

Jews and African-Americans: Slavery, Diaspora, Ghetto

Diversity course proposed by Professor Deborah Hertz

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Class Texts

The following books will be available for sale at the Bookstore in the Price Center, and also placed on reserve at the UC San Diego Library. Many can be found at your local public library or purchased for reading with your Kindle device. (A free download of the Kindle software is available for your laptop.) Readings from books that are not ordered as class texts will be posted in electronic form on the class website and also available from e-Reserves through the library.

Jonathan Schorsch, *Jews and Blacks in the Early Modern World* (Cambridge University Press, \$37)

Eric Goldstein, *The Price of Whiteness: Jews, Race, and American Identity* (Princeton University Press, \$23)

George Fredrickson, *Racism: A Short History* (Princeton, \$20)

Mitchell Hart, ed., *Jews and Race: Writings on Identity and Difference, 1880–1940* (Brandeis University Press)

Requirements

There will **not be a midterm examination** in this course, but there will be a **final** on the day and time provided by the Registrar. In the final, students will choose to

write on two out of ten essay prompts, which are not distributed before the examination, plus identifying five out of fifteen short identifications.

Each student should choose one lecture theme to serve as the general topic for his or her project. Once having chosen the overall approach, students will submit first an **abstract**, then an **outline**, and then three pages of the **draft** of their eventual **fifteen-page essay**. Either two scholarly books or four scholarly articles are required as bibliography. Novels, plays, poetry, and films may be used to illustrate the themes of the essay if appropriate. We will hold a **Writing Workshop** three times during the quarter to encourage dialogue among students about their research.

Each lecture will include a list of historical personalities, themes, and events. Each student should make a **three-minute presentation** on one of these topic during the course. No credit is assigned to the presentation but it is required. Try to choose a presentation topic that fits your essay theme.

Students are required to post at least **five, short one-paragraph comments** on the class Web board. These posts are required but not graded.

Points toward the final numerical total for the course: final, forty points; final version of essay, thirty points; abstract and bibliography of the essay, ten points; outline of the essay, ten points, and three-pages of draft of essay, ten points. There is no predictable curve of the relationship of total points earned and the final letter grade.

Schedule of the Course

Lecture One: Introduction to the Course

No reading.

Jews and Africans in the Global Economy, 1600–1800

Lecture Two: Jewish Migration from Europe to the New World

Schorsch, *Blacks and Jews*, selected chapters.

Lecture Three: Jewish Merchants and the Slave Trade

Schorsch, *Blacks and Jews*, selected chapters; Frederickson, *Racism*, Chapters One and Two.

Lecture Four: The Plantation System

Goldstein, *Price of Whiteness*, Chapter Three; Jason Silverman, “The Law of the Land is the Law,” in Jack Salzman and Cornel West, eds., *Struggles in the Promised Land: History of Black-Jewish Relations in the United States*.

Abstract and short bibliography of research essay due.

Two Minorities in the American Past

Lecture Five: The Abolition of Slavery and the Civil War

Goldstein, *Price of Whiteness*, Chapters One and Two; Jonathan Sarna, *Jews and the Civil War*, selected chapter.

Lecture Six: Urban Migrations and Labor Force Patterns

Part IV, “Society and Economy,” in Hart, *Jews and Race*, 143–56; Wendell Pritchett, *Brownsville, Brooklyn: Blacks, Jews, and the Changing Face of the Ghetto*, selected chapter, and Harold Rose, *Black Ghettos: Spatial Biographical Perspectives*, selected chapter.

Lecture Seven: Struggling for Equality from World War One to the Present

Frederickson, *Racism*, Chapter Three; Hasia Diner, “Between Words and Deeds: Jews and Blacks in America 1880–1935,” and Nancy Weiss, “Long-Distance Runners of the Civil Rights Movement,” both from Salzman and West, *Struggles in the Promised Land*.

One-page outline of research essay due. **Writing Workshop** in class.

The Politics of Assimilation and Homeland

Lecture Eight: The African-American Intelligentsia: Garvey, Douglass, W.E.B. Dubois and Malcolm X

Colin Grant, *Negro with a Hat: The Rise and Fall of Marcus Garvey*, selected chapter; W.E.B. Dubois, *The Souls of Black Folk*, selected chapter.

Lecture Nine: Liberia, Black Hebrews, and the Nation of Islam

Jacob Dorman, *Chosen People: The Rise of American Black Israelite Religions*, selected chapters.

Lecture Ten: Labor Zionism and the Socialist Movement

Mark Raider, *The Emergence of American Zionism*, selected chapters, and Tony Michels, *Jewish Radicals: A Documentary History*, selected chapters.

Lecture Eleven: Struggle Against Apartheid in South Africa

Gideon Shimoni, *Community and Conscience: The Jews in Apartheid South Africa*, selected chapters, and Sasha Polakow Suransky, *The Unspoken Alliance: Israel's Secret Relationship with Apartheid South Africa*, selected chapters.

Lecture Twelve: Interracial Love, Marriage, and Children

Part Five, "Racial Mixing: Intermarriage and Conversion, in Hart, *Jews and Race*, 157–88.

Hierarchies of Color and Descent

Lecture Thirteen: Becoming White and Passing as White

Karen Brodtkin, *How Jews Became White Folks*, selected chapters, and Franz Fanon, *Black Skin, White Masks*, selected chapters, and David Roediger, *Working Toward Whiteness*, selected chapter.

Lecture Fourteen: Ashkenazim and Sephardim from Spain to Modern Israel

Melanie Kaye/Kantrowitz, *The Colors of Jews*, selected chapters; Jonathan Schorsch, *Swimming the Atlantic: Judeoconvertos, Afroiberians and Amerindians in the Seventeenth Century*, selected chapters.

Meetings and Meanings in Culture

Lecture Fifteen: From Blackface to Hollywood

Thomas Cripps, “African Americans and Jews in Hollywood,” in Salzman and West, *Struggles in the Promised Land*; Eric Lott, *Love and Theft: Blackface Minstrelsy and the American Working Class*, selected chapters.

Lecture Sixteen: Blues, Jazz, and Hip Hop

Jeffrey Melnick, *A Right to Sing the Blues: African-Americans, Jews and American Popular Song*, selected chapters; Karl Hagstrom Miller, *Segregating Sound: Inventing Folk and Pop Music in the Age of Jim Crow*, selected chapters.

Three pages of the draft of your research essay due, **Writing Workshop** in class.

Conclusions: What Is a Race and Why Does Race Matter?

Lecture Seventeen: The View from the Nineteenth Century

Peggy Pascoe, *What Comes Naturally: Miscegenation Law and the Making of Race in America*, selected chapters.

Lecture Eighteen: Contemporary Views

Part VI, “Politics, Polemics and Apologetics,” in Hart, *Jews and Race*, 189–266; Frederickson, *Racism*, Epilogue and Appendix, 139-170.

Lecture Nineteen: The View from Genetics

Parts II and III, “Anthropology” and “Medicine and Biology,” in Hart, *Jews and Race*, 41–142.

Lecture Twenty: Presentation of Student Projects