History 901: American Jewish History  
(Spring 2019)  
3:30-5:30  

Tony Michels

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 of you is expected to present the reading(s) throughout 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 will necessarily vary in length, but should typically 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 (with the book assigned for that week being the main focus) 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 on May 9. That paper should be 15 pages in length and synthetic in character, that is, address a particular historiographic issue, question, theme, or problem by drawing on various readings. 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%

The Weinstein-Minkoff Lecture (March 5)
Prof. Bryan Roby (Univ. of Michigan), "Israel through a Colored Lens: African-American Perspectives on Mizrahi Israelis."

Time and Location: Pyle Center, AT&T Lounge, 702 Langdon St. (4:00-5:30).

Week 1 (Jan. 24): Introductions

Week 2 (Jan. 31): What Is American Jewish History?


**Week 3 (Feb. 7): Writing the Survey**


**Week 4 (Feb. 14): Quests for Community**


**Week 5 (Feb. 21): Ethnicity**


Forum on At Home in America


**Week 6 (Feb. 28): Small Town v. Big City**


**Week 7 (March 7): Illegal Jews: Toward a New History of Jewish Immigration**
Britt Tevis, “‘The Hebrews Are Appearing in Court in Great Numbers’: Toward a Reassessment of Early Twentieth-Century American Jewish Immigration History,” American Jewish History, vol. 100, no. 3 (July 2016): 319-347.


**Week 8 (March 14): The New Economic History**


**Week 9 (March 21): Spring Break**

**Week 10 (March 28): Race**


**Week 11 (April 4): African Americans and Jews**


**Week 12 (April 11): African Americans and Jews (cont.)**


**Week 13 (April 18): Zionism, Multiculturalism, and Human Rights**


**Week 14 (April 25): American Judaism**


**Week 15 (May 2): Exceptionalism Defended**