

Huron Brief Course Outlines

Fall/Winter 2023-2024

Course Title: The Problem of Antisemitism

Course Number and Section

JEWISH STUDIES

1370F - 550

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Disclaimer: Information in the brief course outline is subject to change. The syllabus posted on OWL is the official and authoritative source of information for the course.

Course Description:

Over the course of 2022, American comic Whoopi Goldberg (néé Caryn Elaine Johnson) twice declared that the Holocaust was “white-on-white violence” and therefore not about race. Putting to one side the egregious errors underpinning her assumptions, Goldberg has once again brought into question whether the racism that lay at the heart of the Holocaust was an antisemitism propelled by race, religion, culture, or something else altogether.

In this course we will explore the history of anti-Jewish ideas and actions to better understand its contours and articulations across time. We will discuss whether antisemitism is a racial, religious, or cultural discrimination. We will examine the formation and expression of anti-Jewish ideas and actions as well as explore their persistence. What is antisemitism? Why and when did it come to be? Why has it endured? In this course we will try to answer all these questions.

Learning Outcomes:

To understand the myriad bases for antisemitism and why it continues to be articulated in the modern world

To understand a particular form of hatred that will allow them to deconstruct hatred more generally

To gain abilities in critical thinking and analysis, while also developing their university-level writing skills

Textbooks and Course Materials:

The readings and viewings for this course are drawn either from our textbook or primary sources related to antisemitism.

This course has a single required textbook containing a series of thematically-structured articles relating to antisemitism:

Key Concepts in the Study of Antisemitism, edited by Sol Goldberg, Scott Ury, Kalman Weiser (Palgrave Macmillan, 2021).

For the primary sources, the full syllabus provides a link or further instructions will be provided during the course of the term. Please note that additional readings and/or changes to the reading material may take place during the term. In such instances, students will be notified in class and via email, and the syllabus will be updated on OWL. Students are responsible for any such additional material.

Methods of Evaluation:

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Annotated bibliography	10/25/2023	20%
Primary Source Analysis	11/29/2023	20%
Weekly Summaries	Ongoing	10%
Midterm Exam	10/18/2023	20%
Final Exam	Dec. TBD	30%

In solidarity with the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, and Chonnonton peoples on whose traditional treaty and unceded territories this course is shared.