

**University of Haifa-International School-Program for Graduate Students  
The Weiss-Livnat International MA Program in Holocaust Studies  
2018-2019**

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**German Jewry under the Nazi Regime  
Prof. Hagit Lavsky**

Seminar Details	Office Hours (by appointment)
<b>Semester: Winter 2018/19</b>	<b>Sunday 10:00-13:00 Wednesday 12:15-13:15</b>
<b>Course Number: 8041</b>	<b>at Eshkol Tower 2207</b>
<b>Class Time: Wednesday, 10:15 -11:45 a.m.</b>	<b>hagit.lavsky@mail.huji.ac.il</b>
<b>Class Location: Student House 225</b>	<b>Phone: 052-2879051</b>

**Course Description**

The Nazi rise to power changed dramatically the situation of German Jewry, from being the most prosperous and integrated/assimilated community in Europe to become the first community to experience the Nazi persecution, violent terror, expulsion, robbery, ghettoization, and deportation over a long period before the war. How did they react? How did various groups perceive what was happening and what are the chances? How did the Jewish leadership cope with the crisis? What were their options to emigrate and how did they change along the time? How did they act to survive on a daily basis? How did the new situation shape their Jewish identity and solidarity? What happened to them during the war? How many and who were the survivors and how did they cope with the post-war situation? All these issues and more will be dealt with against the background of the developing Nazi anti Jewish policy and on the basis of first-hand documentation, personal testimonies and correspondence, and by addressing a variety of studies with pluralistic approaches.

**Course Requirements:**

- Weekly reading assignments: Each week's discussion will be based on a few articles, chapters, and sources. Reading will be guided by leading questions. All weekly requirements and assignments will appear on the course website. All reading materials will be available on the Reserve shelves in the library and the required materials are scanned and available on the course site.
- Class participation: active attendance and participation in at least 10 classes of the course is required.
- Response papers: Students will have to submit twice a short response paper of 2 pages, addressing an issue based on selected pieces of the course assigned reading.
- Final short paper – for those who opt for: Length - up to 10 pages, double-spaced, font 12. You should submit **proposals of 1-2 pages for final short papers through email or through**

**the course website by the end of December 2015.** A proposal should include research question, a brief explanation about the literature on the topic, methodological considerations, table of contents and bibliography. Final papers should follow standard academic practice. Proposals may be submitted and discussed via the course website.

- **Submission deadline for final short papers: One month after the end of the semester, by email +cc to Ilana Eshhar).**
- Seminar paper: Students who opt for seminar paper (25-30 pages, double spaced, font 12) will have to set appointment with the teacher to discuss topic and get initial guidelines. Submission of proposal of up to 3 pages along the same lines as required for the short final paper, by the end of December 2016.
- **Submission deadline for seminar papers: By the beginning of the summer semester(Via email + cc Ilana Eshhar**
- Communication: Make sure to check your emails and the course website every week for any update regarding the seminar. Each student must make sure to meet with me at least once in the semester.

**Final Grade for students who opt for short or seminar papers:**

Class participation and response papers 50%; Final paper or seminar paper 50%

## Course Outline

### **1. 21-10-15 German Jewry on the Eve of the Nazi seizure of power.**

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### **2. 28-10-15 First spontaneous responses: 1933**

#### Bibliography

Barkai, Avraham, *From boycott to annihilation : the economic struggle of German Jews, 1933-1943* / Hanover [N.H], chap 1, pp. 13-36

Friedlander, Saul, *Nazi Germany and the Jews*, vol. 1 *The years of persecution, 1933-1939*  
New York 1997, chap. 1, pp. 9-40

עברית:

פרידלנדר, שאול, גרמניה הנאצית והיהודים – שנות הרדיפות 1933-1939, תל אביב 1997

#### Primary sources:

*Jewish Responses to Persecution*, ed. Matthäus, Jürgen and Mark Roseman, (AltaMira Press 2010), vol. I:

1. "Inner security", *Jüdische Rundschau*, Feb. 3, 1933, pp. 10-11
2. Final Letter by Fritz Rosenfelder to his friends, April 1933, pp. 30-31
3. List of youth 1934; letter by Lea Folk, Nov. 1933, pp. 71-74

### **3. 4-11-15 First institutional responses 1933: controversial perceptions.**

#### Bibliography

Meyer, Michael A. (general editor) and Michael Brenner (assistant editor), *German-Jewish history in modern times*, vol. 4. *Renewal and destruction*, ed. Avraham Barkai, Paul Mendes-Flohr, New York : Columbia University Press, c1996-c1998, Chap. 11, pp. 258-282

עברית: תולדות יהודי גרמניה בעת החדשה / עורך: מיכאל מאיר ; עורך מישנה: מיכאל ברנר, ירושלים 2000, כרך רביעי

Lavsky, Hagit, *Before Catastrophe - The Distinctive Path of German Zionism, 1897-1938*, (Detroit and Jerusalem 1996), chap. 12, pp. 227-253

#### Primary sources

*Jewish Responses*, vol. I:

1. Appeal at the Inauguration of the *Reichsvertretung*, pp. 55-56
2. Letter by Willy Rosenfeld to CV Head Office, Nov. 6, 1933, pp. 81-82

### **4. 11-11-15 Confronting the Nuremberg Laws 1935**

#### Bibliography

Friedlander, *Nazi Germany and the Jews*, chap. 4-5

Meyer, *German-Jewish History* Chap. 9, sec. 3, pp. 210-216

Primary Sources

Cohn, Willy, *No Justice in Germany: The Breslau Diaries*, ed. Norbert Conrads, trans. Kenneth Kronenberg, Stanford CA: Stanford University Press, Diary entries for September 1933, pp. 183-213

Page | 4 *Jewish Responses*, vol.I:

Letter by CV president, 16-9-1935, p. 193

Louise Solmitz diary entry, Nov. 15, 1935, p. 196

**5. 18-11-15 The tragic turning point: 1938 and its aftermath.**Bibliography

Barkai, *From Boycott to Annihilation*, pp. 110-138

Meyer, *German Jewish History*, Chap. 9, sec. 5, pp. 220-224; chap. 13, sec. 2-4, pp. 318-332

Primary sources

*Jewish Responses*, vol. I:

Doc.12-5, Rudolf Bing, pp. 351-52;

Doc.12-12, Mally Dienemann, pp. 363-366

*Jewish Responses*, vol. II, doc. 2-1, pp. 29-30

**Submission of 1<sup>st</sup> response paper: Analysis of one of the primary sources****25-11-15 Yad Vashem seminar****6. 2-12-15 The dynamics of emigration: emigrants and refugees, 1933-1939.**Bibliography

Lavsky, Hagit. 'German Jewish Interwar Migration in a Comparative Perspective: Mandatory Palestine, The United States, and Great Britain,' in *Ethnicity and Beyond: Theory and Dilemmas of Jewish Group Demarcation. Studies in Contemporary Jewry XXV* (2011), pp. 115-144.

Marrus, Michael M., *The Unwanted: European Refugees from the First World War through the Cold War*, Philadelphia 2002, chap. 3, pp. 128-138, 145-183

Primary sources

*Jewish Responses*:

Vol. I: Doc. 3-3+3-4+3-5 , pp. 69-71; Doc. 11-1, pp. 307-311

Vol. II: Docs 2-7 and 2-8, pp. 45-47

## **7. 9-12-15 The daily battle for survival in advancing deterioration.**

### Bibliography

Barkai, *From Boycott to Annihilation*, pp. 37-53, 77-99, 106-109, 139-151

Meyer, *German-Jewish History*, chap. 14, sec. 1-4, pp. 333-354

Kaplan, *Between Dignity and Despair, Jewish Life in Nazi Germany*, New York: Oxford University Press, 1998, chap. 2, pp. 50-62 (notes 244-245), chap. 4, pp. 94-118 (notes 250-253)

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## **8. 16-12-15 The Jewish leadership – functioning under pressure.**

### Bibliography

Meyer, *German-Jewish History*, chap. 13, sec. 1, pp. 314-318

Kulka, Otto Dov, 'Jewish society in Germany as reflected in secret Nazi reports on "public opinion" 1933-1945', in Zimmermann, Moshe (ed.), *On Germans and Jews under the Nazi Regime*, Jerusalem 2006, pp. 261-279

### Primary sources

*Jewish Responses I*, doc. 2-13, pp. 54-56

## **9. 23-12-15 Spiritual and cultural withstanding.**

### Bibliography

Meyer, *German-Jewish History*, chap. 12, pp. 283-312

Hirsch, Lilly E. "‘Ein Tanz auf dem Vulkan’: The legacy of the Jewish Culture League", *Music and politics*, 5(2) 2011

### Primary sources

*Jewish Responses*, doc. 8-13—8-20, pp. 236-346

Kurt Baumann memoirs, in: Richarz, Monika (ed.) *Jewish life in Germany: memoirs from three centuries*; translated by Stella P. Rosenfeld and Sidney Rosenfeld. Bloomington : Indiana University Press, c1991, pp. 378-386

**Submission of 2<sup>nd</sup> response paper: On the meaning of spiritual and cultural withstanding based on the assigned readings.**

## **10. 30-12-15 The war years 1939-1941: underground, forced labor, and flight.**

### Bibliography

Kaplan, *Between Dignity and Despair*, chap. 6, pp. 145-172 (notes 255-258), chap. 8, pp. 201-228 (notes 261-263)

Seligmann, Avraham, 'An illegal way of life in Nazi Germany.', *Leo Baeck Institute Year Book*. 1992, Vol. 37, pp. 327-361

Meyer, Beate, 'The inevitable dilemma : the Reich Association (Reichsvereinigung) of Jews in Germany, the deportations, and the Jews who went underground', In Zimmermann, *On Germans and Jews*, pp. 297-312

Primary sources

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In *Jews in Nazi Berlin: From Kristallnacht to Liberation* (authors: Schütz, Chana et al., Berlin: Centrum Judaicum, 2009): Part 2, Sec. 3: Flight and expulsion, pp. 52-59; Part 4, sec. 5, pp. 89-99

In Richarz, *Jewish Life*:

Michael Meyer, pp. 406-412

Elisabeth Freund, pp. 412-424

**Dec. 31, 2016: Deadline for submission of proposals for final short papers and for seminar papers**

**11. 6-1-16 The war years 1941-1945: The dynamics of annihilation.**

Bibliography

Elkin, Rivka, 'The survival of the Jewish Hospital in Berlin, 1938-1945.' *Leo Baeck Institute Year Book* 38 (1993), pp. 157-192.

Meyer, *German-Jewish history*, chap. 14, sec. 4, pp. 346-354, sec. 6, pp. 356-360

Kaplan, *Between Dignity and Despair*, chap. 7, pp. 173-200 (notes 258-261)

Zariz Ruth, 'Officially approved emigration from Germany after 1941: a case study', in: *Yad Vashem Studies*, 18 (1987), pp. 275-291

*Jews in Nazi Berlin*, Part 7: Deportations, sec. 10, pp. 173-183

Primary sources

In Richarz, *Jewish Life*:

Miriam Gerber, pp. 424-429

Bruno Blau, pp. 460-474

**12. 13-1-16 German-Jewish survivors and Jewish DPs in Germany**

Bibliography

Bauer, Yehuda, *Out of the Ashes*, Oxford 1989 chap. 3, pp.45-70

Dinnerstein Leonard, *America and the Survivors of the Holocaust*, New York 1982, chap. 7

Kochavi Arieh J. *Post-Holocaust politics : Britain, the United States & Jewish refugees, 1945-1948*, Chapel Hill c2001, Chap. 1, Pp. 13-31+notes, 287-291; chap. 4, pp. 89-97+ notes, 304-306;

### **13. 20-1-16 The emergence of German-Jewish postwar communities**

#### Bibliography

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Lavsky, Hagit, *New Beginnings: Holocaust Survivors in Bergen-Belsen and the British Zone in Germany, 1945-1950*, Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 2002, chap. 8, pp. 124-140 + 256-260

#### **A balance-sheet: German Jewry in the Holocaust.**