

University of California at San Diego

HITO 106

LOVE AND FAMILY IN THE JEWISH PAST



Winter quarter 2015

Professor Deborah Hertz

Department of History
HSS 6024
858 534 5501

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 11-12

Class meets Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:30—1:50 in HSS 1305

Rather than sending me emails, it is better to speak to me before or after class or call me in my office during my office hour. Better yet, come to office hours!!!!

Course Description. This course explores Jewish women's experiences from the seventeenth century to the present, covering Europe, the United States, and Israel. We examine work, marriage, motherhood, spirituality, education, community and politics across three centuries and three continents.

Requirements.

Students should **do the reading** and come prepared for discussion in class. This is a small class and we shall rely on each student for vigorous debate in the classroom!!!

Ongoing conversations on our TED web site: please post a very short [no more than five sentences] comment on the readings on the evening before those texts are discussed in class, for at least 10 out of the class sessions. Your contributions to our TED conversations will count toward the 10 points of your grade focused on class participation. [If you have difficulty logging onto the site, please visit the Academic Computing Services office in the AP and M Building, 2113, 858 822 3315. Log in by visiting the site <http://TED.ucsd.edu>.]

Essays and class presentations. Students are expected to write a 15 page **essay**, due at the end of the quarter. Topics for the essays should be chosen by Week Two of the quarter, although you are free to switch topics at any point. Use the suggestions noted for each of our class sessions, or choose a topic not listed on the syllabus. Please make a short 5 minute presentation of your work in class at a session as close as possible to the time period/place of your topic. We will discuss the format for the research and writing of the essay to the due date.

Students will be turning in an **outline** and a **partial draft** of the essay at specific times during the quarter, and the class will break into two **Writing Workshops** during the quarter. Note these dates on the syllabus please!

There is no midterm in this class, but there will be a **take-home final** due on March 17.

Points toward your final grade: final 30; final version of essay 30; web and class discussion 10; outline 15 and partial draft of essay 15. You are expected to make a class presentation but these presentations are not graded.

Books.

All books have been ordered at the Price Center Bookstore, and have also been placed on reserve. Many are available on *Kindle* and sections of many of the books have been scanned by *Google*, although usually not every single page.

Naomi Shepherd, *Price Below Rubies*. Harvard University Press, 9780674704114. No Kindle edition.

Gluckel of Hameln, *Memoirs of Gluckel of Hameln*. Schocken Press, 9780805205725. Kindle edition available.

David Biale, *Eros and the Jews*. University of California Press, 9780520211346. [Entire text of the book is available online at [//ark.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/ft2489n812](http://ark.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/ft2489n812)]

Marion Kaplan, *Between Dignity and Despair*. Oxford University Press, 9780195130928. Kindle edition available.

Isaac Metzker, *A Bintel Brief*. Schocken, 9780805209808. Kindle edition available.

Hannah Decker, *Freud, Dora and Vienna*. Free Press, 9780029072127. No Kindle edition available.

Class Schedule

January 6 Introduction

January 8 Women, Just a Footnote to Jewish History?

Read Shepherd, Chapter One and Biale, Chapter Three

Topics: portrayal of women by the following historians: Daniel Boyarin, Heinrich Graetz; Salo Baron; Jacob Katz; Simon Dubnow.

January 13 The Business Wife in a Yiddish Memoir

Read: Gluckel of Hameln, Introduction and Books One, Three, Four and Six

Topics: Esther Liebmann; Madam Kaula; women in the Shabbatean movement; women in the life of *Jud Suss*; Jewish and Christian women as portrayed in the Nazi film version of the Jud Suss biography; required clothing for Jews in the medieval era; Jewish teachings on menstruation; the history of Jewish arranged marriages; comparative perspectives on the dowry.

January 16 Women in Kabbalah and Hassidism

Read: Biale, Chapters Five and Six

Topics: Baal Shem Tov, Nahman of Bratslav, Hannah Rokhel, the Maid of Ludomir; Jacob Frank's followers and wives; folk healing in the Jewish tradition; migration of religious Jews to Safed; research on spiritual women by Ada Rapoport-Albert.

January 20 Did Jewish Women Matter to the Reformers?

Read: Biale, Chapter Seven

Topics: Moses Mendelssohn, Herz Homberg, Solomon Maimon; Amalia Beer and the first Reform services; family lives of the *maskilim*; critiques of commercialized marriage by reformers.

January 27 Jewish Salons from Berlin to Los Angeles

Recommended reading: Emily Bilski and Emily Braun, eds., *Jewish Women and Their Salons: The Power of Conversation*, exhibition catalogue, *Jewish Museum*, on reserve.

Topics: Rahel Levin Varnhagen, Dorothea Mendelssohn Schlegel, Henriette Herz; Fanny Lewald, Fanny von Arnstein; Michael Meyer on the salon women; Hilde Spiel biography of Fanny von Arnstein; Amalia Beer; Hannah Arendt biography of Rahel Varnhagen; conversion trends.

Two-page outline of essay due in hard copy

January 29: Jewish Women in Russian Populism

Read: Shepherd, Chapter Two

Topics: Anna Kuliscioff; Pauline Wengeroff; Gesia Gelfman; Barbara Engel, historian of radical women; Russian women students in Switzerland; Jewish women as physicians.

Writer's Workshop in class

February 3 Drama and Tragedy in the Herzl Family

No reading

Topics: Theodor Herzl; Julie Herzl; the Herzl children; Martin Buber and Paula Winkler Buber; Vera Weizman; Vladimir Jabotinsky; Max Nordau; the concept of degeneration

February 5 Bertha Pappenheim, Religious Crusader Against Jewish Prostitution

Read: Shepherd, Chapter Six

Topics: Pauline Wengeroff; Sigmund Freud, Joseph Breuer; Edward Bristow on history of Jewish prostitution; Jewish prostitution in Argentina; depiction of Pappenheim in novel by Irwin Yalom; Pappenheim's attitude toward Zionism; antisemitism in German feminism; unwed mothers in Jewish society.

February 10 Jewish Women in Upper-Class Vienna

Read: Hannah Decker, Prologue and Chapters One through Five

Topics: Ida Bauer {Freud's Dora}; Max Nordau; Magnus Hirschfeld; antisemitism and women in Austria-Hungary; women in Arthur Schnitzler's novels; women and hysteria; employment patterns of married Jewish women; methods of birth control in late nineteenth-century Europe.

February 12 Freud, Femininity, and Judaism

Read: Decker, Chapters Six through Nine and Epilogue

Topics: Anna Freud, Jacob Freud, Martha Bernays Freud; Minna Bernays; Freud's friendship with Wilhelm Fliess; concepts of women's sexuality in early psychoanalysis; Melanie Klein; Lou Andreas Salome; antisemitic critiques of Jewish masculinity; Daniel Boyarin's portrait of Freud in his *Unheroic Conduct*.

Writer's Workshop in class

February 17 Zionism as Erotic Revolution?

Read: Biale Chapter Eight

Topics: Dvora Baron; Ada Maimon; Rachel Katznelson Shazar; Henriette Szold; Vera Weizmann; Joseph Brenner; Berl Katznelson; Meier Yaari; Hanna Meizel; Golda Meier; Ada Maimon, Marie Sirkin, Rachel Yanait Ben Zvi; Manya Shochat; women in the first kibbutzim; portrayal of women pioneers in films by Amos Gitai; *Shomer Ha-Zair*; Todd Presner depiction of "muscular Judaism."

February 19 Love Money and Career in the Life of Rosa Luxemburg

Read: Shepherd, Chapter Three.

Topics: Leon Trotsky; Eva Broido; Lev Deutsch; Anna Epstein; Beta Kaminskaya; Jenny Marx; Eleanor Marx; Rosa Luxemburg, Emma Goldman; Jews in German social democracy.

February 24 Yiddish Socialism

Read: Shepherd, Chapter Four.

Topics: Esther Frumkin; Miriam Raskin; Anna Rozental; Pati Kremer; Liuba Levinson-Aizenshtat; Roza Levit; Esther Riskind; Esther Richter, Bella Shapiro, Manya Rozen

February 26 Jewish Women in Nazi Germany before 1938

Read: Kaplan, Introduction and Chapters One through Four

Topics: Bella Fromm, Bertha Pappenheim, Hannah Arendt, Else Lasker-Schueler, Regina Jonas, Gertrud Kolmar, Eva Klemperer, Anna Seghers; Nazi regulations on abortion and racial family policy; “racial suicide” among modern Jews in Germany; women’s work patterns in the Nazi era; family conflicts over emigration

March 3 Women Escape and Endure Nazi Rule

Read: Kaplan, Chapters Five through Eight

Topics: Ruth Kluger; Edith Orenstein; Trude Neumann [daughter of Theodor Herzl]; Hannah Steiner; Fritzi Zucker; Ilse Blumenthal-Weiss; Gertrud Kantorowitz; Fredy Hirsch; Ruth Bondy; Ilona Karmel; Felicja Karay; Ruth Kornbloom-Rosenberger; Sara Nomberg-Przytyk; Cecilie Klein; Judith Isaacson; Cara De Silva; Lucie Adelsberger; Gisela Perl; Olga Lengyel; Charlotte Delbo; Giuliana Tedeschi; recent research on rape and harassment in the Holocaust; brothels in concentration camps; the Ravensbruck camp for women; lesbian women in Nazi policy; homosexual men in Nazi policy; sterilization; debate between Claudia Koonz and Gisela Bock regarding antisemitism and sexism.

Five page draft of essay due in hard copy.

March 5 Immigrant Women and their Fathers, Husbands, and Children

Read: *Bintel Brief*, Introduction and Forward and pages 38-128.

Topics: Fannia Cohn; Clara Lemlich; Mary Antin, Rose Cohen, Rose Kaplan; Rose Schneiderman; Abraham Cahan; comparisons between immigrant Jews and Italians; middle-class and working-class Jewish women; teen girl workers in the garment industry; women and the union movement.

March 12 Debating the Future in Light of the Past

Choose one of the following institutions or populations, and participate in a class discussion expressing how this group views women’s status in Judaism: Orthodox Judaism in the United States; Orthodox Judaism in Israel; Reform Judaism; Conservative Judaism; Reconstructionist Judaism; Labor Zionism in contemporary Israel; New Age Judaism in the United States; women in the settler movement in the occupied territories; secular feminism.

Questions for the take-home examination will be distributed.

March 17: Take home essay final is due. Hard copy only please.

Authors: Anzia Yezierska; I.L. Peretz; Chaim Nachman Bialik; Fanny Lewald; Emma Lazarus; Cynthia Ozick; I. B. Singer; I. J. Singer; Esther Kreitman; Haim Nachman Bialik; Judith Shalev; Shai Agnon; Dvora Baron; Philip Roth; Saul Bellow; Sholem Asch; Abraham Cahan.

Films: *The Dybbuk*, *Aimee and Jaguar*, *Yentl*, *The Governess*, *Esther Kahn*, *Kadosh*, *Berlin Jerusalem*, *Mamele*, *Yidl mitn fiddl*, *A Price Above Rubies*; *Hester Street*; *Children of the Sun*; . Students are encouraged to visit www.spielbergfilmarchive for additional cinematic resources. To make a presentation to the class, choose a five minute clip from your film. For your essay, make a historical critique of the film,

discussing how the film accurately represents history and also how it distorts or ignores important historical evidence.