

Reli 392/2 - A  
Thursday 14:45-17:30.  
Office Hours: Tues. 12:00- 1:30  
(By appointment)

Prof. Norma Joseph  
2060 Mackay St. Room 303  
848-2078, 2077

*WOMEN AND JEWISH HISTORY: THE MODERN PERIOD*

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will focus on the distinctive stories of the women who participated in the shaping of the modern Jewish community. The major portion of our attention will be directed at the North American community in the twentieth century. We will look at some of the issues related to studying gender in Israel and in Holocaust studies.

In Canada and in the United States of America, the tale of Jewish immigration, adaptation and successful communal formation included men and women of all ages, geographic distribution, economic means and religious background. Until very recently the history of this community was written as if the women played no part or all played the same part. Women's experience of modernity and its forces often differed from the norm as set out for males. Our goal is to uncover their voices and so enrich our historical frame.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

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|---------------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Class attendance and participation | 10% |
| 2. Group presentation                 | 10% |
| 3. Comparative essay      Due Oct. 11 | 30% |
| Or 3 journal entries                  |     |
| 4. One research paper Due Nov. 29     | 50% |

**PLEASE NOTE: CLASS IS CANCELED ON THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 27.**

GUIDELINES FOR GRADING - DEPARTMENT OF RELIGION:

- "A" Superior grasp of material, well written, clear explanations, presentation of original insights beyond those of class discussion.
- "B" Good understanding, clear and orderly presentation shows ability to apply material and concepts.
- "C" Adequate grasp of material, reasonably clear.
- "D" Evidence of having done reading but inadequate comprehension.
- "F" An "F" indicates that the student did not do the assignment, that the material handed in does not comply with the requirements, or lacks evidence that the work was done.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

BREAD GIVERS, Anzia Yeziarska. Persea Books,  
ISBN 0 89255-014-7

RACHEL CALOF'S STORY, Translated by Jacob Caloff and Molly Shaw, Indiana University Press, 1995.

ISBN 0-253-20986-2  
SHULAMIS, Shulamis Yellin, Vehicule Press, 1983  
ISBN 0-919890-52-0  
TELL NO ONE WHO YOU ARE, Walter Buchignani, Tundra Books, 1994  
ISBN 0-88776-286-7

Recommended

REMEMBERINGS, Pauline Wengeroff, University Press of Maryland, 2000.

ISBN 188305361-7

Hyman, Paula. Gender and Assimilation.

E. Umansky & D. Ashton, Four Centuries of Jewish Women's Spirituality.

S. Yelin, Shulamis: A Montreal Childhood.

Rose Cohen, Out of the Shadow.

Anzia Yezierska, Red Ribbon.

The Encyclopedia of Jewish Women in America, edited by Paula Hyman and Deborah Dash Moore.  
1997.

Judith Baskin, ed. Jewish Women in Historical Perspective.

Baum, Hyman & Michel, The Jewish Women in America.

J.R. Marcus, The American Jewish Woman 2 vols.

R. Glanz, The Jewish Woman in America 2 vols.

S.W. Schneider, Jewish & Female.

F. Moskowitz, A Leak in the Heart.

J. Plaskow, Standing Again at Sinai.

E.T. Beck, Nice Jewish Girls.

A.L. Lerner, Who Has Not Made Me a Man.

J. Antler, The Journey Home, and America & I.

Gossman & Haut, Daughters of the King.

S.S. Weinberg, The World of Our Mothers.

S.B. Fishman, A Breath of Life.

A. Cantor, Jewish Women Jewish Men.

BACKGROUND READING:

1. H.M. Sachar, A History of the Jews in America.
2. Brym, Shaffir, Weinfeld, The Jews in Canada.
3. J. Sarna, The American Jewish Experience.
4. J. Neusner, Understanding American Judaism 392.98
5. R. Klein and F. Dimant, editors, From Immigration to Integration.

## COURSE OUTLINE

September 6

I. A Methodological Framework

Remembering Grandma: Problems with History.

Overview of Modern Period.

Read: Course pack (hereafter CP) # 1,2,3. These readings apply to the entire course.

September 13

II. First Immigrants.

Read CP #4.

III. 19th Century Developments

European Patterns

Read: Read: CP #5.

Recommended: Pauline Wengeroff, Rememberings.

Paula Hyman G&A, chapter 1.

September 20

IV. Single & Successful: from Rebecca to Emma

Read: CP #9

V. German Jewish Women Arrive

Read: CP # 6,7,10.

October 4

VI. Eastern Europeans Become Americans: 1890-1920

Leaving Home and Coming to America

Read: CP # 8, 11, 13.

October 11

VII. Canadian Realities

Read: Shulamis.

CP # 20, 21.

**Special visit to Archives**

October 18

VIII. Twentieth Century Transformations

Women's Work

Read: Yeziarska, Breadgivers.

Educating Rita: A Dream Come True

Read: CP# 12.

October 25

Unions & Organizers

Read: CP #14,15,16,17.

November 1

IX. Identity & Family Patterns: Stereotypes & Changes

Read: Rachel Caloff's Story

November 8

X. Women with Women:

Volunteer Organizations

Read: CP # 18, 26.

At Home

Read: CP # 19.

November 15

XI. Gender and Holocaust history

Read: Tell No One Who You Are.

CP # 22, 23.

November 22

XII. Zionist dreams and realities

Read: CP # 24, 25.

November 29

XIII. Political and personal :

Feminism, Judaism, Diversity and Religious Activism

Read: CP # 27, 4.

Film *Half The Kingdom*

XIV. Problems & Possibilities: Stereotypes, Sexual Prejudices, Anti Semitism and Sexism.

Read: CP # 21 Nora Gold, " Canadian Jewish Women and their experiences of Sexism and anti Semitism".

Recommended: Plaskow & Daum in Tribe of Dina on Anti Semitism