Anti-Judaism and Antisemitism in Historical Perspective

Anti-Jewish sentiment goes by many names, including anti-Judaism, Jew-hatred, Judeophobia, and, of course, Antisemitism – a term that was coined in 1879 to give scientific legitimacy to the “longest hatred.” This course will explore the ancient origins of Jew-hatred, examining its development and transformation in the course of the past two millennia, paying particular attention to the shifting theological, ideological, cultural, political and scientific trends that impacted the perception of Jews and Judaism in the modern period.

Course Requirements:

Regular attendance and participation
One in-class presentation
One term paper (12-15 pages)

Jan. 10 Session 1
Introduction


Jan. 17 Session 2
Judeophobia in the Pagan and Early Christian World

Peter Schäfer, Judeophobia: Attitudes toward the Jews in the Ancient World, pp. 15-65, 136-160; selections from the New Testament and Church Fathers


Jan. 24 Session 3
Jewish-Christian Relations in the Medieval and Early Modern World
Jan. 31  Session 4
Reformation, Expulsion and Inquisition


Feb. 7  Session 5
Enlightenment, Emancipation and the “Jewish Question”


Feb. 14  Session 6  (Guest lecturer: Judit Frigyesi)
The Jew as a Cultural Danger


Tuesday, Feb. 19 6 p.m.  Public Lecture

Judit Frigyesi (Bar-Ilan University)
“A stranger to his native language”: a new look at Mendelssohn’s (Jewish) musical tradition

Feb. 21  Session 7
Left-Wing Anti-Semitism


Feb. 28  Session 8
The Anti-Semitic Movement: Case Studies

Jacob Katz, From Prejudice to Destruction, ch. 20-21, 245-272

Choose the readings for one of the following:

(A) Hungary


(B) Germany-Austria

Jacob Katz, From Prejudice to Destruction, ch. 23, 281-291; Selections from JMW


(C) France


(D) Russia


March 7 Session 9

**Jewish Responses to Anti-Semitism I: Self-Defense and Self-Hatred**


March 14 Session 10

**Jewish Responses to Anti-Semitism II: Zionism**


March 21 Session 11 Nazi Anti-Semitism


Film: *Jud Süß* (Germany, 1940)

March 28 Session 12

**Anti-Semitism after the Shoah**