

GENERAL STUDIES COURSE PROPOSAL COVER FORM

Course inf <i>Copy and p</i>			formation	n from <u>Clas</u>	s Search/Course	<u>Catalog</u> .			
College/School		The College	of Libera	al Arts and	Sciences	Department/School	Philoso	School of Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies	
Prefix:	HST	Number:	211	Title:	Jews and Judai	ism in America		Units:	3
Course des	cription:	See course sylla	ibus						
Is this a c	cross-list	ed course?	Ye	es	If yes, please	identify course(s): REL/	JST 211		
Is this a s	shared co	urse?	No)	If so, list all a	cademic units offering th	nis course:		
designatior	n requested	. By submitting the	is letter of s	upport, the ci		r/director of <u>each</u> department t o ensure that all faculty teachir pproved designation.			
Is this a	permane	nt-numbered	course w	vith topics?	No				
If <u>yes</u> , eac	h topic re	quires <u>an indivi</u>	dual subi	<u>nission</u> , sep	arate from other top	pics.			
Request	ed desigi	nation: Cultur	al Divers	ity in the U	United States (C)	Mandator	y Review:	Yes	
Note- a <u>se</u>	parate pr	oposal is requir	ed for eac	h designatio	on.		-		
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Submiss	ion dead	llines dates ar	e as follo	w:					
F	or Fall 2	021 Effective	Date: Oc	tober 2, 20	20	For Spring 2022 I	Effective D	ate: March 5, 2	021
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Name	Mariss	sa Timmerman	1	E-mail	<u>Marissa.R.Ti</u>	mmerman@asu.edu	Phone	480-727-402	29
Departme	nt Chair.	/Director app	roval: <i>(K</i>	Required)					
Chair/Diree	ctor name	e (Typed):	Richard	d Amesbur	у		Date:	8/5/2021	
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Arizona State University Criteria Checklist for

CULTURAL DIVERSITY IN THE UNITED STATES [C]

Rationale and Objectives

The contemporary "culture" of the United States involves the complex interplay of many different cultures that exist side by side in various states of harmony and conflict. The history of the United States involves the experiences not only of different groups of European immigrants and their descendants but also of diverse groups, including, but not limited to, American Indians, Latinos, African Americans, and Asian Americans--all of whom played significant roles in the development of contemporary culture and together shape the future of the United States. At the same time, the recognition that gender, class, and religious differences cut across all distinctions of race and ethnicity offers an even richer variety of perspectives from which to view ourselves. Awareness of our cultural diversity and its multiple sources can illuminate our collective past, present, and future and can help us to achieve greater mutual understanding and respect.

The objective of the Cultural Diversity requirement is to promote awareness and appreciation of cultural diversity within the contemporary United States through the study of the cultural, social, or scientific contributions of women and minority groups, examination of their experiences in the U.S., or exploration of successful or unsuccessful interactions between and among cultural groups.

Revised April 2014

Proposer: Please complete the following section and attach appropriate documentation.

ASU[C] CRITERIA				
YES	NO	CULTURAL DIVERSITY IN THE UNITED STATES	S Identify Documentation Submitted	
		1. A Cultural Diversity course must meet the following general criteria:	Syllabus	
\square		The course must contribute to an understanding of cultural diversity in contemporary U.S. Society.	Syllabus	
		2. A Cultural Diversity course must then meet at least one of the following specific criteria:	Syllabus	
		 a. The course is an in-depth study of culture-specific elements, cultural experiences, or cultural contributions (in areas such as education, history, language, literature, art, music, science, politics, work, religion, and philosophy) of gender*, racial, ethnic and/or linguistic minority groups** within the United States. 	Syllabus	
\square		 b. The course is primarily a comparative study of the diverse cultural contributions, experiences, or world views of two or more gender*, racial, ethnic and/or linguistic minority groups** within the United States. 	Syllabus	
		 c. The course is primarily a study of the social, economic, political, or psychological dimensions of relations between and among gender*, racial, ethnic and/or linguistic minority groups** within the United States. *Gender groups would encompass categories such as the following: women, men, lesbians, gays, bisexuals, transgender individuals, etc. **Cultural, racial, ethnic, and/or linguistic minority groups in the U.S. would include categories such as the following: Latinos, African Americans, Native Americans/First Peoples, Asian Americans, Jewish Americans, Muslim Americans, members of the deaf community, etc. 	Syllabus	

ſ	Course Prefix	Number	Title	General Studies Designation
	HST/REL/JST	211	Jews and Judaism in America	

Explain in detail which student activities correspond to the specific designation criteria. Please use the following organizer to explain how the criteria are being met.

Criteria (from checksheet)	How course meets spirit (contextualize specific examples in next column)	Please provide detailed evidence of how course meets criteria (i.e., where in syllabus)
Example-See 2b. Compares 2 U.S. cultures	Example-Compares Latino & African American Music	Example-See Syllabus Pg. 5
This course is an in-depth study of culture-specific elements	Promotes awareness of the evolution and varieties of Judaism in the United States. It explores the Jewish contribution to American folk, popular, and counter cultures. It explains how one ethnic/religious minority contributes to the broader ethnic diversity of the United States	Week 1, Reading 1, Week 7, Reading 7, Week 10, Reading 10
This course is primarily a comparative study.	Compares and Contrasts the experiences of Jewish Americans to other ethnic and religious minorities, especially the Irish Catholic, French Protestant, Quaker, and African American experiences.	Week 2, Reading 2, Week 3, Reading 3, Week 12, Reading 12
This course is a study of social and economic of relations among ethnic minorities.	Lectures and assignments are tailored toward contextualizing the participation of Jewish Americans in the social and economic developments. The immigrant experience. And, particularly in relation to African Americans.	Week 8, Reading 8, Week 9, Reading 9, Week 12, Reading 12, Week 13, Reading 13
Contributes to understanding of cultural diversity in Contemporary United States	The historical content of the course is meant to contextualize the place of Jews and Judaism within today's United States. The last five weeks are dedicated soley to contemporary issues.	Week 12, Reading 12, Week 14, Reading 14, Week 15, Reading 15

SPRING 2022: HST/REL/JST 211 JEWS AND JUDAISM IN AMERICA

INSTRUCTOR: PROF. STANLEY MIRVIS

stanley.mirvis@asu.edu T/TH: 12:00–1:15: LOCATION Office Hours: T/TH 2:00–4:00: COOR 4552

COURSE DESCRIPTION

"Jews and Judaism in America" explores the historical evolution of the Jewish people and the religion of Judaism in America from the colonial period until the present. This course offers a case study of the interaction of minority and majority cultures. The central question is what are the major challenges and successes of Jewish integration into American society? Topics include the definition of Jewish citizenship in the Early Republic, early American rabbinic culture, Jewish participation in the Civil War, the birth of American Jewish Reform and Orthodoxy, Jewish political participation, the American Jewish response to the Holocaust, American Jewish folk heroes, American Jewry's relationship with the State of Israel, and contemporary Jewish identities.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

"Jews and Judaism in America" tells the story of the American experience through the eyes of an ethnic and religious minority. Our goal is to appreciate and understand the American experience through the perspective of that minority. Additionally, this course aims to cultivate a holistic understanding of not just the historical place of a localized Jewish community but also how Judaism, as a religion experience, evolved in America.

REQUIRED TEXTS

- Primary Source Reader [Available on Canvas]
- The Great American Jewish Novel [List of approved texts on Canvas]

RECOMMENDED TEXTS

- Jonathan Sarna, American Judaism: A History (Yale University Press, 2004)
- Eli Lederhendler, American Jewry: A New History (Cambridge University Press, 2017)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

[Assignment Prompts on Canvas]

- Three Sectional Projects: 40%
- Weekly Reading Reflections: 30%
- Attendance: 20%
- The Great Jewish Novel Reflection: 10%

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

Week 1: THE PORTUGUESE JEWISH DIASPORA

Reading 1: Autobiographies of Rejudaization

<u>Learning Outcomes</u>: Distinguish between the Spanish and Portuguese expulsions. Define the term "converso" and the cultural and social implications of "rejudaization." Situate the first American Jewish community in Recife, Brazil, and consider the implications of the Brazilian expulsion in 1654.

Week 2: ATLANTIC JEWISH MERCHANTS AND PLANTERS

Reading 2: Documents of Colonial American Jews

<u>Learning Outcomes</u>: Situate the earliest American Jewish communities of the Dutch and English Americas. Problematize the myth of the wealthy Jewish merchant by evaluating Jewish plantation and slave ownership. Grasp the centrality of Diasporic communities in the Atlantic trade economy.

Week 3: JEWS AND THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Reading 3: American Patriots, American Loyalist

<u>Learning Outcomes</u>: Explain the role of Jewish patriots and Jewish loyalist. Describe the interplay between memory and myth regarding the Jewish economic contribution to the Revolution. Identify the importance of Caribbean Jewish communities in the development of North American Jewry.

Week 4: COMPARATIVE EMANCIPATIONS

Reading 4: Documents of Jewish Political Enfranchisement

<u>Learning Outcomes</u>: Define the term "Emancipation" within the context of modern Jewish history. Compare and contrast the paths of emancipation in the French, English, German, and American spheres. Address the question: Were Jews emancipated in the Americas?

Week 5: THE JEWS OF THE EARLY REPUBLIC

<u>Reading 5</u>: Jews Enter the American Public Sphere

<u>Learning Outcomes</u>: Explain the changing demographics and politics of American Jewry during the Early Republic. Appreciate the ways in which Jews began to enter the American public sphere. Describe the importance of Mordechai Manuel Noah in American Jewish history.

ASSIGNMENT DUE: The Colonial Jewish Material Culture Project

Week 6: THE "GERMAN" MIGRATION AND THE CIVIL WAR

<u>Reading 6</u>: The Peddlers and the Rabbis

<u>Learning Outcomes</u>: Problematize the use of the term "German" in reference to nineteenthcentury Jewish migrations. Identify the main demographic shifts. Distinguish between Northern and Southern Jews during the Civil War. Describe the American rabbinate's various approaches to slavery.

Week 7: REFORM JUDAISM IN TRANS-ATLANTIC CONTEXT

Reading 7: Reform Judaism in America

<u>Learning Outcomes</u>: Define the term "Reform Judaism" and its German origins. Evaluate the major ideological, liturgical, and practical positions of reformers. Determine the ways Reform impacted American Jewish religious life. Explain the importance of Isaac Meyer Wise and the Hebrew Union College.

Week 8: YIDDISH NEW YORK AND THE EAST EUROPEAN MIGRATION

Reading 8: Abraham Cahan and the Promised Land

<u>Learning Outcomes</u>: Identify the causes of East European Jewish migration to America in the late nineteenth century. Describe the ways Yiddish culture transformed the social landscape of New York City. Comprehend the religious, social, and economic challenges facing East European Jews.

Week 9: ANTISEMITISM IN AMERICA BEFORE WORLD WAR II

Reading 9: Antisemitism in America

<u>Learning Outcomes</u>: Define the term "antisemitism." Describe key antisemitic events and personalities in America before WWII. Compare and contrast European and American antisemitism. Identify some of the key ways American Jews reacted to antisemitism.

Week 10: CONSERVATIVE AND ORTHODOX JUDAISM IN AMERICA

<u>Reading 10</u>: Ideologies of Conservative and Orthodox Judaism

<u>Learning Outcomes</u>: Distinguish between "Conservative" and "Orthodox" Judaism and identify the main religious positions of both. Explain the importance of Yeshiva University and the Jewish Theological Seminary. Appreciate the alternative religious philosophy of Mordechai Kaplan.

ASSIGNMENT DUE: The Occident Project

Week 11: AMERICAN JEWRY AND THE HOLOCAUST

<u>Reading 11</u>: American Jews and the Holocaust

<u>Learning Outcomes</u>: Understand the European context of the Holocaust. Explain the "panic" migration of German Jews to the Americas and the roadblocks they faced. Describe the competing Jewish organizational responses to the Holocaust and role of Rabbi Stephen Wise.

Week 12: JEWS AND BLACKS IN AMERICA

Reading 12: Jews and Blacks in America

<u>Learning Outcomes</u>: Contextualize the complex interaction between Jews and Blacks in America. Determine the main points of cooperation and conflict between the two minority communities. Identify key figures and events that shape this interaction. Compare and contrast the Jewish and Black experience.

Week 13: AMERICAN JEWISH FOLK HEROES

Reading 13: Jewish Popular Culture, Jewish Counter Culture

<u>Learning Outcomes</u>: Describe the ways Jewish individuals have shaped post-war American cultural life. Distinguish between the popular-cultural contributions of figures like Bess Myerson and Hank Greenberg and the counter-cultural contributions of figures like Allen Ginsberg and Lenny Bruce.

Week 14: AMERICAN JEWS AND THE STATE OF ISRAEL

<u>Reading 14</u>: American Jews Confront Zionism and the State of Israel <u>Learning Outcomes</u>: Contextualize Zionism and the establishment of the State of Israel in the American Jewish experience. Determine the main points of unity and disunity between Israeli and American Jews. Understand the centrality of the State of Israel in the political identity of American Jews.

Week 15: TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY AMERICAN JEWRY

Reading 15: Contemporary Jewish Identities

<u>Learning Outcomes</u>: Identify the key varieties of contemporary American Jewish identity. Consider some of the key tensions of secularism and tradition, Zionism and progressivism, individualism and institutionalism. Define the scope of Jewish integration into contemporary American society.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PRIMARY SOURCE READER: JEWS AND JUDAISM IN AMERICA

1. READING 1: AUTOBIOGRAPHIES OF REJUDAIZATION

- a. A New-Christian in Mexico Describes his Jewish Awakening: Luis de Carvajal, the younger, Autobiography (1594)
- b. Uriel Da Costa Recounts his Traumatic Relationship with the Jewish Community: Uriel da Costa, *Exemplar of a Human Life* (printed 1687)

2. READING 2: DOCUMENTS OF COLONIAL AMERICAN JEWS

- a. Organization of the First Community in Americas: Minutes of Zur Israel, Recife, Brazil (1632)
- b. A Jewish Man Supports his Black Mistress: The Will of David Aboab Furtado, Jamaica, 1760
- c. Peter Stuyvesant Attempts to Block Jewish Admission to New Amsterdam: Peter Stuyvesant's letter to the Directors of the Dutch West India Company (June 10, 1654)
- d. A Jewish Mother in New York Writes to Her Son in England: Selection of Letters of Abigail Franks to Naftali Hertz Franks (New York, 1733)

3. READING 3: AMERICAN JEWISH PATRIOTS, AMERICAN JEWISH LOYALISTS

- a. A Jewish Planter in South Carolina Reports on Militia Activity: Francis Salvador's letter to South Carolina Chief Justice William H. Drayton (July 18, 1776)
- b. A Family of Jewish Patriots in Georgia Recount their Experiences during the Revolutionary War: Memoirs of Sheftell Family (1776–1783)
- c. A Jewish Loyalists Relocates to Jamaica: Isaac Touro's Petition to General Commander of Occupied New York (December 12, 1782)
- d. The First Homegrown American Rabbi Blends Judaism and Patriotism: Selected Writings of Gershom Mendes Seixas, 1776–1803

4. READING **4**: JEWS ENTER THE PUBLIC SPHERE

- a. The First President of the United States Pledges to Protect Jews from Bigotry: George Washington's Letter to the Jews of Newport, 1790
- b. A Jewish Jeffersonian Responds to the Antisemitic Posturing of Federalists: Benjamin Nones's Letter to the *Gazette of the United States* (August 11, 1800)
- c. Jewish Interlocutors in the Discourse on Liberty: The Letters of Thomas Jefferson to Mordechai Manuel Noah (May 28, 1818) and Jacob de La Motta (August 7, 1820)
- d. A Jewish Naval Officer Comments on the Challenges of Being Jewish: Testimony of Uriah Phillips Levy during his Court Martial Proceedings (1857)
- e. A Jewish Public Figure Proposes a Jewish Refugee Settlement on Grand Island, New York: Mordechai Manuel Noah's Address at "Ararat" (September 24, 1825)

5. READING 5: THE PEDDLERS AND THE RABBIS

a. A German-Speaking Jewish Peddler in New England Reflects Upon Travels: Diary of Abraham Kohn, 1842–1853

- b. A Wandering Jew in Pennsylvania and Ohio: The Diary of William Frank, 1889
- c. The Life and Theologies of Rabbi Isaac Leeser: Selections from *The Occident* 1846–1857
- d. American Jews Respond to the Damascus Blood Libel of 1840: J.B. Kursheedt's and Theodore Seixas's Petition to Martin Van Buren (August 24, 1840)
- e. The Jews of South Carolina Oppose the Implementation of a Christian Thanksgiving Holiday: Jewish Chairman of Charleston to the Governor of South Carolina (November 1844)

6. READING 6: JEWS AND THE CIVIL WAR

- a. A Jewish Ambassador Defends the Jewish "Race" to Successive Republican Presidents: Simon Wolf, *The Presidents I have Known* (1918)
- b. Correspondences of a Jewish Colonel in the Union Army: Letters of Marcus Spiegel to his Wife Caroline, 1861–1864
- c. An Outspoken Jewish Woman from South Carolina Fiercely Defends the Confederacy: The Journal of Eugenia Levy Phillips, 1861–1862
- d. A Northern Rabbi Defends Slavery: R. Morris Raphall, "The Bible View of Slavery: A Discourse" (January 4, 1861)
- e. A Rabbi in Baltimore Rejects Slavery: R. David Einhorn's Open Letter Refuting the Views of R. Morris Raphall, *Sinai*, 1861

7. READING 7: REFORM JUDAISM IN AMERICA

- a. The First Reformers of the United States at the "Harby" Synagogue: The Memorial of the Directors of Beth Elohim (1824)
- b. Traditional Rabbis Oppose the Implementation of Reforms in America: Letter of R. Abraham Rice to R. Isaac Leeser (December 15, 1848)
- c. The Codification of Reform Judaism in the United States: The Pittsburg Platform, 1885
- d. The Leading Voice of American Reform Judaism: Selected Writings of R. Isaac Meyer Wise (1847–1897)

8. READING 8: YIDDISH NEW YORK AND THE EAST EUROPEAN MIGRATION

- a. Yiddish Reflections on Arrival on in the United States: Abraham Cahan's *Bintel Brief* column in the *Forverts*, 1882
- b. Jewish New York: Abraham Cahan "The Russian Jew in America," *The Atlantic Monthly* July 1898
- c. An East European Jewish Woman's Journey to the United States and Settlement in the United States: Mary Antin, *From Plotzk to Boston*, 1899
- d. A Jewish Labor Leader Calls for a Reform of Working Conditions in New York's Lower East Side: Julia Richman, "New York's East European Working Women," 1893

9. READING 9: ANTISEMITISM IN AMERICA BEFORE WORLD WAR II

a. The American Jewish Response to Antisemitism: The Anti-Defamation League, Statement of Policy (May 1915)

- A Rabbi Responds to Henry Ford's Publication of the "Protocols of the Elders of Zion" in the Dearborn Independent: R. Stephen S. Wise, "Henry Ford's Challenge and a Jew's Reply" (October 10, 1920)
- c. The President of Harvard University Defends Jewish Quotas: Letter of President A. Lawrence Lowell to Judge Julian Mack (March 29, 1922)
- d. A Catholic Priest Defends Nazism and Accuses Jews of Being Communist and Controlling the Media: Selections from the Broadcasts of Father Charles E. Coughlin, 1938

10.Reading 10: Ideologies of Conservative and Orthodox Judaism in America

- a. "Catholic Israel" and the Birth of Conservate Judaism: Solomon Schechter, "Altar Building in America," 1904
- b. The Principles of Orthodox Judaism in America: Platform of the Orthodox Jewish Congregational Union of America (June 8, 1898)
- c. The Foundations of Yeshiva University: Bernard Revel, "The Vision of Yeshiva College," 1926
- d. Judaism as Civilization and the Birth of Reconstructionism: Mordechai Kaplan, "A Program for the Reconstruction of Judaism," *The Menorah Journal* 6 (August 4, 1920)

11. READING 11: AMERICAN JEWS AND THE HOLOCAUST

- a. A Jewish Officer in the United States Army Helps to Liberate Dachau: Lt. Dick Gottlieb, Affidavit, Liberating the Dachau Concentration Camp (Germany, April 1945)
- b. Rabbi Stephen Wise Calls on FDR to Support European Jewry: Selected Letters from R. Stephen Wise to FDR, 1942
- c. A Jewish Journalist Calls for Greater U.S. Action to Save European Jews: Max Lerner, "What about the Jews, FDR?" (July 22, 1943)

12. READING 12: JEWS AND BLACKS IN AMERICA

- a. A Harlem Renaissance Articulation of Urban Jewish and Black Tensions: Langston Hughes, "Hard Luck," *Fine Clothes to the Jew* (1927)
- b. A Black Public Intellectual Equates the Jewish and the Black Experience: W. E. B. Dubois, "Postscript: The Jews," *The Crisis* 40 (May 1933)
- c. A Southern Rabbi Speaks Out Against Segregation: Jacob Rothschild, "No Place to Hide," *Southern Israelite* (August 1963)
- d. The Rabbis Speech at the March on Washington: R. Joachim Prinz, "I Speak to You as an American Jew" (August 28, 1963)
- e. A Rabbi Calls for Civil Rights: R. Abraham Joshua Heschel, "Religion and Race" (January 14, 1963)
- f. A Black Novelist Meditates on Antisemitism: James Baldwin, "Negroes are Anti-Semitic Because They're Anti-White," *The New York Times* (April 9, 1967)

13.Reading **13**: Jewish Popular Culture, Jewish Counterculture

 A Jewish Poet Celebrates Hank Greenberg: Edgar A. Guest, "Speaking of Greenberg," 1934

- b. Miss America Reflects on Being Jewish: Bess Myerson, "Miss America Speaks to Young America," *Jewish Veteran* 1945
- c. A Jewish Couple is Convicted of Espionage: Selections from the Transcript of the Rosenberg Espionage Case (June 7, 1952)
- d. A Jewish Comedian Defines the Difference Between Jews and Non-Jews in America: Lenny Bruce, "Jewish vs. Goyish" New York, 1961
- e. A Queer Jewish Beat Poet Wrestles with the Meaning of Death: Allen Ginsberg, "Kaddish," *Kaddish and Other Poems*, 1961

14. American Jews Confront Zionism and the State of Israel

- a. A Jewish U.S. Supreme Court Justice Contemplates the Implications of American Zionists: Louis Brandeis, "The Jewish Problem and How to Solve it" (April 25, 1915)
- b. An American Rabbi Explains his Devotion to Zionism: R. Abba Hillel Silver, "Zionism: What is it—What it is Not," 1944
- c. The "Blaustein and Ben-Gurion Agreement": Transcript of Exchange Between Jacob Blaustein and David Ben Gurion at the King David Hotel (Jerusalem, August 1950)

15.CONTEMPORARY JEWISH IDENTITIES

- a. The American Mission of Chabad Hasidim: R. Menachem M. Scheerson, "Ufaratza!" (January 19, 1959)
- b. Radicalized Jewish Ethno-Nationalism: Zvi Lowenthal Interview with Meir Kahane (1971)
- c. Jewish Feminists Explore Sexuality Through Torah: Judith S. Antonelli "Jewish Feminisms Explore Torah, God, and Sexuality," *Jewish Advocate* (January 25, 1991)
- d. Jewish Endogamy in the Digital Age: Mission Statement of J-Date.com (1997)
- e. Reconciling Zionism and Occupation: Amanda Carpenter, "J Street Pro-Israel Lobby Takes on AIPAC, Alienates Backers," *Washington Times* (October 21, 2009)
- f. Jewishness as Pop-Culture: "How Adam Sandler's 'Chanukah Song' Helped Save the Jews" *Huffington Post* (December 23, 2011)