

ANTISEMITISM

Jewish Studies (01:563:269)/History (01:510:269)
Spring 2021, M/Th 2 (9:50–11:10)

Canvas: <https://canvas.rutgers.edu/>

Zoom link for synchronous meetings on M/Th, 10:10-11:10

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85865931703?pwd=TxVMXZ1eWFmcFISMXJBZFWkdRUT09>

Course format:

- Class meets synchronously via Zoom from 10:10–11:10 on Mondays and Thursdays
- Prior to each synchronous meeting, students watch lecture video and submit questions.
- Four times during the semester, students write a short response paper.
- Four times during the semester, students take an open-notes quiz.

Grading:

- Lecture questions (due every Mon and Thurs): 10%
- Class participation (attendance & engagement during synchronous sessions): 10%
- 4 Short Response papers 40% (10% each)
- 4 Quizzes: 40% (10% each)

Course Description:

Recent years have witnessed an upsurge in antisemitic rhetoric and incidents in the United States, Europe, and elsewhere. Jews have been verbally and physically attacked and some have been murdered. The actions and statements of diverse social and political constituencies are labeled antisemitic.

This course invites students to think deeply about contemporary discourses of and about antisemitism in light of their historical precedents and resonances. Students will monitor current events and analyze their representations in the media. They will also study the complex history of antisemitism—a term that has been used to denote a constellation of phenomena that disparage Jews and Judaism. The historical portion of the course will proceed chronologically, starting with an analysis of negative attitudes toward Jews and Judaism in the ancient and medieval worlds and also considering modern Europe, the United States, and the Middle East.

Throughout, attention will be devoted to the wide-ranging contexts and content of antisemitism; the functions that anti-Jewish animus has served in different societies; the roles of religion, science, and politics in anti-Jewish ideologies and actions; factors that have intensified and mitigated anti-Jewish ideologies and their expressions; and the relationships that have existed between hatred of Jews and other forms of prejudice. Students will ponder continuities and turning points in the history of antisemitism as well as the significance of

antisemitism as an analytic category. They will also consider the dangers of focusing on antisemitism at the expense of other dynamics in Jewish history.

Addressing urgent questions in historical perspective, students will emerge better equipped to navigate the challenges of the contemporary world.



This course fulfills the following Core Curriculum requirements:

- **Contemporary Challenges [CC]:** CCD-1. Analyze the degree to which forms of human differences and stratifications among social groups shape individual and group experiences of, and perspectives on, contemporary issues. Such differences and stratifications may include race, language, religion, ethnicity, country of origin, gender identity, sexual orientation, economic status, abilities, or other social distinctions and their intersections.
- **Historical Analysis [HST]:** HST-1. Explain the development of some aspect of a society or culture over time.

Additional Learning Goals:

- Observe current developments and their representations in the media with critical distance
- Understand connections between contemporary and historical expressions of antisemitism
- Understand continuities and turning points in the history of antisemitism as well as the significance of antisemitism as an analytic category

Course materials:

- Deborah Lipstadt, *Antisemitism: Here and Now* (New York: Schocken Books, 2019). \$17.00. ISBN978-0805243376. Available for purchase the Rutgers University Bookstore, Ferren Mall, One Penn Plaza, 732-246-8448.
- All other assigned readings and materials will be posted on the course Canvas site.

COURSE SCHEDULE

I. CONTEXTS AND DEFINITIONS

1. Thurs, Jan. 21. Introduction
2. Mon, Jan 25. Defining Antisemitism
3. Thurs, Jan. 28. Who are Jews?
4. Mon, Feb. 1. Taxonomies of Antisemites
5. Thurs, Feb. 4. Theories of Antisemitism
6. Mon, Feb. 8. Review for Quiz 1
7. Thurs, Feb. 11. Quiz 1

II. ANTIQUITY & THE MIDDLE AGES

8. Mon, Feb. 15. Hellenistic Egypt
9. Thurs, Feb. 18. Imperial Rome
10. Mon, Feb. 22. Emergence of Christianity
11. Thurs, Feb. 25. Medieval Anti-Jewish Stereotypes
12. Mon, March 1. Medieval Anti-Jewish Stereotypes, continued
13. Thurs, March 4. Purity of Blood Legislation
14. Mon, March 8. Review session for Quiz 2
15. Thurs, March 11 Quiz 2

Mon, March 15. SPRING BREAK

Thurs, March 18. SPRING BREAK

III. MODERN TIMES

16. Mon, March 22. Emancipation and its Discontents

17. Thurs, March 25. Crises of Modernization

Mon, March 29, NO CLASS. PASSOVER

18. Thurs, April 1. American Exceptionalism?

19. Mon, April 5. The “Final Solution”

20. Thurs, April 8. “Night and Fog”

21. Mon, April 12. Review session for Quiz 3

22. Thurs, April 15. Quiz 3

IV. CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGES

23. Mon, April 19. Holocaust Denial

24. Thurs, April 22. Anti-Zionism

25. Mon, April 26. Antisemitism and Islamophobia

26. Thurs, April 29. Review Session for Quiz 4

27. Mon, May 3. Quiz 4

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COURSE POLICIES

- **Attendance.** More than 3 unexcused absences will lower the final course grade (for example, from an A to a B). In order to have an absence excused, contact the professor either before or asap after the absence.
- **Late Work** will be marked down a full letter grade every 24 hours (for example, from a B+ to a C+). After one week, it will receive an F.
- **Missing Work.** Failure to turn in an assignment or take an exam will result in failure of the course.
- **Academic Integrity.** Rutgers University takes academic dishonesty very seriously. By enrolling in this course, you assume responsibility for familiarizing yourself with the Academic Integrity Policy and the possible penalties (including suspension and expulsion) for violating the policy. As per the policy, all suspected violations will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct. Academic dishonesty includes (but is not limited to):
 - Cheating
 - Plagiarism
 - Aiding others in committing a violation or allowing others to use your work
 - Failure to cite sources correctly
 - Fabrication
 - Using another person's ideas or words without attribution—re-using a previous assignment
 - Unauthorized collaboration
 - Sabotaging another student's work in doubt, please consult the instructor

For more details, visit <http://nbacademicintegrity.rutgers.edu/home/academic-integrity-policy/> and check out these two short videos:

- [Violation Types](#)
- [Violation Levels and Outcomes](#)

- **Students with Special Needs.** If you need special arrangements for exams or other coursework, please contact the Office for Disability Services (<http://disabilityservices.rutgers.edu/>) and provide the instructor with documentation as soon as possible.

WELLNESS RESOURCES

- **Just In Case Web App:** <http://codu.co/cee05e>
- **Counseling, ADAP & Psychiatric Services (CAPS)**

(848) 932-7884 / 17 Senior Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901/
<http://health.rutgers.edu/medical-counseling-services/counseling/>

CAPS is a University mental health support service that includes counseling, alcohol and other drug assistance, and psychiatric services staffed by a team of professional within Rutgers Health services to support students' efforts to succeed at Rutgers University. CAPS offers a variety of services that include: individual therapy, group therapy and workshops, crisis intervention, referral to specialists in the community and consultation and collaboration with campus partners.

- **Violence Prevention & Victim Assistance (VPVA)**

(848) 932-1181 / 3 Bartlett Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 / www.vpva.rutgers.edu/

The Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance provides confidential crisis intervention, counseling and advocacy for victims of sexual and relationship violence and stalking to students, staff and faculty. To reach staff during office hours when the university is open or to reach an advocate after hours, call 848-932-1181.

- **Disability Services**

(848) 445-6800 / Lucy Stone Hall, Suite A145, Livingston Campus, 54 Joyce Kilmer Avenue, Piscataway, NJ 08854 / <https://ods.rutgers.edu/>

Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines>. If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus's disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early in your courses as possible. To begin this process, please complete the Registration form on the ODS web site at: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form>.

- **Scarlet Listeners**

(732) 247-5555 / <https://rutgers.campuslabs.com/engage/organization/scarletlisteners>

Free and confidential peer counseling and referral hotline, providing a comforting and supportive safe space.

- **Report a Concern:** <http://health.rutgers.edu/do-something-to-help/>