



HS/RL 312 COEXISTENCE AND CONFLICT: THE HISTORY OF THE EAST AND CENTRAL EUROPEAN JEWS
IES Abroad Vienna

DESCRIPTION:

The course is intended to discuss the most important turning points in the history of the East and Central European Jews from the early modern times to the present. The topics include the birth of the Jewish communities in Eastern Europe, the Jewish struggle for emancipation in the various East European societies in the 19th century, the peculiarities of Jewish life in the Habsburg Empire (especially during the 1867-1918 period) and in Czarist Russia, the rise of anti-Semitism and Zionism, the interwar period and the authoritarian and totalitarian regimes in East and Central Europe, the Holocaust (including recent debates), the Jews in the Communist societies and in post-Communist Eastern and Central Europe.

CREDITS: 3 credits

CONTACT HOURS: 45 hours

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION: English

PREREQUISITES: Basic knowledge of early modern, modern and contemporary European history

METHOD OF PRESENTATION: Lectures and discussion

REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT:

- Class participation - 10%
- Midterm Exam - 40%
- Final Exam - 50%

Class Participation

The participants are supposed to be prepared for the classes by reading the assigned texts in advance.

A	<p>Excellent participation</p> <p>The student’s contributions reflect an active reading of the assigned bibliography. Skillfully synthesizes the main ideas of the readings and raises questions about the applications and implications of the material. Demonstrates, through questions and comments, that he or she has been capable of relating the main ideas in the readings to the other information discussed in the course, and with his or her own life experience. The student makes informed judgments about the readings and other ideas discussed in class, providing evidence and reasons. He/she respectfully states his/her reactions about other classmates’ opinions, and is capable of contributing to the inquiry spiral with other questions. The student gets fully involved in the completion of the class activities.</p>
B	<p>Very good participation</p> <p>The student’s contributions show that the assigned materials are usually read. Most of the time the main ideas are identified, even though sometimes it seems that applications and implications of the information read were not properly reflected upon. The student is able to construct over others’ contributions, but sometimes seems to interrupt the shared construction to go over tangents. He/she is respectful of others’ ideas. Regularly involved in the activities but occasionally loses concentration or energy.</p>

C	<p>Regular participation</p> <p>The participant evidences a regular reading of the bibliography, but in a superficial way. He/she tries to construct over others' ideas, but commonly provides comments that indicate lack of preparation about the material. Frequently, contributions are shallow or unarticulated with the discussion in hand.</p>
F	<p>Insufficient participation</p> <p>Consistently, the participant reads in a shallow way or does not read at all. Does not participate in an informed way, and shows lack of interest in constructing over others' ideas.</p>

Midterm Exam

10 ID questions and an essay question of about 300 words

Final Exam

10 ID questions and an essay question of about 300 words

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

By the end of the course students will:

- be familiar with the political, social, economic, and cultural history of the Jewish people in Eastern and Central Europe since the late Middle Ages to the present by the end of the course.
- have acquire a deeper knowledge of the various issues related to the Jewish communities in the 19th and 20th centuries with a special emphasis on the roots of anti-Semitism and the Holocaust.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

IES Abroad Vienna requires attendance at all class sessions, including field study excursions, internship meetings, scheduled rehearsals, and exams. Attendance will be taken for every class. If a student misses more than two classes without an excuse, the final grade will be reduced by one-third of a letter grade (for example, A- to B+) for every additional unexcused absence.

Excused Absences are permitted only when:

- 1) a student is ill (health issues),
- 2) when class is held on a recognized religious holiday traditionally observed by the particular student, or
- 3) in the case of a grave incident affecting family members;
- 4) Exceptions may be made for conflicting academic commitments, but only in writing and only well in advance of missed class time.

Please refer to IES Vienna Attendance Policy for details on how to get your absences excused.

CONTENT:

Week	Content	Assignments
Week 1	<p>Session 1 Orientation Definition of basic concepts: Eastern, Central, East-Central Europe</p> <p>Session 2 Various approaches to the history of Jews: ethnicity, nationality, religion, race.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Johnson 1-8 • Gruber 15-21 • Hobsbawm 1-8

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assimilation and dissimilation. 2. The origins and early history of the Jewish people. 3. The diaspora 	
Week 2	<p>Session 1 The Jewish communities in Europe in the Middle Ages. The beginnings of social and political discrimination.</p> <p>Session 2 Historical and political debates about the social, economic, political and cultural role of the Jews in Eastern and Central European history.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cohn-Sherbock 121-143
Week 3	<p>Session 1 The economic and social basis of Jewish autonomies in Poland.</p> <p>Session 2 Assimilation and acculturation of Jews in Eastern Europe.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goldberg 31-54 • Kieniewicz 70-77 • Polonsky 1-22; • Lichten 106-129; • Haumann 1-32, 99-204
Week 4	<p>Session 1 Jews and the Habsburg Empire before 1867.</p> <p>Session 2 The beginnings of 'self-denial'. High and low culture in Jewish society in Vienna.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • McCagg 27-46, 123-139 • Beller 73-87; • Johnston 158-62; • Schorske 181-207
Week 5	<p>Session 1 Anti-Semitism in Eastern Europe.</p> <p>Session 2 Revision</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lendvai 32-45
Week 6	<p>Session 1 Mid-term exam</p> <p>Session 2 The situation of East and Central European Jews between the two World Wars (with special reference to Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Romania)</p> <p>March 24th: A trip to the Mauthausen Memorial</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lendvai 32-45
Week 7	<p>Session 1</p>	

	<p>Hitler's coming to power; plans for the 'final solution' of the Jewish question. The debate over the 'intentionalists' and the 'functionalists'.</p> <p>Session 2 A visit to the Jewish Museum (guided tour)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goldhagen
Week 8	<p>Session 1 The Germans and the Holocaust. The Catholic Church and the Holocaust.</p> <p>Session 2 The Holocaust in Eastern and Central Europe.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deak 67-88; 100-110 • Pók 147-57; • Braham 285-304; • Deak 129-36; Stark 1-24; • Florian 77-115
Week 9	<p>Session 1 Sunshine (video) The Jewish experience in Hungary in the late 19th and the 20th centuries.</p> <p>Session 2 Sunshine (continued) Discussion.</p>	
Week 10	<p>Session 1 The Jews in the Soviet bloc countries. Communism and anti-Semitism.</p> <p>Session 2 The Jewish people in post-Communist Eastern and Central Europe.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lendvai 3-31, 67-86; • Wasserstein 180-205, 206-226 • Braham 1-30; • Vörös 89-125; • Chlenov 17-29.
Week 11	Revision	
Week 12	Final Exam (exact date and time to be announced)	

COURSE-RELATED TRIPS:

- Mauthausen Memorial (March 24)
- Jewish Museum (week 7)



REQUIRED READINGS:

- Abramsky, Ch.-Jachmczyk, M.-Polonsky, A. eds. (1986): The Jews in Poland
- The Holy Bible (The Old Testament)
- Braham, R. L.-Pók, A., eds. (1994): The Holocaust in Hungary Fifty Years Later
- Braham, R. L. ed. (1994): The Tragedy of Romanian Jewry
- Chlenov, M. "The Jewish Community of Russia. The Present-day Situation". East European Jewish Affairs. Summer 2002. 17-29.
- Cohn-Sherbock, D. (1994): Atlas of Jewish History
- Deak, I. (2001): Essays on Hitler's Europe
- Goldhagen, D. J. (1996): Hitler's Willing Executioners. Ordinary Germans and the Holocaust
- Haumann, Heiko (2002): A History of East European Jews
- Hobsbawm, Eric (2005): Benefits of Diaspora. London Review of Books online
- Lendvai, P. (1971): Anti-Semitism in Eastern Europe
- McCagg, W. O. (1989): A History of Habsburg Jews 1670-1918
- Pók, A. "Germans, Hungarians and the Destruction of Hungarian Jewry". In: Cesaroni, D. ed. (1997): Genocide and Rescue. The Holocaust in Hungary in 1944
- Polonsky, A.-Basista, J.-Lenczowski, A. eds. (1993): The Jews in Old Poland
- Schorske, C. (1961): Fin-de-siecle Vienna
- Stark, T. (1997): The Jewish Holocaust in Hungary, Romania and Slovakia Revisited
- Vörös, K. "How Jewish is Jewish Budapest?". Jewish Social Studies. Fall 2001. 89-125.

Filmography

- Sunshine (2007)

RECOMMENDED READINGS:

- Schama, Simon (2014): The Story of the Jews. Finding the Words, 1000 BCE – 1492CE
- Schama, Simon (2017): Belonging. The Story of the Jews, 1492-1900
- Ferguson, Niall (2000): The House of Rothschild. The World Banker 1849-1999