

## Huron Brief Course Outlines

Fall/Winter 2023-2024

**Course Title:** JEWISH HISTORY FROM THE SPANISH EXPULSION TO THE MODERN ERA

**Course Number and Section**

JEWISH STUDIES

2822F - 550

**Instructor Name(s):** Hernan Tesler-Mabe

**Instructor Email(s):** hteslerm@huron.uwo.ca

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:

The great Jewish historian Simon Dubnow (1860-1941) once argued that “the expulsion from Spain was a stunning blow” and with this event “the life of the Jews had become more unendurable than before.” Indeed, one could argue that Jewish history is written in a tragic key, with Tisha B’av (the Jewish holiday commemorating the destruction of the First and Second Temples, along with many other tragedies) as one of its most important dates. Yet Dubnow also contends “that Jewry, being a spiritual entity, cannot suffer annihilation: the body, the mold, may be destroyed, the spirit is immortal. Bereft of country and dispersed as it is, the Jewish nation lives, and will go on living.” In this course, students will explore the history of the Jewish people from 1492 to the present, learning how Jewish experience has helped shape – and been shaped by – the modern world, as well as consider whether Jewish history can best be characterized as tragic or triumphant.

### Learning Outcomes:

To acquire a deeper knowledge of some of the key people, ideas, and events from the past six hundred years of Jewish history and understand their significance

To problematize and question historical constructions

To learn to analyze primary historical sources

To learn the basics of the historical craft and the utility of history

To acquire abilities in critical thinking and analysis and develop their university-level writing skills

### Textbooks and Course Materials:

Michael Brenner, *A Short History of the Jews* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2010) (available online for download: <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/west/reader.action?docID=6634822&ppg=1> )

Along with the highly readable (and required!) textbook, students will be obliged to engage with numerous primary sources. Each of these primary sources will be hyperlinked on the full syllabus. In the rare instance that a link is not available, further information will be provided during the term. Please also note that I reserve the right to make changes to the schedule of classes over the course of the term; in such cases, students are responsible for reading the relevant material.

**Methods of Evaluation:**

<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Due Date mm/dd/yy</b>	<b>Weight - %</b>
Midterm Exam	10/17/2023	20%
Annotated Bibliography	10/24/2023	10%
Term Paper	11/21/2023	20%
Class Attendance and Participation	Ongoing	10%
Final Exam	Dec. TBD	30%
Debate	12/05/2023	10%

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