimilation," *Speaking of Diversity: Language and Ethnicity in Twentieth-Century America* (Johns Hopkins Univ. Press, 1992), pp. 47-90.

Daniel Greene, *The Jewish Origins of Cultural Pluralism: The Menorah Association and American Diversity*, entire book.

Dec. 6: Nationalism and Post-Ethnicity

Noam Pianko, *Zionism and the Roads Not Taken: Rawidowicz, Kaplan, Kohn*, entire book.

David Hollinger, *Post-Ethnic America: Beyond Multi-Culturalism*, entire book.

Dec. 13: The Question of Silence

Peter Novick, *The Holocaust in American Life*, entire book.

Hasia Diner, *We Remember with Reverence and Love: American Jews and the Myth of Silence after the Holocaust, 1945-1962*, entire book.

Dec. 20: Papers Due