

ADVANCED STUDIES IN RELIGION AND CONFLICT

Antisemitism and the Crises of Modernity

REL 371 Section 001 #49132

Fall 2020, Recitation or Discussion

Thursdays, 3:30-5:50

Instructor: Dr. Steven Leonard Jacobs, DHL, DD

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Office

201 Manly Hall, 205-348-0473

Prerequisites

1 Course in *either* Religious Studies on Judaic Studies *or* Permission of the Instructor

Catalog Course Description

Specific context will be determined by faculty responsible for the course that semester. May be repeated for a maximum of 9 hours for differing topics.

This course consists of lectures and seminar conversations. It addresses the problem of antisemitism, which has been called "the world longest and oldest hatred". During the semester, we will consider and attempt to address the following questions:

1. What is antisemitism from a historical and contemporary perspective?
2. What are the various definitions posited in the past, and are they applicable to the present circumstances?
3. Is antisemitism part of the family of bigotries, prejudices, and discriminations, or is it *sui generis* and, therefore unique, phenomenon?
4. Is it more bigotry or ideology?

5. How has it manifested itself in different historical eras, regions, political, economic, and social systems, and cultures up to the present day?
6. Are its various manifestations and iterations in the present (e.g. anti-Zionism) different from those of the past, or do they build upon already-established tropes?
7. How can it be combatted?

Learning Goals

Students are to become aware and conversant with this longest and oldest hatred in various iterations and permutations both historically and contemporarily.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Students will be able to construct their own working definition of antisemitism after examining other attempts to do so and reflecting class discussions and critiquing those posited as well as their own.
2. Students will be able to give concrete examples of antisemitism throughout history and as reflected in their answers on the Final Examination as well as their readings and class discussions.
3. Students will concretely demonstrate their writing skills through either a research-based paper or commentary accompanying their creative project.
4. Students will concretely construct a workable "game plan" to combat this oldest hatred on the world scene, which, in turn, will be discussed and critiqued in classroom conversations and discussions.

Required Texts

Phyllis Goldstein. *A Convenient Hatred: The History of Antisemitism*. Brookline: Facing History and Ourselves, 2012.

Steven Leonard Jacobs. *Antisemitism: Exploring the Issues*. Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, 2020.

Other Course Materials

Possibility of additional handouts may be distributed as well as important articles posted on the Blackboard course homepage.

Outline of Topics

1. What is hatred?
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2. Who are the Jews? What is antisemitism?
3. The role of religion in the construction of the antisemitic agenda?
4. Older European tropes of Jew-hatred.
5. Antisemitism during the European Enlightenment.
6. The myth of a world Jewish conspiracy; *The Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion*.
7. The Dreyfus Affair in France: 1894-1906.
8. Nazism and the Holocaust I.
9. Nazism and the Holocaust II.
10. Antisemitism in America.
11. Nostra Aetate ("In Our Time"), 1965.
12. Holocaust Denialism/Revisionism.
13. Antisemitism/Anti-Zionism in the Arab and Muslims Worlds.
14. Zionism and Anti-Zionism I.
15. Zionism and Anti-Zionism II.
16. Israel and Antisemitism I.
17. Israel and Antisemitism II.
18. How is antisemitism Measured Today?
19. Antisemitism and the African-American Community.
20. Antisemitism without Jews: The Case of Poland and Other Countries.
21. Antisemitism and Modern American Right-Wing Extremism.
22. Antisemitism on College and University Campuses.
23. What Antisemitism May be Like in the Year 2050?
24. How May Antisemitism be Combatted?

Exams and Assignments

- (1) 3-5 Page Critique of Goldstein's *A Convenient Hatred*

(2) 7-10 Page Research Paper (Topic of Choice; Minimum of 6 Sources) **OR** Creative Project (Topic of Choice; Plus 2-3 Page Narrative) **OR** 7-10 Page Expanded Research Paper on one of the topical Entries in Jacobs' *Antisemitism*

(3) 4 Question Final Take-Home Essay Exam

Grading Policy

33% = Goldstein Critique

33% = Research Paper or Creative Project

33% = Final Exam

Policy on Missed Exams & Coursework

Policy on missed coursework and exam are to be determined in consultation with the instructor.

Attendance Policy

Attendance is required unless otherwise noted in the Calendar of Meetings.

Emergency Contact information

UA's primary communication tool for sending out information is through its web site at www.ua.edu. In the event of an emergency, students should consult this site for further directions. Additional course information will be posted using Blackboard Learn.

Severe Weather Guidelines

The guiding principle at The University of Alabama is to promote the personal safety of our students, faculty and staff during severe weather events. It is impossible to develop policies which anticipate every weather-related emergency. These guidelines are intended to provide additional assistance for responding to severe weather on campus.

IJA is a residential campus with many students living on or near campus. In general classes will remain in session until the National Weather Service issues safety warnings for the city of Tuscaloosa. Clearly, some students and faculty commute from adjacent counties. These counties may experience weather related problems not encountered in Tuscaloosa. Individuals should follow the advice of the National Weather Service for that area taking the necessary precautions to ensure personal safety. Whenever the National Weather Service and the Emergency Management Agency issue a warning, people in the path of the storm (tornado or severe thunderstorm) should take immediate life-saving actions.

When West Alabama is under a severe weather advisory, conditions can change rapidly. It is imperative to get to where you can receive information from the National Weather Service and to follow the instructions provided. Personal safety should dictate the actions that faculty, staff and students take.

The Office of University Relations will disseminate the latest information regarding conditions on campus in the following ways:

- Weather advisory posted on the UA homepage
- Weather advisory sent out through UA Alerts to faculty, staff, and students
- Weather advisory broadcast over WVUA at 90.7 FM
- Weather advisory broadcast over Alabama Public Radio (WUAL) at 91.5 FM
- Weather advisory broadcast over WVUA-TV/WUOA-TV, and on the website at <http://wvua23.c01Yl/weather>.

In the case of a tornado warning (tornado has been sighted or detected by radar; sirens activated), all university activities are automatically suspended, including all classes and laboratories. If you are in a building, please move immediately to the lowest level and toward the center of the building away from windows (interior classrooms, offices, or corridors) and remain there until the tornado warning has expired. Classes in session when the tornado warning is issued can resume immediately after the warning has expired at the discretion of the instructor. Classes that have not yet begun will resume 30 minutes after the tornado warning has expired provided at least half of the class period remains.

Policy on Academic Misconduct

All students in attendance at The University of Alabama are expected to be honorable and to observe standards of conduct appropriate to a community of scholars, The University of Alabama expects from its students a higher standard of conduct than the minimum required to avoid discipline. At the beginning of each semester and on examinations and projects, the professor, department, or division may require that each student sign the following Academic Honor Pledge: "I promise or affirm that I will not at any time be involved with cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, or misrepresentation while enrolled as a student at The University of Alabama. I have read the Academic Honor Code, which explains disciplinary procedure resulting from the aforementioned. I understand that violation of this code will result in penalties as severe as indefinite suspension from the University."

See the Code of Student Conduct for more information.

Disability Statement

If you are registered with the Office of Disability Services, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible to discuss any course accommodations that may be necessary.

If you have a disability, but have not contacted the Office of Disability Services, please call (205) 348-4285 (Voice) or (205) 3483081 (TTY) or visit 1000 Houser Hall to register for services. Students who may need course adaptations because of a disability are welcome to make an appointment to see me during office hours.

Students with disabilities must be registered with the Office of Disability Services, 1000 Houser Hall, before receiving academic adjustments.

UAct: Ethical Community Statement

The University of Alabama is committed to an ethical, inclusive community defined by respect and civility. The UAct website (<http://www.ua.edu/uact>) provides a list of reporting channels that can be used to report incidences of illegal discrimination, harassment, sexual assault, sexual violence, retaliation, threat assessment or fraud.

IMPORTANT COVID-19 STATEMENT

All University faculty, staff, and students are expected to maintain a commitment to the health and safety of our campus community. Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, specific health and safety standards are in place to minimize exposure and community spread on campus. In the interest of your health and safety and that of all UA students, faculty and staff, the University reserves the right to change the mode of instruction or schedule of instruction at any time, based upon prevailing public health and other guidance. While the method of delivery may change, educational instruction and opportunities will continue. As such, the University will not provide a refund of tuition, in whole or in-part, based on any such changes. Detailed information on changes in format or schedule can be found at <https://studentaccounts.ua.edu/> and <https://financialaid.ua.edu/>.

All students must be familiar with and abide by the requirements outlined in the UA Return Plan | UA System Comprehensive Health and Safety Plan. Students must (1) wear a mask or face covering at all times while participating in face-to-face class; (2) adhere to social distancing standards; and (3) comply with all other health and safety restrictions. If a student refuses to comply with the requirements, the student will be asked to leave the class and reported for a conduct violation. Unless a student has an exemption from the requirement to wear a face covering, (more information can be found at <http://ods.ua.edu/covid-19-disability/>), the student will be reported to Student Life for further disciplinary action. More information on these requirements and UA Health-check system and screening can be found at healthinfo.ua.edu/returnplan. You are expected to visit the site and comply with all noted requirements related to in-person class attendance.