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Fall 2019
01:195:380:01
01:470:380:01
01:563:380:01
MW 4 (1:10-2:30)
Scott Hall 114

Germans and Jews: An Intercultural History

Course Description:

The course surveys German-Jewish culture from the eighteenth century to 1935. A wide range of philosophical, theological, political, literary, and dramatic texts will be studied including works by Gotthold Ephraim Lessing, Moses Mendelssohn, Rahel Varhagen, Heinrich Heine, Karl Marx, Moses Hess, Franz Kafka, Else Lasker-Schüler, Franz Rosenzweig, Sigmund Freud, and Martin Buber. Topics to be covered include the question of a German-Jewish “symbiosis;” Enlightenment, “Bildung” and what it means to be a “mensch”; Berlin salon culture; socialism and assimilation; anti-Semitism and Zionism; theology and redemption; religion and psychoanalysis. Taught in English.

No Prerequisites

Course credits may be counted toward German Studies, Jewish Studies or Comparative Literature Majors.

Required Readings: Books to be purchased are available at RU Bookstore, Follett #850, One Penn Plaza, Ferren Mall. All other readings available on Sakai:

<https://sakai.rutgers.edu/portal/site/aa6a46d1-9ad5-4e1d-a7c8-67e697faf578/page/cd96a6e2-5497-4185-9e58-1f358104e1a4>

Downloaded texts should either be printed out (preferred option) or brought to class in a readily accessible and easy-to-highlight electronic form.

Activities and Grading:

[1] Students are expected to keep up with reading assignments and to participate actively in class discussions Class participation: 10%

[2] 3 papers 6 pages (1500-words) in length: 90%

Department Policies

o Attendance

All students must attend regularly and arrive prepared; if you expect to miss one or two classes, please use the University absence reporting website <https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/> to indicate the date and reason for your absence. An email is automatically sent to me. Those who miss more than two class sessions without a compelling excuse should expect a one-step reduction in the course grade (i.e. an A becomes a B+, a B+ becomes a B). Three late arrivals count as one

absence. Note: It is the responsibility of students who have been absent (for any reason) to find out what they have missed and obtain materials that may have been handed out.

o ***Disability Support Services***

Students who may be requesting accommodations due to disabilities are encouraged to familiarize themselves with procedures and policies regarding disability support services at the following website: <http://disabilityservices.rutgers.edu/>. It is recommended that students seeking accommodations begin filing paperwork as soon as possible as the documentation review process may take up to 30 business days. Students are encouraged to speak with teachers about these issues at the beginning of the term. All such conversations will be kept strictly confidential.

o ***Academic Integrity***

Violations of academic integrity are an extremely serious matter, and can lead to a student's failing the course and being referred to the University's Office of Student Conduct for disciplinary action. When referring to ideas other than your own, always acknowledge your sources clearly and completely, whether you are quoting or paraphrasing. Note also that use of online translation services is not permitted as a tool for generating work that you submit for course credit. Please see the University's policies on academic integrity at <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/>, and discuss with your instructor any questions you may have about this and related issues.

Important Additional Information:

Cell phones and all other technological devices (beepers, iPods, MP3players...) *must be turned off during class*. Failure to comply may result in dismissal from class and a drop in class participation grade.

Office hours:

Students are strongly advised to consult with the professor about any problems that might arise regarding topics discussed or material to be covered in a paper, etc. **Office hours are Mondays between 4:15 and 6:00 p.m. —or by appointment.** Do not bottle up all questions for the session before a paper is due.

Grading Scale:

92-100=**A**; 87-91=**B+**; 81-86=**B**; 77-80=**C+**; 70-76=**C**; 65-69=**D**; 0-64=**F**

Recommended Reading:

Paul Mendes-Flohr, *The Jew in the Modern World: A Documentary History*

Katja Garloff, *Mixed Feelings*

Gershom Scholem, *On Jews and Judaism in Crisis*

Amos Elon, *The Pity of It All: A Portrait of the German-Jewish Epoch 1743-1933*

Enzo Traverso, *The Jews & Germany*

Hermann Levin Goldschmidt, *The Legacy of German Jewry*

Course schedule

Assignments: Students are expected to prepare readings for each session as listed below.

NOTE: This schedule is subject to change.

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Sept 4W: Introduction: What's Love Got to do with It?

Scholem, "Against the Myth of German-Jewish Dialogue," "Jews and Germans"
Garloff, *Mixed Feelings: Tropes of Love in German Jewish Culture* (sel.)

Sept 9M: What is a Mensch? Enlightenment and *Bildung*

Dohm, "Concerning the Amelioration of the Civil Status of the Jews"
Frederick II, "The Charter Decreed for the Jews of Prussia"
Mendelssohn "Response to Dohm"

Sept 11W: Lessing, *Nathan the Wise*, Acts 1-2;

Sept 16M: Lessing, *Nathan the Wise*, acts 3-5;

Sept 18W: Kant, "What is Enlightenment?"

Mendelssohn "What Does 'To Enlighten' Mean?"

Sept 23M: Mendelssohn, *Jerusalem*, section 1

Sept 25W: Mendelsohn, *Jerusalem*, section 2
Wessely "Words of Peace and Truth"

Sept 30 ROSH HASHANAH (no class)

Oct 2W: Maimon, Autobiography, pp. 1-144

Oct 7M: Maimon, Autobiography, pp. 145-289

Oct 9W Yom Kippur (no class)

FIRST PAPER DUE

Oct 14M: Salon Culture

Kaplan, "1812 The German romance with *Bildung* begins, with the publication of Rahel
Tewarson 1833 Rahel Varnhagen, *salonière* and epistolary writer
Levin's correspondence about Goethe;
Rahel Levin and David Veit, "Correspondence"

Oct 16W: Salon Culture (cont.)

Henrietta Hertz, "1804 Madame de Stael pays a visit to the Berlin salons of the lucky
Jewish dilettantes"

Oct 21M: Heine, Marx and the Jewish Question

Heine, *The Rabbi of Bacharach*

Heine, selections from *The Book of Songs*, “To Set Your Mind at Rest,” “Night Thoughts,” “Germany,” “The Silesian Weavers”

Oct 23W: No class (to be rescheduled)

Sigmund Freud, *Future of an Illusion*

Oct 28M: Heine, “Jessica,” “The Slave Ship,” *Hebrew Melodies*, *Germany: A Winter’s Tale*

Marx, “On the Jewish Question”

Oct 30W: Marx, “On the Jewish Question”

Nov 4M: “Anti-Semitism” and Zionism

Wagner, *The Jew in Music*

Marr and Dühring, “Anti-Semitism”

Nov 11M (no class; to be made up)

Lasker-Schüler, “The Voices of Eden,” “O God,” selections from *Hebrew*

Ballads, “Jerusalem,” “Over Glistening Gravel,” “To Me,” “Friday Night”

Nov 13W: (no class; to be made up)

Kafka, “Jackals and Arabs”

Butler, “Who Owns Kafka?”

Nov 18M: Moses Hess, *Rome and Jerusalem*, pp. 35-105;

Nov 20W: Hess, *Rome and Jerusalem*, pp. 106-78;

Nov 25M: Theodor Herzl, “Autobiography,” excerpts from *The Jewish State*;

SECOND PAPER DUE

Dec 2M: Martin Buber, *On Judaism*, 3-55

Dec 4W: Buber, *On Judaism*, 56-107, 149-74

Dec 9M: Franz Rosenzweig, *On Jewish Learning*, 27-71

Dec 11W: Rosenzweig, *On Jewish Learning*, 72-92, 103-24

Dec 13M: **LAST PAPER DUE**

