

*University of California at San Diego*

## *Politics in the Jewish Past*



HIEU 176/276

Spring 2015

#840735

Professor Deborah Hertz

HSS 6024

534 5501

**Office hours:** Tuesdays 10-12 and by appointment

Class meets Tuesdays 12:30-3:20 in HSS 5086

**Requirements.** Students are required to attend class regularly, do the reading, and make lively comments in class. We will depend upon all of you for interesting conversations. You are required to post at least five short paragraphs during the quarter on our Web site.

Your major requirement is a historical essay, not intended to be original research, but rather a thoughtful exploration of a topic of interest to you. Your final grade will be based on the following point distribution: postings on our TED site and class participation 10; abstract of proposed essay topic 5; outline and short bibliography 10; five-

page draft of essay 15; final version of essay 60. For your essay, plan to use at least one scholarly book or four scholarly articles. Do not use Internet sources. For undergraduates, essays should be 20 pages; for graduate students 25 pages.

## Books

All books have been ordered with the Price Center Bookstore and have been placed on reserve. If you wish to save money, please use your local library, use the reserve copy, or order the book on Kindle. [All the books except Tom Segev are available in Kindle editions.]

Jonathan Petrovsky-Shtern, GOLDEN AGE GHETTO

Lucy Dawidowicz, THE GOLDEN TRADITION

David Biale, POWER AND POWERLESSNESS IN JEWISH HISTORY

Shlomo Avineri, HERZL'S VISION

Tom Segev, THE SEVENTH MILLION

Anita Shapira, BEN GURION

### **Recommended background sources on modern Jewish history:**

Simon Schama, *Story of the Jews*, Volumes One and Two, also available as the DVD of a BBC series

Paul Johnson, *The History of the Jews*

David Vital, *A People Apart*

## CLASS SCHEDULE

**March 31**      **Introduction: The Political Legacy of Jewish History**

No reading.

**April 7**      **The Era of the “State within a State”**

Biale, Chapters Two and Three

Recommended: Dawidowicz, Introduction 4-92

**April 14**      **The Golden Age of the Jewish Shtetl in Russia**

Petrovsky-Shtern, Introduction and Chapters One, Four and Five

Recommended: Petrovsky-Shtern, Chapters Two, Three and Six

**Please turn in a short one-paragraph abstract of your proposed essay topic**

**April 15** Please attend the *Holocaust Living History Workshop* at 5:30 in the Library, for a panel on “Growing Up in the Shadow of the Holocaust” with UCSD professors.

**April 21** **The Decline of the Shtetl and Jewish Modernity in Russia**

Petrovsky-Shtern, Chapters Seven, Nine and Conclusion

Shapira, Chapter One

Recommended: Petrovsky-Shtern, Chapters Eight and Ten

**April 28** ***Assimilation in Nineteenth-Century Europe***

Biale, Chapters Four and Five

Dawidowicz, choose one short memoir from Part Two, Three and Six

Avineri, Chapter Two

**Please turn in a one-page outline and short bibliography.**

**May 5** **Theodor Herzl, Unlikely Founder of Political Zionism**

Avineri, Chapters One, Three, Four, Five and Six

Dawidowicz, Part Nine

**May 6:** Please attend the *Holocaust Living History Workshop* at 5 pm for a talk on looted art during the Holocaust.

**May 12** ***The Lost Politics of Multicultural Jewish Socialism***

Dawidowicz, Part Ten

**May 19** **Ben Gurion, Visionary and Pragmatist**

Shapira, Chapters Two through Six

Avineri, Chapters Eight and Nine

**Please turn in a five page draft of your essay.**

**May 26    Could the Jews in the Yishuv in Palestine Save the Jews of Europe?**

Segev, Parts One, Two, Three and Six

**Please post your completed essay on our web site and turn in one hard paper copy.**

**June 2      Roundtable on Student Essays**

**Topics for essays:** write a biography of a leading figure of your choice; write about a particular movement in a particular era or region; contrast major works of historiography about a controversial topic; write about a novel, film or play using academic works of history for interpretation; write about a memoir or contrasting memoirs of major personalities from the same era; choose a theme such as private lives, victimhood, violence or revenge and discuss this theme in a particular episode of Jewish history; select a topic in the history of gender, masculinity, or women's history. Topics on the theme of the course in American Jewish history are welcomed.