This course examines the experiences of the Jews in Europe from the middle of the eighteenth century to the present from the perspective of cultural history. As they experienced the political, social, and economic consequences of emancipation and acculturation, the Jews of modern Europe confronted issues of difference and exclusion that were often expressed in – but also shaped by – the culture they produced. Central themes of the course include challenges to traditional religious and social structures by communities and individuals, as well as the varied responses by Jews and others to these challenges. We will also consider the extent to which the history of Jewish civilization in modern Europe can be paradigmatic for the study of other ethnic and religious groups. We will read and analyze primary sources such as political tracts, memoirs, letters, films, and diaries created in or about Eastern Europe, Germany, Austria-Hungary, Austria, and France, in addition to books written by professional historians. In doing so, we will pay equal attention not only to the events of modern European Jewish history and their significance, but also to the nature of history itself and how it is created. You will synthesize information about the history of European Jews from lectures, readings, films, and discussions into written analyses in discussion groups, written assignments, and quizzes. No prior background in Jewish history or religion is expected.

All instruction and evaluation in this course is conducted online through the class website on Canvas. All class announcements will either be posted on the Canvas website or will be sent to you at your UWM e-mail address, so make sure to check your e-mail and Canvas at least once a day. If you know you will not be able to access a computer almost every day of the semester, you should not take this course. Lack of access to a computer will not be accepted as a valid excuse for late or missing work.

Instead of spoken lectures, I offer written lectures consisting of text and images saved in .pdf format. Occasionally, I may include a voiceover component. I use these lectures to explain complex issues presented in the readings and the rest of the unit, to give you questions to think about, and to present my analysis of historical issues based on the most recent available research by experts in the field. Sources for each lecture are listed at the bottom of the first page. You will be able to access the lectures as they become available for each unit so that I can tailor them to our class discussions and questions.
Our course website is on the Canvas system maintained by the University of Wisconsin System. To use Canvas, click here for the login page with the direct address for Canvas. At the login screen you will be asked to provide your e-Panther ID and password. For informational videos and FAQ’s on Canvas, click here.

During the semester, if you need assistance with how to use Canvas, you can contact Canvas 24/7 for support by calling them at 1-833-826-8713, emailing them at support@instructure.com or clicking here to chat with them.

For technical issues with your computer, contact UWM’s Campus IT Support by clicking here or call them at 414-229-4040 (toll-free at 877-381-3459). The personnel of the Help Desk are much more knowledgeable about computers than I am, so always turn to them for technical advice!

**Skills:** You will need basic word processing skills, the ability to send and receive email, and a simple understanding of how to access and browse Web sites. You must be able to receive email via your UWM email account. Checking your email and our course Web site regularly is very important for your ability to do well in this course.

**Resources:** You will need routine access to a computer that has a wifi or broadband connection or a campus network connection to the Web. It is imperative that you have regular access to adequate, reliable technology throughout the term. A computer glitch, lost file, or any other technical problem is never an excuse for late or missing work. Your connection to the Internet must be high-speed and you should have an Internet browser of recent vintage. The computer you use must have a basic word processing package such as Word. You will also have to be able to view Adobe PDF files. These types of files can be viewed using free downloads. If you need help downloading these materials, please contact UWM’s Help Desk.

The amount of time you will need to spend on this course varies among students. Do not make the mistake of assuming that an online class is less work or easier than its face-to-face version. **It will be up to you to organize your time effectively to get your work done!** Please also note that this is not a self-paced course. The course is divided up units that everyone will be working on at the same time. In some cases, deadlines fall at the end of the week, while in others they fall mid week. I will send you one e-mail per week to remind you of deadlines, but you should make sure to note the deadlines for each assignment now. At some point Canvas might go down and be unavailable without any notice. This problem does not occur frequently and usually is fixed quickly. Please be patient if this happens.

**Course Objectives:**

- Read and interpret primary and secondary sources (books, articles, letters, diaries, and other documents) on modern European Jewish civilization;
- Gain an understanding of how history is constructed by discussing the nature of these primary and secondary sources;
- Analyze information gained from lectures, readings, and films in order to understand the varieties and complexities of the Jewish experience;
- Understand the development of terms critical for modern European Jewish history, such as assimilation, emancipation, and antisemitism;
- Consider European Jewish historical experiences along with the experiences of the majority and minority groups among whom Jews lived;
- Research and write an in-depth paper on modern European Jewish history utilizing both primary and secondary sources.
Evaluation
Your final grade in the class will be calculated according to the following formula:

30% 6 Quizzes (5% each)  
30% 3 Discussions (10% each, 2 posts per discussion)  
10% 1 Essay (3-4pp.) (10%)  
30% 1 Research paper (7-10 pp.) (25%) + Research paper proposal (1-2pp.) (5%)  

Grading Scale
A 93-100  
A- 90-92.9  
B+ 87-89.9  
B 83-86.9  
B- 80-82.9  
C+ 77-79.9  
C 73-76.9  
C- 70-72.9  
D+ 67-69.9  
D 63-66.9  
D- 60-62.9  
F 0-59.9  

Typically, late work will only be accepted in cases of illness verified by a doctor’s note or in cases of a family emergency. Quizzes cannot be taken after the deadline has passed and answers have been released. I do not accept as valid excuses either the lack of synchronization between your clock and that of the Canvas system or problems with your computer or your internet connection. If you are in a different time zone than Milwaukee, note that all deadlines indicated in the syllabus and on Canvas are Central Time (CST). I have made sure to allow ample time for you to submit your required posts and papers and to complete the quizzes. However, I realize that situations arising from COVID-19 may cause unexpected scheduling changes for many of us. If you need more time to complete an assignment because of an unexpected situation, please don’t worry and do get in touch ASAP to make arrangements.

If you have a question, would like to receive more detailed feedback on assignments, or discuss anything else please email me at silverld@uwm.edu. I will respond as soon as I can, typically within 24 hours. I will also be happy to set up a time to speak on the phone or video chat, if you prefer. Appeals of assignment grades must be submitted to me within one week after you receive the grade.

Quizzes
In this course you will take six timed quizzes of 30 minutes each, consisting of 10 true/false and multiple choice questions based on the material for that unit. Each quiz is worth 5% of your grade. You must complete the quiz in 30 minutes or you will be booted off. Once you start a quiz, you have to finish it – there is no starting a quiz, exiting, and coming back to it at another time. The dates by which all quizzes must be completed are listed in the syllabus. DO NOT begin the quiz until you are caught up with the material. You are permitted to make only one (1) attempt to complete each quiz, and quizzes cannot be taken after the deadline has passed. Please make sure that you have saved all your responses (including those you may have altered) before submitting the quiz. You must take the quiz alone and may not take the quiz in the company of another student. You also may not communicate any information about the quiz to any other student. Any violation of these rules counts as cheating and will result in failure. However, the quizzes are “open book.” This means you may consult the readings, discussions, notes, and lectures as you take the quiz. Answers to the quiz will be made available only after the quiz deadline has passed.
Discussions
In this course you will participate in three online discussions in which you will be graded during the term. Each discussion is worth 10% of your grade. You will be asked to respond both to specific questions and to your classmates’ responses. For each discussion, you are required to make one original post, and also to post one response to another group member’s post. Each post should contain a minimum of 200 words but not more than 400 words. Do not post an attachment! You should either type your response directly into Canvas or cut and paste it from a word processing program. You will receive 1-3 points for each post, depending on the thoughtfulness and clarity of your post as well as your ability to integrate class readings, lectures, and film clips into your reflections. Whenever possible, make explicit reference to class materials and cite page numbers. The dates by which these discussion posts must be completed are listed in the syllabus. I will monitor the online discussions but limit my interventions so that you respond to each other and to develop your own skills of analysis. When replying to messages, please first read all of the posted messages on the topic in question. That way you can make sure ahead of time that your message will contribute something new to the development of the discussion. Spelling and grammar count in the evaluation of your posts.

I expect students in this course to observe the rules of "netiquette" when posting messages: all posts must be written respectfully and be free of bullying, intimidating, vulgar, and offensive language. You are required to engage the posts of your classmates in a constructive manner. Posts that violate this requirement will be deleted and will receive no credit. Express opposing points of view clearly and civilly.

Under the module “General Information” you can find this course syllabus and a discussion forum titled “Current Events related to the Course.” Here you can post about current issues related to the course that are of interest to the entire class, as I will do from time to time. Please do not use this forum to discuss extraneous matters. Here you will also see a discussion forum titled “Introduce Yourself!” where I encourage you to submit a brief introduction.

Essay, Research Paper & Paper proposal
You will be asked to write one 3-4pp. essay on an assigned primary source, which will constitute 10% of your grade. You will also write a 7-10pp. research paper based on one of several assigned topics and sources and also submit a 1-2pp. research paper proposal that includes a title, a brief description of your paper topic, and a preliminary bibliography. Your proposal will be graded and you may receive comments that will need to be addressed in your final paper. The final paper is worth 25% of your grade and the proposal is worth 5% of your grade. I will not accept your final paper unless you have submitted a proposal for it by the deadline listed in the syllabus. Likewise, your proposal grade is provisional: you will not receive credit for it unless you also submit the research paper by the required deadline. Please upload all written work as a Word file (.doc or .docx). Your written work will be graded according to the following rubric: (1) Thesis is clear, strong, and appears in the introduction (2) Excellent background, context, and idea development (3) Excellent use of research sources and discussion of detail to reinforce the thesis (4) Impressive depth of insight/analysis (5) Effective conclusion. In terms of style, make sure your papers fulfill these conditions: (1) Correct grammar and spelling; paper has been proofread (2) Clean/legible manuscript that is formatted according to instructions (3) Writing style is smooth and uses precise language. (4) Paper is well-organized; the reader can easily follow the argument of the paper (5) Transitions between paragraphs are smooth. You may lose points if these conditions are not met.
Course Readings:
All required readings have been placed on our course Canvas website under their respective units. You may print these out or read them online as you prefer. Unlike the lectures, they are available to you at any time during the semester.

Important UWM Policies
To succeed at UWM you should be familiar with university policies regarding disabilities, religious observances, military duty, incompletes, discriminatory conduct, academic misconduct, complaint procedures, grade appeal procedures, and other issues. Please consult the following link for a full listing of these policies:

If you require any special accommodation according to UWM’s policies for disabilities, religious observance, etc., please contact me within the first week of the semester.

Note that plagiarism in any form will not be tolerated. For the definition and consequences of academic misconduct see
http://uwm.edu/academicaffairs/facultystaff/policies/academic-misconduct/

Schedule of Readings and Assignments
The following schedule lists the content and assignments for each unit. **Read the dates and deadlines for each unit carefully and mark them in your calendar now. Make sure to note that the length of each unit can vary!**
More specific instructions for completing the work in each unit will be given on Canvas as the units are made available. You will also receive ONE e-mail every week from me reminding you of upcoming assignment deadlines. For each unit there will be some combination of readings, films, lectures, discussions, quizzes, and paper assignments. It is up to you to decide when to allocate your time to work on the class within the parameters of each unit. This online course will take advantage of the flexibility that the virtual classroom provides; at the same time, it is designed with the assumption that you will devote a certain amount of time each day on the course. In order to succeed you must prepare the assigned material and complete related assignments by the dates posted. Do not get behind!

**Readings and requirements below may be adjusted at any time**

Unit 1
25 January – 31 January

Lecture 1: “German Jews on the Road to Modernity”


Assignment: Take Quiz #1 before 11:59pm on 31 January
Unit 2
1 February – 14 February

Lecture 2: “The Challenges of Enlightenment”
Reading: Paula Hyman, Gender and Assimilation, pp. 10-49
          Rahel Levin and David Veit, correspondence, pp. 54-62
Assignment: Discussion #1:
            First post due by 11:59pm on 8 February
            Second post due by 11:59pm on 14 February

Unit 3
15 February – 21 February

Lecture 3: “Early Emancipation: The Jews of France”
Assignment: Take Quiz #2 before 11:59pm on 21 February

Unit 4
22 February – 7 March

Lecture 4: “Jews of Eastern Europe”
Reading: Salomon Maimon, Autobiography, vol. I
Assignment: Essay (3-4pp.) due before 11:59pm on 7 March

Unit 5
8 March – 14 March

Lecture 5: “Jews, Politics, and Culture in Russia”
Readings: John Klier and Shlomo Lambroza, Pogroms, 13-38.
          O. Rabinowich, “Russian Must be Our Mother Tongue,” 400.
Assignment: Take Quiz #3 before 11:59pm on 14 March

Unit 6
15 March – 21 March

Lecture 6: “Yiddish Culture and Antisemitism”
Reading: Jeffrey Veidlinger, Jewish Public Culture, pp. 1-23.
Assignment: Discussion #2
            First Post due by 11:59pm on 18 March
            Second Post due by 11:59pm on 21 March

Spring Break
Unit 7
29 March - 11 April
Lecture 7: “The Rise of Zionism”
Assignment: Take Quiz #4 before 11:59pm on 11 April Upload research paper proposal before 11:59pm on 11 April

Unit 8
12 April – 18 April
Lecture 8: “Vienna – City of Jews? Austria from Empire to Republic”
Assignment: Take Quiz #5 before 11:59pm on 18 April

Unit 9
19 April – 2 May
Lecture 9: “The Holocaust: History and Memory”
Film: Europa, Europa (1990), selections
Assignment: Discussion #3 First post due by 11:59pm on 25 April Second post due by 11:59pm on 2 May

Unit 10
3 May – 9 May
Lecture 10: “Jews in Postwar Europe”
Reading: Jeffrey M. Peck, Being Jewish in the New Germany, pp.40-59 Wladimir Kaminer, Russian Disco, pp.13-20
Assignment: Take Quiz #6 before 11:59pm on 9 May

16 May Final paper must be uploaded by 11:59pm.
Course Bibliography

Sources for readings and lectures include the following:

“Echoes and Reflections,” Anti-Defamation League, USC Shoah Foundation Institute, Yad Vashem, 2005.


Silverman, Lisa. The Postwar Antisemite: Culture and Complicity in Austria and Germany after 1945. (forthcoming)


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