This course explores Jewish women’s experiences from the seventeenth century to the present, covering Europe, the United States, and Israel. We examine work, marriage, motherhood, spirituality, education, community and politics across three centuries and three continents.

Requirements. Students should do the reading and come prepared for discussion in class.

Students are asked to post four mini-essays of at least two paragraphs commenting on the lecture discussions and readings on the class web site. You may of course post more messages, especially in response to the postings of fellow students. [If you have difficulty logging onto the site, please visit the Academic Computing Services office in the AP and M Building, 2113, 858 822 3315. Log in by visiting the site http://WebCT.ucsd.edu.] Site will NOT be up and running until the second week of class.

Each student should choose either a Historical Personality or a focus on Literature or Film. If you choose a Historical Personality, check the date and make
sure to be in class the day of your presentation. If you choose Literature or Film, you must make a presentation in class on the day of those Roundtables.

In addition to your postings and class presentations, you will write a 5 page essay on either your Personality or Literature or Film topic due on May 18.

There will be an in-class midterm examination on May 7, and a take home final due on the last day of class.

**Guidelines for the essay.** For the Personality essay, do not simply provide a summary of that person’s biography, but focus in on a particular aspect of their life and work. You may not use internet sites as sources and must use at least one scholarly monograph. For the Literature or Film essays, focus on the historical rather than the aesthetic dimensions of the work in question.

**Points toward your final grade:** final 40; midterm 20; essay 30; web and class discussion 10. You are expected to make a class presentation but these presentations are not graded.

**BOOKS.** All books have been ordered at the Groundworks Bookstore on campus, and have also been placed on reserve.

Judith Baskin, *JEWISH WOMEN IN HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE*
Naomi Shepherd, *PRICE BELOW RUBIES*
Gluckel of Hameln, *MEMOIRS OF GLUCKEL OF HAMELN*
Emma Goldman, *LIVING MY LIFE* Volume One
Rachel Yanait Ben-Zvi, *BEFORE GOLDA: MANYA SCHOCHAT*
S. Ansky, *A DYBBUK*, adapted by Tony Kushner
Dalia Ofer and Lenore Weizmann, eds., *WOMEN IN THE HOLOCAUST*
Susan Glenn, *DAUGHTERS OF THE SHTETL*
Puah Rakovsky, *MY LIFE AS A FEMINIST ZIONIST*

Strongly recommended: David Biale, *EROS AND THE JEWS* [Entire text of the book is available online at //ark.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/ft2489n812]

**SCHEDULE.**

April 2 Introduction

PART ONE: WHEN JEWS WERE A STATE WITHIN A STATE

April 4 **The Business Wife**

Baskin, Chapter Four; Ofer and Weizman, Chapter One.
Historical Personalities: Esther Liebmann; Madam Kaula

April 6  **Glikl bas Judah Leib Remembers**


Historical Personalities: Shabbatei Zevi; Jacob Frank

April 9  **Women in Hassidism**

Baskin, Chapter Seven

Recommended: Biale, Chapter Six

Historical Personalities: Baal Shem Tov, Nahman of Bratslav, Hannah Rokhel, the Maid of Ludomir.

**PART TWO: ASSIMILATING INTO EUROPEAN SOCIETIES**

April 11  **Women’s Place in the Jewish Enlightenment**

Shepherd, Chapter One

Recommended: Biale, Chapter Seven

Historical Personalities: Moses Mendelssohn, Herz Homberg, Solomon Maimon.

April 13  **The Berlin Salons**

Baskin, Chapter Eight

Historical Personalities: Rahel Levin Varnhagen, Dorothea Mendelssohn Schlegel, Henriette Herz; Fanny Lewald, Fanny von Arnstein
April 16: Women and Reform Judaism

No reading.

Historical Personalities: Amalia Beer; Ray Frank; Lily Montagu

April 18 Jewish Women in Victorian England

Baskin, Chapter Nine

Historical Personalities: Grace Aguilar; Benjamin Disraeli

April 20 Feminist Movements Across Europe

Baskin, Chapter Ten; Glenn Chapter One

Historical Personalities: Pauline Wengeroff; Anita Augsburg; Alice Salomon; Adele Schreiber; Aletta Jacobs; Rosika Schwimmer; Rosa Manus

April 23 Freud’s Patient Becomes Feminist Activist

Shepherd, Chapter Six

Historical Personalities: Sigmund Freud, Bertha Pappenheim, Arthur Schnitzler, Joseph Breuer.

April 25 Jewish Women in Psychoanalysis

No reading.

Historical Personalities: Wilhelm Fliess; Melanie Klein; Anna Freud; Martha Bernays; Minna Bernays; Ida Bauer (Freud’s Dora); Max Nordau; Magnus Hirschfeld.

April 27: The Case of Anna Kuliscioff: How Jewish were the Jewish Salons?
Shepherd, Chapter Two

Historical Personalities: Anna Kuliscioff, Ada Levendor, Genevieve Strauss.

April 27  **Marriage and Hysteria in Ansky’s *Dybbuk***

Read the entire play.

Historical Personalities: Solomon Rapaport Ansky.

April 30  **A *Dybbuk*: The Visual Record**

We will watch the video of a performance of the *Dybbuk*.

May 2  **Choosing Radical Socialism**

Shepherd, Chapter Three.

Historical Personalities: Leon Trotsky; Eva Broido; Lev Deitsch; Anna Epstein; Beta Kaminskaya; Jenny Marx; Eleanor Marx; Rosa Luxemburg, Emma Goldman.

May 4  **The Socialist Bund**

Shepherd, Chapter Four; Ofer and Weizman, Chapter Four

Historical Personalities: Esther Frumkin; Miriam Raskin; Anna Rozental; Pati Kremer; Liuba Levinson-Aizenshtat; Roza Levit; Esther Riskind; Esther Richter, Bella Shapiro, Manya Rozen

May 7  **In-class midterm examination.** Please bring a blue book to class. The examination will consist of one essay which you will choose from a list of four questions. The questions will not be given in advance.

PART THREE: THE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE
May 9  The American Jewish Setting

Baskin, Chapter Fourteen; Glenn Chapter Two


May 11  The Ordeal of Immigration

Glenn, Chapters Three through Six

Historical Personalities:  Fannia Cohn; Clara Lemlich; Mary Antin, Rose Cohen, Rose Kaplan; Rose Schneiderman

May 14  Literature Roundtable

You may choose either a female author, or a male author who presents Jewish women characters in his work.  Focus on only one work, although your presentation and your essay may focus more broadly on the historical circumstances depicted in the novel, the author’s life, and also on the aesthetic dimensions and reception of the work.

Authors:  Anzia Yezierska; I.L. Peretz; Chaim Nachman Bialik; Fanny Lewald; Emma Lazarus; Cynthia Ozick; I. B. Singer; I. J. Singer; Esther Kreitman; Haim Nachman Bialik; Judith Shalev; Shai Agnon; Dvora Baron; Philip Roth; Saul Bellow; Sholem Asch; Abraham Cahan.

May 16  The Case of Emma Goldman

Goldman memoir, read as much of the memoir as you can.

Historical Personalities:  Chaim Zhitlovsky; Jacob Kershner; Alexander Berkman; Johann Most; Abraham Cahan

May 18:  Leftist Women, Liberal Allies
Shepherd, Chapter Seven


Please submit your essay today, either on your Historical Personality, your Literature or your Film topic. Late work will not be accepted without permission from the instructor 24 hours before the due date.

PART FOUR: THE ZIONIST REVOLUTION

May 21  **Family Troubles in the Life of Theodor Herzl**

No reading

Historical Personalities: Theodor Herzl; Julie Herzl; the Herzl children; Martin Buber and Paula Winkler Buber

May 23  **Puah Rakovsky, the Feminist Zionist**

Rakovsky, All students read Introduction and Chapters 1-3. Please read as many of the following chapters as you can.

Historical Personalities: A. D. Gordon; Rachel Weizmann; Leah Proshansky.

May 23  **Female Lives in the Yishuv**

Baskin, Chapter Thirteen.

Historical Personalities: Dvora Baron; Ada Maimon; Rachel Katznelson Shazar; Henriette Szold; Vera Weizmann; Joseph Brenner; Berl Katznelson; Meier Yaari; Hanna Meizel.

May 25  **The Astonishing Life of Manya Schochat**

*Before Golda*, read at minimum every other chapter.
PART FIVE: WOMEN IN THE HOLOCAUST

May 28      No Class

May 30      Women Inside Nazi Germany

Ofer and Weizman, Chapters Two and Five


June 1      Film Roundtable

Films to consider, plus choices of your own: The Dybbuk, Aimee and Jaguar, Yentl, The Governess, Esther Kahn, Kadosh, Berlin Jerusalem, Mamele, Yidl mitn fidl, A Price Above Rubies; Hester Street; . Students are encouraged to visit www.spielbergfilmarchive for additional cinematic resources. To make a presentation to the class, choose a five minute clip from your film. For your essay, make a historical critique of the film, discussing how the film accurately represents history and also how it distorts or ignores important historical evidence.

June 4      Women in Ghettos

Ofer and Weizman, Chapters Six, Eight, Nine and Eleven

Personalities: Ruth Kluger; Edith Orenstein; Trude Neumann [daughter of Theodor Herzl]; Hannah Steiner; Fritzi Zucker; Ilse Blumenthal-Weiss; Gertrud Kantorowitz; Fredy Hirsch; Ruth Bondy

June 6      Women in Concentration Camps

Ofer and Weizman, Chapters Fifteen, Sixteen, Eighteen
June 8  

Debating the Future in Light of the Past

Choose how the following institutions or populations view women’s status in Judaism: Orthodox Judaism in the United States; Orthodox Judaism in Israel; Reform Judaism; Conservative Judaism; Reconstructionist Judaism; Labor Zionism in contemporary Israel; New Age Judaism in the United States; women in the settler movement in the occupied territories; secular feminism.

Take home essay is due. You will choose one essay based on a list of questions distributed a week before the due date.