History 35                                                                                     Bob Weinberg (rweinbe1)
Trotter 218                                                                                    8133
Office Hours:  Monday 1-3
             Wednesday 1-3
             And By Appointment

From Emancipation to Extermination:
European Jewry’s Encounter with Modernity

Why did the hopes and promises shared by so many West and East European Jews at the
beginning of the nineteenth century literally turn into ashes in the death camps of Nazi
Germany? This course focuses on the fate of West and East European Jewry from the
beginning of Jewish emancipation in the eighteenth century to the Holocaust. Major
themes include the process of emancipation, the transformation of Jewish self-identity,
and collective responses to modern antisemitism. Special attention is paid to situating the
history of European Jewry in the context of general social, political, intellectual, and
economic trends and developments.

Course Requirements:

Three five-page papers
Eight-page research paper
In-class final exam
Class participation and attendance

Class sessions will be a mix of lecture and discussion of readings. It is imperative that
you keep up with the assignments and come to each class prepared to discuss them.

All students are expected to read the College’s policy on academic honesty and integrity
that appears in the Swarthmore College Bulletin. The work you submit must be your
own, and plagiarism will be penalized. Any work containing plagiarized material will be
granted the grade of “no credit” and may subject you to prosecution by the College
Judiciary Council. When in doubt, check with me.

In addition, I will not accept late papers and will assign a failing grade for the assignment
unless you notify me and receive permission to submit the paper after the due date.
Students are required to attend all classes, and unexcused absences will result in a lower
grade.

The following books are available for purchase and are also on reserve in McCabe:
Rachel Calof, *Rachel Calof’s Story: Jewish Homesteader on the Northern Plains*
Lloyd Gartner, *A History of the Jews in Modern Times*
Joseph Roth, *The Wandering Jews*
Helmut Walser Smith, *The Butcher’s Tale: Murder and Antisemitism in a German Town*

The following reference works may also be useful:

*Blackwell Companion to Jewish Culture: From the Eighteenth Century to the Present* (In Reference)
Norman Roth, ed., *Medieval Jewish Civilization* (In Reference)
*The Blackwell Dictionary of Judaica* (In Reference)
*Encyclopedia Judaica* (In Reference)
Geoffrey Wigoder, *Dictionary of Jewish Biography*
Martin Goodman, ed., *The Oxford Handbook of Jewish Studies*

The following websites provide links to dozens of websites devoted to Jewish Studies:

Center for Jewish History: [http://www.cjh.org/](http://www.cjh.org/)
Go to the “Sites of Interest” link
Educational Program on Yiddish Culture: [http://epyc.yivo.org](http://epyc.yivo.org)
Bibliography of Websites: [http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/bibliowf.html](http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/bibliowf.html)

**September 5: Introduction: Themes of the Course**

**September 7: European Jewry on the Eve of Emancipation**

Salon Baron, “Ghetto and Emancipation” and “Newer Approaches to Emancipation” **BB**

**September 12: European Jewry on the Eve of Emancipation**

Gartner, chapters 1 and 2
Mendes-Flohr and Reinhartz, pp. 18-20
Watch the film *Jud Suss* (90 minutes) before class. On reserve in McCabe

**September 14: Emancipation in England: The Social Variant**

Mendes-Flohr and Reinhartz, pp. 8-17, 21-22, 27-28, 146-150, and 151-152

**September 19: Emancipation in France: The Legal/Political Variant**

Gartner, start reading chapters 3-5 for next several classes
Mendes-Flohr and Reinharz, pp. 114-136

September 21: Emancipation in Central Europe: The Intellectual Variant

Mendes-Flohr and Reinharz, pp. 28-40, 42-44, 48-49, 70-74, and 144-145
Monika Richarz, ed., *Jewish Life in Germany: Memoirs from Three Centuries* (Selections by Ascher Lehmann, Isaac Thannhauser, Eduard Silbermann, and Faibel Siegel) BB

September 26: Emancipation in the Russian Empire

Gartner, chapter 6
Mendes-Flohr and Reinharz, pp. 375-386 and 400-404

September 28: Jews in Arab Lands

Gartner, chapter 7

**FIRST PAPER DUE ON FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29**

October 3: Emancipation in Perspective

The following essays are useful summaries of what we have been discussing for the past several weeks:
Michael Stanislawski, “Russian Jewry, the Russian State, and the Dynamics of Jewish Emancipation” BB
Werner Mosse, “From ‘Schutzjuden’ to ‘Deutsche Staatsburger Judischen Glaubens’: The Long and Bumpy Road to Jewish Emancipation in Germany” BB

October 5: Religious Reform and Counter-Reform

Mendes-Flohr and Reinharz, pp. 161, 167-173, 177-185, and 194-197

October 10: The Rejection of Emancipation and the Emergence of Modern Antisemitism

Gartner, start reading chapter 8
Shulamit Volkov, “The Written Matter and the Spoken Word” BB
Mendes-Flohr and Reinharz, pp. 304-305, 309-312, 325-331, 339-350, and 356-367

October 12: Honing Your Research Skills
Meet in Computer Classroom, McCabe Library, 3rd Floor

October 24: Life in the Old Country

Isaac Bashevis Singer, “Why the Geese Shrieked,” “A Major Din Torah,” and “The Boy Philosopher” BB
Eva Hoffmann, Shtetl, chapter 2 BB
Isaac Babel, “The Story of My Dovecot” BB
Sholem Asch, “Kola Street” BB

October 26: The Blood Libel

Helmut Walser Smith, The Butcher’s Tale: Murder and Antisemitism in a German Town

SECOND PAPER DUE ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27

October 31: Jewish Responses to Antisemitism: The Liberal and Radical Variants

Mendes-Flohr and Reinharz, pp. 417-423
Vladimir Medem, “The Youth of a Bundist” BB
Leon Trotsky, “A Social Democrat Only” BB
Bronislaw Gasser, “From Pole to Jew” BB

November 2: Jewish Responses to Antisemitism: Immigration

Rachel Calof, Rachel Calof’s Story: Jewish Homesteader on the Northern Plains
Watch the film The Yidishe Gaucho (30 minutes) for class. On reserve in McCabe

November 7: Jewish Responses to Antisemitism: The Nationalist Variant

Rabbi Yehuda Alkalai, “The Third Redemption” BB
Rabbi Zvi Kalischer, “Seeking Zion” BB
Peretz Smolenskin, “It is Time to Plant” and Let Us Search Our Ways” BB
Leo Pinsker, “Auto-Emancipation” BB

November 9: Jewish Responses to Antisemitism: The Nationalist Variant

Theodor Herzl, “The Jewish State” BB
Ahad Ha-Am, “The Jewish State and the Jewish Problem” and “The Negation of the Diaspora” BB
Yehiel Michael Pines, “Jewish Nationalism Cannot Be Secular” and “Religion is the Source of Jewish Nationalism” BB
Mendes-Flohr and Reinharz, pp. 493-497, 538-543, 547-548, and 565-566

November 14: Jews and European Culture: The Reshaping of Jewish Identity
Franz Kafka, “Report to the Academy” BB
Marion Kaplan, “Gender and Jewish History in Imperial Germany” BB

November 16: No Class

November 21: Jews under Communism
Mendes-Flohr and Reinharz, pp. 428-436

November 28: Jews in Interwar Europe
Gartner, start reading chapter 9
Mendes-Flohr and Reinharz, pp. 437-439 and 440-442
Ezra Mendelsohn, “Jewish Politics in Interwar Poland: An Overview” BB
Marion Kaplan, “Jewish Women in Nazi Germany: Daily Life, Daily Struggles” BB
Watch the film Image Before My Eyes (90 minutes) for class. On reserve in McCabe

November 30: European Jews View Themselves
Joseph Roth, The Wandering Jews

THIRD PAPER DUE ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1

December 5: Defining Jewishness in the Modern World
“Oswald Rufeisen v. Minister of the Interior” BB

December 7: European Jewry after the Holocaust
Philip Roth, “Eli, the Fanatic” BB

December 12: In-Class Final Exam

FINAL PAPER DUE ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22