



The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

Introduction to Modern Jewish History 1790-1948 - 13062

Last update 18-02-2025

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

Responsible Department: History of Jewish People & Contemporary Jewry

Academic year: 2025

Semester: 2nd Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Prof. Dmitry Shumsky

Coordinator Email: dimitry.shumsky@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: By appointment

Teaching Staff:

Prof. Dimitry Shumsky

Course/Module description:

A survey of the major trends in Jewish History from the mid-19th century to the second half of the 20th century, covering the major communities in Europe, the Middle East, and America.

Topics include: Major Events and Trends; Geographies and Spaces; Emancipation, Assimilation, Acculturation; Modern anti-Semitism and Political Zionism; WWI and the Jews; The Holocaust

Course/Module aims:

This is a general introductory survey intended to help students understand the basics of Modern Jewish History. It employs a thematic and chronological approach. As a case in the study of modern history, it is also meant as a methodological introduction to further study in the scholarly literature in this field.

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

Students will gain a basic grasp of the major trends in the modern history of the Jews, including civic emancipation, cultural transformation, religious pluralization, mass migration, politicization and political movements, antisemitism, the impact of totalitarianisms of the 20th century, and the emergence of a late 20th-century constellation of world Jewry following the establishment of Israel.

Attendance requirements(%):

100%

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Lecture

Course/Module Content:

Jewish Emancipation, Assimilation and Ethnic Survival; The Jews of Tsarist Russia; Habsburg Jewry; Modern anti-Semitism and Political Zionism; Socialism, Socialist Zionism' the Second Aliya; WWI and the Jews; The Russian Revolution and the Soviet Jewry; Jews of Eastern and Central Europe in the Interwar Period; Late Modern Jewries in the Islamic Countries; American Jewry; The Yishuv in the Mandatory Period; The Holocaust and the Establishment of the State of Israel

Required Reading:

This reading list will be posted in detail according to a weekly schedule on the course site (Moodle)

Additional Reading Material:

Grading Scheme:

Essay / Project / Final Assignment / Home Exam / Referat 100 %

Additional information: