COURSE SYLLABUS

Paths to Jewish Emancipation

Instructor:
Michael L. Miller, Associate Professor
millerm@ceu.hu
Nationalism Studies Program
Central European University

Fall Semester, 2014
Course level (MA)
4 Credits (8 ECTS Credits)
Mondays, 13:30 – 17:10
Office hours: Mondays, 11:00 – 13:00 and by appointment. Room FT 203
e-learning site: http://ceulearning.ceu.hu/course/view.php?id=3295

Course Description
This course will examine the processes leading to the civic and political emancipation of the Jews in nineteenth-century Europe. It will focus on aspects of the legal, social and cultural history of the Jews from the sixteenth century onward in an effort to understand the different paths to emancipation in England, Western Europe, and Central Europe. It will also look at various trends – including religious reform, racial antisemitism, Jewish assimilation and Jewish nationalism – whose development was part and parcel of the struggle for emancipation.

Learning Outcomes
At the end of this course, students should be familiar with the extensive debates about the place of Jews in European society in the early modern and modern periods. They should have a fuller understanding of how these debates (and their outcomes) were shaped by the individual cultural, economic and national contexts, but also had a broader, pan-European character. They should understand how the larger historiographical narratives are constructed out of the diverse primary sources that we will examine in this course. They should develop critical reading skills, enabling them to analyze the literary, legal, religious and programmatic texts that were part of the larger debate about Jewish emancipation.

Course Requirements

(1) Regular attendance and participation (10%). Students are expected to attend all classes and participate actively. For missed classes, students will be expected to submit a written reaction to the assigned readings.
(2) In-Class Presentation (15% of the final grade). In this 15-20-minute presentation, the student is expected to discuss the required readings and familiarize him/herself with some of the recommended readings. S/he should raise questions that will help stimulate classroom discussion.

(3) Book Review (25% of the final grade). 3-5 pages. In consultation with the instructor, students should select a book, which will ideally be related to the term paper topic. Due Date: October 31, 2014

(4) Term Paper (50% of final grade). 12-15 pages. In consultation with the instructor, students should select a term paper topic. It should be related to the themes covered in the course. Due Date: December 12, 2014

COURSE SCHEDULE

INTRODUCTION

September 22. Expulsions and Resettlement (Middle Ages to the Seventeenth Century)

Secondary Sources:
• Jonathan I. Israel, European Jewry in the Age of Mercantilism 1550-1750, 1-57.

September 29.
“Traditional” Jewish Society

Secondary Sources:
• Jacob Katz, Tradition and Crisis, 3-44, 65-94.

EARLY DEBATES OVER JEWISH RIGHTS

October 6.
Mercantilism, Messianism and the Readmission of the Jews to England

Primary Sources:
• The “Livornina” (1593)
• Menasseh ben Israel, Humble Addresses to Oliver Cromwell (1655)

Secondary Sources:

**October 13.**

Naturalization” of the Jews in Great Britain

**Primary Sources:**
- John Toland, *Reasons for Naturalizing the Jews in Great Britain and Ireland* (1714)
- “The Plantation Act (1740)
- “The Jew Bill” (1753)

**Secondary Sources:**

**October 20.**

Gotthold E. Lessing, Christian Wilhelm Dohm & the German Enlightenment

**Primary Sources:**
- G.E. Lessing, *Nathan the Wise* (1779)
- Christian Wilhelm Dohm, *Concerning the Amelioration of the Civil Status of the Jews* (1781)
- Johann David Michaelis, “Arguments Against Dohm” (1782)

**Secondary Sources:**

**October 27.**

Moses Mendelssohn and the Berlin Haskalah

**Primary Sources:**
- Moses Mendelssohn, *Jerusalem* (1782), 33, 40-44, 70-90, 126-139.
- Joseph II, Edict of Tolerance (1782)
- Naphtali Herz Wessely, “Words of Peace and Truth” (1782)
- David (Tevele) ben Nathan of Lissa, “Sermon Contra Wessely” (1782)
- Ezekiel Landau, “Sermon on Wessely and the Edict of Tolerance” (1782)

**Secondary Sources:**

**EMANCIPATION: THE FRENCH MODEL**
November 3.
The French Revolution and the Napoleonic Sanhedrin

Primary Sources:
- “Debates on the Eligibility of Jews for Citizenship” (1789)
- “Decree Recognizing the Sephardim as Citizens” (1790)
- “The Emancipation of the Jews of France” (1791)

Secondary Sources:

b) Napoleon and the Sanhedrin

Primary Sources:
- “Imperial Decree Calling on an Assembly of Jewish Notables” (1806)
- “Napoleon’s Instructions to the Assembly of Jewish Notables” (1806)
- “Reply on Behalf of the Assembly to Count Molé” (1806)
- “Answers to Napoleon” (1806)
- “Summons for Convening the Parisian Sanhedrin” (1806)
- “Doctrinal Decisions” (1806)
- “The ‘Infamous Decree’” (1808)

Secondary Sources:

EMANCIAPTION: THE CENTRAL EUROPEAN MODEL

November 10.
The Protracted Process of German Emancipation

Primary Sources:
- “Emancipation in Prussia” (1812)
- Congress of Vienna (1815)
- “The Paulus-Riesser Debate” (1831)
- Frankfurt Parliament (1848)

Secondary Sources:
GERMAN-JEWISH RESPONSES TO THE STRUGGLE FOR EMANCIPATION

November 17.
Religious Reform & the Scholarly Study of Judaism

Primary Sources:
- “The Constitution of the Hamburg Temple” (1817)
- “The Light of Splendor” (1818)
- “These are the Words of the Covenant” (1819)
- “The Question of Patriotism” (1844)
- “Hebrew as the Language of Jewish Prayer” (1845)
- “The Question of Messianism” (1845);
- “A Society for the Preservation of the Jewish People” (1822)
- “A Society to Further Jewish Integration” (1822)
- “On the Concept of a Science of Judaism” (1822)

Secondary Sources:
- Yosef Hayim Yerushalmi, Zakhor: Jewish History and Jewish Memory, 77-103.

November 24.
Orthodox Judaism

Primary Sources:
- Samson Raphael Hirsch, “Religion Allied to Progress” (1854)

Secondary Sources:

EMANCIPATION RECONSIDERED

December 1.
Cultural, Political and Racial Antisemitism

Primary Sources:
- Richard Wagner, “Modern” (1878)
- Adolf Stoecker, “Our Demands of Modern Jewry” (1879)
- Heinrich von Treitschke, “A Word about our Jews” (1879-80)
• Wilhelm Marr, “The Victory of Jewry over German Dom” (1879)

Secondary Sources:
• Jacob Katz, *From Prejudice to Destruction: Anti-Semitism, 1700-1933*, 1-10, 245-300.

*December 8.*
*Zionism, Socialism, and other Considerations*