

FW22 AP/HIST 4581 6.0A Worry and Wonder: Jewish Politics, Society and Religion in Canada

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Expanded Course Description (expanded from course calendar description):

This course has two dimensions. The first is a group learning effort, based on reading and discussion. We will outline the dynamic, ever-changing Canadian Jewish experience from the colonial era orbit, through the turn of the digital age - some 250 years. The explores the great diversity of Canadian Jewry: its variety in ethnicity, class and religious practice, its regional variations in small towns, farms, factory & mining towns, and in roaring cities, coast to coast. The course emphasizes the ruptures and wonders of mass migration, religious and political tensions among Canadian Jews from the 1940s through the 1980s, and the ways in which Jews negotiated relationships with non-Jews in Canada, as well as its politics, its landscape, its race relations, its religious spheres, and eventually, its embrace of multiculturalism. It will touch on Canadian Jewry's relations with the State of Israel, anti-Semitism, and the political, economic and cultural contributions Jews have made to Canadian life, always placing the Canadian Jewish experience in the broader context of global Jewish life.

The second dimension is an independent, year-long, primary source based, original research project of your choosing, which you'll workshop throughout the year alongside your fellow researchers. We'll go through this process step by step together – including choosing a subject that excites you. The course includes research workshops with professional archivists and leading researchers in the field.

Required Course Text/Readings:

\*TENTATIVE\*

Allan Levine, Seeking the Fabled City: The Canadian Jewish Experience. Toronto: McClelland and Stewart, 2018, or Franklin Bialystok, Faces in the Crowd: The Jews of Canada. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2022 (if it's available), will be read as an overview within the first couple weeks of the seminar.

Some weeks of the course have no readings, but rather have small research tasks or other exploratory learning tasks in lieu of reading. Meetings with readings select from books or journals freely available through Scott Library. Highlights include:

Sheldon Godfrey and Judith Godfrey, Search out the Land: The Jews and the Growth of Equality in British Colonial America, 1740-1867. Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press, 1995, pp. xv-11, 15-33, 228-234

Ruth Frager, Sweatshop Strife: Class, Ethnicity and Gender in the Jewish Labor Movement of Toronto, 1900-1939, Toronto, University of Toronto Press, 1992, pp. 3-9, 35-55

Michael Brown, "Divergent Paths: Early Zionism in Canada and the United States," *Jewish Social Studies*, Vol. 44, No. 2 (Spring, 1982), pp. 149-168

Irving Abella and Harold Troper, None is Too Many: Canada and the Jews of Europe, 1933-1948. Toronto: Lester & Orpen Dennys, 1982. Ch. 1, pp. 1-37

Norman Erwin, "The Holocaust, Canadian Jews, and Canada's "Good War" Against Nazism," *Canadian Jewish Studies*. Vol.24 (2016), pp. 103-123

Bialystok, Franklin. Delayed Impact: The Holocaust and the Canadian Jewish Community. Montreal and Kingston: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2000, pp.3-41

Troper, Harold, "Of Faith and Thanksgiving," in The Defining Decade: Identity, Politics and the Canadian Jewish Community in the 1960s. Toronto: UTP, 2010, pp.3-38

Richard Menkis, "Jewish Communal Identity at the Crossroads: Early Jewish Responses to Canadian Multiculturalism, 1963-1965," *Studies in Religion*, 2011, Volume 40, Issue 3, pp. 283 – 292

Lacasse, Simon-Pierre. "'A Curse or a Blessing?': Montreal Jews and the Politics of 1960s Quebec." *The Canadian Historical Review* (2021): 26pg.

Dimond, Etan, "Religion and Suburbia," And I Will Dwell in Their Midst: Orthodox Jews in Suburbia. Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 2000, pp. 3-25.

Cohen, Yolande, "Forgetting and Forging: My Canadian Experience as a Moroccan Jew," in David S. Koffman, No Better Home? Jews, Canada, and the Sense of Belonging. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2021.

### Weighting of Course:

#### **\*TENTATIVE Grade Breakdown\***

• Find and Discuss a Primary Source	10%.	September 23
• Analyze the Secondary Field	10%	October 14
• Research Paper:		
○ Research Proposal	10%	November 17
○ Research Project First Draft	20%	February 10
○ Peer Review Report	5%	March 10
○ Revisions of Research Paper	15%	March 24
○ Final Edits & Presentation	5%	April 7
• Weekly Participation / Short Tasks	15%	Ongoing
• Lead Seminar Discussion	10%	Turn-Taking
• Bonus Point Opportunities	(up to 5%)	

### Organization of the Course:

The course is organized on a weekly schedule with in-person meetings. Some meetings will take place at local, accessible archives. There are some weeks devoted to independent research – these have no group meetings. The start of the course provides a wide-lens history of Canadian Jewish life. We then return to the start and dive into select episodes/eras/themes as we move ahead chronologically toward the present. From early on in the course, students will begin working on their own original contributions to the field, workshoping along the way. The course is punctuated with guests, asides, and activities.

### Course Learning Objectives:

- Learn or improve the skills of a historian so as to:
  - Find and analyze primary sources to “make” history
  - Gain basic competency in archives
  - Research, write and edit an original scholarly argument.
- Acquire knowledge and insight about Canadian Jewish history so as to:
  - Be able to intelligently assimilate new facts / perspectives about Canadian Jewry when then come up in your life in the future
  - Be able to apply your knowledge about Canadian Jewry to the experiences – similarities and differences – with other minority ethnic and/or religious groups in Canada
  - Have a clear sense of the broad arch of modern Jewish history and something of the unique nature of the Canadian version of it