

Professor Paola Tartakoff (she/her)

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Office hours: Th 11:45-12:45 and by appointment

Class Zoom address (passcode, if needed: 001470)

<https://rutgers.zoom.us/j/97107471185?pwd=KzBITm1UcG0vQ2FZZnVNMDY3c25LUT09>

JEWISH HISTORY I: ANCIENT AND MEDIEVAL

History 506:271 / Jewish Studies 563:201 / Middle Eastern Studies 685:208

Fall 2022, M/Th (10:20-11:40)

Miller Hall (14 College Ave.) room 115

Course Description:

This course explores Jewish life from its earliest beginnings in the second millennium BCE through the expulsion of the Jews from Western Europe in the late Middle Ages. Tracing the evolution of one of the world's oldest cultures in a global context, it examines how Jewish traditions developed in conversation with neighboring traditions; the diversity of Jewish societies, beliefs, and practices; and the influence of Judaism on Christianity, Islam, and the contemporary world. This course also introduces students to Jewish historiography, examining how scholars and communities have constructed the Jewish past and the ways these narratives shape Jewish identity. This course is required for majors and minors in Jewish Studies. No prior knowledge is required. All are welcome!



Core Curriculum Historical Analysis [HST] Learning Goals:

- **K:** Explain the development of some aspect of a society or culture over time, including the history of ideas or history of science
- **I:** Employ historical reasoning to study human endeavors

Additional Learning Goals:

- Acquire an overview of major developments in the history of the Jewish people from Israel's ancient beginnings to 1492
- Understand the differences, similarities, and interactions between History and Collective Memory
- Learn to analyze primary sources critically
- Appreciate the ways Jewish culture has been shaped by other cultures as well as the ways Judaism has influenced Christianity, Islam, and the contemporary world
- Grasp the development of key Jewish texts and their roles in shaping communal identity

Required textbook: *The Jews: A History* (3rd edition), ed. John Efron et al. (Pearson, 2019). ISBN: 978-1138298446

- Physical copy purchase: \$105
- Digital version purchase: \$105
- Digital version rental: \$57.75
- **Note: The 2nd edition of this textbook is fine, too** (for example, if you find a used copy on the internet). I will note the page numbers for both the 2nd and 3rd editions on the syllabus.

Grading:

- Class participation (attendance & engagement during class): 10%
- 3 Response papers 45%
- 3 Quizzes 45%

SCHEDULE OF LECTURES and COURSEWORK**1. Thurs, 9/8 Introduction: course mechanics, content, and structure**

Homework, due by the NEXT class:

- Submit Student Questionnaire (in top module on Canvas)
- Obtain your copy of Efron (the textbook)

2. Mon, 9/12 Why Study Jewish History?

Homework, due by the NEXT class:

- Get a head start on Monday's homework

3. Thurs, 9/15

Homework, due by the NEXT class:

- Read:
 - Efron
 - 2nd ed: 1-7, 51
 - 3rd ed: 1-7, 51 (bottom)-53 (top)
 - digital: Chap. 1, from start through "The Biblical World in Brief"; Chap. 2, "A Crash Course in the Jewish Bible," up until the image of a page with three columns of Hebrew from the "Aleppo Codex"
 - Excerpts from the covenant with Abraham: Genesis, [12:1-3](#); [15:18-21](#); [17:2-9](#)

4. Mon, 9/19 Beginnings

Homework, due by the NEXT class:

- Read:
 - Efron
 - 2nd ed: 8-13
 - 3rd ed: 7 (bottom)-14
 - Digital: Chap. 1, from the paragraph that starts "What of the other historical experience" to right before "Fitting the bible into History"
 - The Exodus from Egypt: [Exodus 12:31-42](#); [13:17-20](#); [14](#)

PART I: BIBLICAL TIMES (15th c. BCE – 5th c. BCE)**5. Thurs, 9/22 The Exodus**

Homework, due by the NEXT class:

- Read:
 - Efron
 - 2nd ed: 26-30
 - 3rd ed: 28 (bottom of first column)-32
 - Digital: Chap. 1, from the paragraph that starts “in line with” to end of chapter
 - The covenant at Sinai: [Exodus 19:1-8](#)
 - The Ten Commandments: [Exodus 20:1-17](#)

6. Mon, 9/26 NO CLASS – ROSH HASHANAH

7. Thurs, 9/29 Covenant at Sinai

Homework, due by the NEXT class:

- Read:
 - Efron
 - 2nd ed: 13-21
 - 3rd ed: 14 (bottom of first column)-22 (top of second column)
 - Digital: Chap. 1, from the start of “Fitting the Bible into History” to right before “Surviving Mesopotamian Domination”
 - The covenant with David: [2 Samuel 7:3-16](#)

8. Mon, 10/3 The Israelite Kingdom

Homework, due by the NEXT class:

- Start working on Response Paper 1
- Read:
 - Efron
 - 2nd ed: 21, 24-25
 - 3rd ed: 22 (top of second column)-26
 - Digital: Chap. 1, “Surviving Mesopotamian Domination” until the paragraph that starts “The kingdom of Judah was able to survive”
 - Exile as punishment: [2 Kings 17:7-14](#); [Jeremiah 2:1-20](#)

9. Thurs, 10/6 The Assyrian Invasions

Homework, due by the NEXT class:

- Start working on Response Paper 1
- Read:
 - Efron
 - 2nd ed: 25-26
 - 3rd ed: 26-27
 - Chap. 1, from the paragraph that starts “The kingdom of Judah was able to survive” to end of section
 - Babylonian exile as punishment: [2 Chronicles 36:14-19](#)

10. Mon, 10/10 Babylonian Exile

Homework, due by the NEXT class:

- Use the study guide to prepare for review session
- Submit Response Paper 1

11. Thurs, 10/13 NO CLASS**12. Mon, 10/17 Review session 1 – Response Paper 1 due**

Homework, due by the NEXT class:

- Study for Quiz 1

13. Thurs, 10/20 QUIZ 1

Homework, due by the NEXT class:

- Read:
 - Efron
 - 2nd ed: 33-50
 - 3rd ed: 33-51
 - Digital: Chap. 2: from start to right before “A Crash Course”

PART 2:**SECOND TEMPLE PERIOD and EARLY MIDDLE AGES (6th cent. BCE – 6th cent. CE)****14. Mon, 10/24 Return to Judah**

Homework, due by the NEXT class:

- Read:
 - Efron
 - 2nd ed: 52-68
 - 3rd ed: 54-71
 - Digital: Chap. 2, from right after the image of a page with three columns of Hebrew from the “Aleppo Codex” to right before the section in Chap. 3 titled “Seleucid Rule...”
 - Excerpts from the Letter of Aristeas (Canvas)

15. Thurs, 10/27 Hellenization

Homework, due by the NEXT class:

- Read:
 - Efron
 - 2nd ed: 68-76
 - 3rd ed: 71 (bottom of second column)-80 (half of first column)
 - Digital: Chap. 3, from “Seleucid Rule” to right before the section “Emerging Religious Differences”
 - [2 Maccabees 5:11-8:36](#)

16. Mon, 10/31 The Maccabean Revolt

Homework, due by the NEXT class:

- Start working on Response Paper 2
- Read:
 - Efron
 - 2nd ed: 85-106
 - 3rd ed: 89-110 (first column)
 - Digital: Chap. 4, from start to right before “Christianity’s Emergence from Jewish Culture”
 - Josephus on the fall of Masada (Canvas)

17. Thurs, 11/3 The Roman-Jewish Wars

Homework, due by the NEXT class:

- Start working on Response Paper 2
- Read:
 - Efron
 - 2nd ed: 76-83, 106-48
 - 3rd ed: 80-87, 110 (bottom of first column)-152
 - Digital: Chap. 3, “Emerging Religious Differences,” Chap. 4, from “Christianity’s Emergence from Jewish Culture” through the end of Chap. 5
 - Rabban Yohanan ben Zakkai and the destruction of Jerusalem (Canvas)
 - Josephus on “Jewish sects” (Canvas)

18. Mon, 11/7 Varieties of Second Temple Period Judaism

Homework, due by the NEXT class:

- Use the study guide to prepare for review session
- Submit Response Paper 2

19. Thurs, 11/10 Review session 2 – *Response Paper 2 due*

Homework, due by the NEXT class:

- Study for Quiz 2

20. Mon, 11/14 QUIZ 2

Homework, due by the NEXT class:

- Read:
 - Efron
 - 2nd ed: 149-60
 - 3rd ed: 154-65
 - Digital: Chap. 6, from start through “Egypt, Palestine, and the Karaite Challenge”
 - [The Pact of Umar](#)
 - A Karaite refutation of rabbinic Judaism (Canvas)

PART 3: MIDDLE AGES (7th cent. – 15th cent.)

21. Thurs, 11/17 Jewish Institutions and Diversity in Muslim Lands

Homework, due by the NEXT class:

- Read:
 - Efron
 - 2nd ed: 161-76
 - 3rd ed: 165 (bottom of second column)-181
 - Chap. 6, from “the ‘Golden Age’ of Muslim Spain” to end of chapter
 - Poems by Dunash ibn Labrat and Judah Halevi (Canvas)

22. Mon, 11/21 The “Golden Age” of Jewish Culture

Homework, due by the NEXT class:

- Read:
 - Efron
 - 2nd ed: 178-90
 - 3rd ed: 183-195 (half of first column)
 - Digital: Chap. 7, from start until right before “Crusades”
 - [The charter of Bishop Rudiger of Speyer](#)

23. Tues, 11/22 Jewish Culture in Medieval Ashkenaz (THURSDAY CLASSES)

Homework, due by the NEXT class:

- Read:
 - Efron
 - 2nd ed: 190-95, and review 112-13
 - 3rd ed: 195-99, and review 116-18
 - Digital: Chap. 7, “Crusades” and review Chap. 4, from the paragraph toward end starting with “It is in the context of this rivalry”
 - Passion narrative from the Gospel of Matthew: Matthew 27:22-51
 - [The child murder libel: Hugh of Lincoln](#)

24. Thurs, 11/24 NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING

25. Mon, 11/28 Thurs, 12/1 Medieval Anti-Judaism

Homework

- Start working on Response Paper 3
- Read:
 - Efron
 - 2nd ed: 213-16
 - 3rd ed: 215 (half second column)-221 (half first column)
 - Digital: Chap. 8, “Iberian Jewry Between Inquisition and Expulsion”
 - [Statutes of Purity of Blood](#)

26. Thurs, 12/1 The Conversos and the Spanish Inquisition

Homework, due by the NEXT class:

- Start working on Response Paper 3
- Read:
 - [The edict of expulsion of 1492](#)

27. Mon, 12/5 The Expulsion of 1492

Homework, due by the NEXT class:

- Use the study guide to prepare for review session
- Submit Response Paper 3

28. Thurs, 12/8 Review session 3 – *Response Paper 3 due*

Homework, due by the NEXT class:

- Study for Quiz 3

29. Mon, 12/12 QUIZ 3

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/>

- **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/>