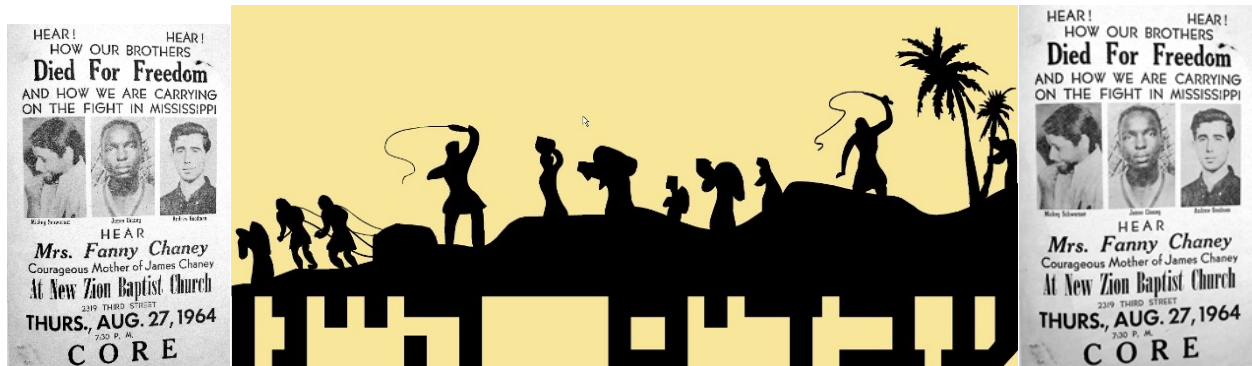


University of California at San Diego

## *Jews and African Americans: Slavery, Diaspora, Ghetto*



HITO 136

Winter 2021

Professor Deborah Hertz  
dhertz@ucsd.edu

Class meets on Zoom Tuesdays and Thursdays 3:30—4:50  
Classes will take place in the LTI PRO Zoom Space on our CANVAS web site.

**Remote Office Hours:** Please visit my Zoom Space at 471 742 5700 Mondays 9-11 and by appointment. Kindly arrange a time at the end of class or email me if you plan to visit my office hours and I will set you up with your own time slot so you don't have to wait around in the waiting room.

### **Requirements and Expectations**

Students who feel that they cannot participate in the synchronous classroom should petition to participate in an asynchronous way. Consider the time zone in which you live, your access to the internet, or other aspects of your situation during pandemic.

In addition to doing the readings, attending class and participating in class discussions, students are expected to participate in the Discussion Board on CANVAS, complete the take home midterm exam, complete the take home final exam, and write a 10 page essay on a subject of your choice.

## Points toward the final grade

Note that none of the individual items which receive points are given a letter grade. The grading curve is determined at the end of the quarter when all the individual point totals are known.

**Discussion Board:** please choose five of the 18 lectures for your commentary, and submit your post the evening before we discuss those readings. Of course you are welcome to contribute to more than five of the lecture conversations. To count for full points, write at least a paragraph and articulate a position regarding the question posed in the prompt. Kindly post as a reply to the former post so that all comments are visible in one thread. Points: 4 points per post, making the total possible 20 points.

**Midterm:** Six study questions will be posted on Tuesday February 2 and can be reviewed in class that day. On Friday February 5 two of those questions will be posted. You will have until Monday February 8 at 9 pm to submit your essays. Write one page double spaced to answer each of the questions. Points for the exam: 25.

**Essay:** Choose a topic for your essay based on surveying the readings and the topics in the syllabus. If you wish the professor to be involved in your research, please do visit my office hours on Mondays from 9--11. Note on the CANVAS web site the Guidelines for writing essays for my courses. Points for essay: 25. Due on Thursday March 4. Kindly post your essay up on our web site. Students will share their research discoveries and excitements in class on March 9.

**Final:** The format will be the same as the midterm. On March 10 you will receive six questions focused mainly on the material taught since the midterm. On March 15 you will receive the two questions for the exam, and will turn in your exam on March 17. Points for final: 30.

**Total points: Discussion Board 20; Midterm exam 25; Essay 25; Final 30.**

## Class Books and Films

The books have been ordered at the Price Center Bookstore, and they are also available through Library Reserves. To access the readings you must be signed into the VPN network. I have tried my best to note a hyperlink if I can find one to the full or partial text of the articles which are assigned that are not in the assigned books.

Edward Kritzler, *The Jewish Pirates of the Caribbean* (New York: Anchor Books/Random House, 2008.)

[https://www.google.com/books/edition/Jewish\\_Pirates\\_of\\_the\\_Caribbean/PU\\_iAwAAQBAJ?hl=en&gbpv=1&dq=Jewish+pirates+of+the+Caribbean+:+how+a+generation+of+swas+huckling+Jews+carved+out+an+empire+in+the+New+World+in+their+quest+for+treasure,+religious+freedom--and+revenge&pg=PP2&printsec=frontcover](https://www.google.com/books/edition/Jewish_Pirates_of_the_Caribbean/PU_iAwAAQBAJ?hl=en&gbpv=1&dq=Jewish+pirates+of+the+Caribbean+:+how+a+generation+of+swas+huckling+Jews+carved+out+an+empire+in+the+New+World+in+their+quest+for+treasure,+religious+freedom--and+revenge&pg=PP2&printsec=frontcover)

Olaudah Equiano, *The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano, or Gustavus Vassa, the African, Written by Himself*.

<http://www.gutenberg.org/files/15399/15399-h/15399-h.htm>

George Fredrickson, *Racism: A Short History* (Princeton: Princeton University Press).  
<https://www.yumpu.com/en/document/view/5200099/racism-a-short-history-george-m-fredricksonpdf-wnlibrary>

Eli Faber, *Jews, Slaves and the Slave Trade* (New York: New York University Press, 2000). [Full text online on Library Reserves.]

*The Jazz Singer* (1929)

*The People Versus Leo Frank*

## **Class Schedule**

### **January 5: Introduction to the course**

No reading.

### **January 7: Expelled from Spain and Portugal, Pirates in the Caribbean**

Kritzler, Introduction, Chapters One, Four, Five, and Six  
Faber, Introduction

### **January 12: The Netherlands as a Haven for Sephardic Jews**

Yosef Kaplan, "Moral Panic in the Eighteenth-Century Sephardi Community of Amsterdam: The Threat of Eros," in Jonathan Israel and Reinier Salverda, *Dutch Jewry* (Brill, 2002), 103-124.

### **January 14: Jewish Slave Traders: Fact and Fiction**

Seymour Drescher, "The Role of Jews in the Transatlantic Slave Trade," in *Immigrants and Minorities* 12.2 (July 1993), 113-125.

David Brion Davis, "Jews in the Slave Trade," in *Struggles in the Promised Land* (Oxford University Press, 1997), 65-72.

### **January 19: Jews in Curacao, Surinam, and Senegal**

Jessica Roitman, "Mediating Multiculturalism: Jews, Blacks and Curacao," in Jonathan Schorsch and Sina Rauschenbach, eds., *Sephardic Atlantic* (Palgrave, 2018), 85-111.

[https://www.academia.edu/43224849/The\\_Sephardic\\_Atlantic\\_Colonial\\_Histories\\_and\\_Postcolonial\\_Perspectives\\_ed\\_Sina\\_Rauschenbach\\_and\\_Jonathan\\_Schorsch\\_Cham\\_Springer\\_Nature\\_2018\\_2019\\_Table\\_of\\_Contents](https://www.academia.edu/43224849/The_Sephardic_Atlantic_Colonial_Histories_and_Postcolonial_Perspectives_ed_Sina_Rauschenbach_and_Jonathan_Schorsch_Cham_Springer_Nature_2018_2019_Table_of_Contents)

Mordechai Arbell, Introduction and chapter on Surinam in *The Jewish Nation of the Caribbean* (Gefen, 2002).

**January 21: How Antisemitism Shaped Color Racism**

Fredrickson, *Racism*, Chapter One

**January 26: Olaudah Equiano's Identification with Jews**

Olaudah Equiano, Chapters One, Two, Eleven and Twelve.  
<http://www.gutenberg.org/files/15399/15399-h/15399-h.htm>

**January 28: How Racial Hierarchies Emerged in the Enlightenment Era**

Fredrickson, *Racism*, Chapter Two

**February 2: Jews and Slavery in the American Old South**

Faber, Chapters Five and Six

Midterm study questions posted at 9 AM.

**February 4: Jews in the United States and the Race Problematic**

Matthew Frye Jacobson, Chapter Five in *Whiteness of a Different Color: European Immigrants and the Alchemy of Race* (Harvard University Press, 1998).

Eric Goldstein, Chapter One in *The Price of Whiteness: Jews, Race and American Identity*. (Princeton University Press, 2006.)

**Midterm.** Study questions will be posted on Tuesday February 2 and can be reviewed in class that day and on February 4. On Friday February 5 two of those questions will be posted. **You will have until Monday February 8 at 9 pm to submit your essays.** Write one page double spaced to answer each of the questions.

**February 9: The Lynching of Leo Frank in Georgia 1915**

**Watch *The People versus Leo Frank***

Jacobson, *Whiteness of a Different Color*, 62-68

**February 11: Jazz and Vaudeville: Blacks and Jews in American Popular Culture**

Introduction and Chapter One of Sarah Blacher Cohen, ed., *From Hester Street to Hollywood* (Indiana University Press, 1986).

**February 16: Eugenics and Whiteness**

Frederickson, *Racism*, Chapter Three

Goldstein, *Price of Whiteness*, Chapter Three

**February 18: Al Jolson and the Shifting Meaning of Blackface**

Watch the film before class.

Charles Musser, "Why did Negroes Love Al Jolson and the Jazz Singer," in *Film History* Volume 23 (2011)

[https://www.academia.edu/42640471/Why\\_Did\\_Negroes\\_Love\\_Al\\_Jolson\\_and\\_The\\_Jazz\\_Singer\\_Melodrama\\_Blackface\\_and\\_Cosmopolitan\\_Theatrical\\_Culture](https://www.academia.edu/42640471/Why_Did_Negroes_Love_Al_Jolson_and_The_Jazz_Singer_Melodrama_Blackface_and_Cosmopolitan_Theatrical_Culture)

**February 23: Liberia, Black Hebrews and the Nation of Islam**

Jacob Dorman, *Chosen People: The Rise of American Black Israelite Religion*, Chapter One and Conclusion.

**February 25: Marcus Garvey, Zionism, and the Harlem Renaissance**

Michael Williams, "Pan-Africanism and Zionism: The Delusion of Comparability," *Journal of Black Studies*, Volume 21 (1991).

<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1177/002193479102100309>

### **March 2: Jewish-Black Music from World War Two to the Present**

Jeffrey Melnick, *A Right to Sing the Blues: African-Americans, Jews and American Popular Song*, Chapters One and Epilogue, 16-59; and 197-208.

### **March 4: Jews and Blacks in the Civil Rights Movement**

Marc Dollinger, *Black Power, Jewish Politics* (Brandeis University Press, 2018), Chapters One and Six.

**Essays due. Please post on the class web site.**

### **March 9: Presentation of Student Essays**

Please read the essays of your fellow students.

### **March 11: *Review for Final***

**Final exam.** Six study questions will be posted on Wednesday March 10, and will be discussed on March 11<sup>th</sup> in the final class of the quarter. The two questions for the final will be posted on Monday March 15 at 9 AM, and your mini-essays will be due on Wednesday March 17<sup>th</sup> by 9 PM. Please write two pages double spaced on each question.

Topics for essays

Leo Frank case; Leo Frank case in theatre and films; comparison of antisemitism and white supremacy in a particular setting; Jewish religious teachings on slavery; Jews and African-Americans in the American Labor Movement; the politics and theatre of blackface; Liberia; Paul Robeson; Jews and African-Americans in

Hollywood films; interracial marriages; Franz Fanon; Al Jolson; Africans who practice Judaism; Jean-Paul Sartre's book *Antisemite and Jew*; Alain Finkelkraut's book *The Imaginary Jew*; Albert Memmi; liberation of Dachau by African-American soldiers; Harlem renaissance; W.E.B. Dubois; the concept of whiteness; affirmative action in dispute; the Black-Jewish alliance in dispute; the civil rights movement; Jim Crow segregation; Jewish refugees teaching in Black colleges.

## ***Suggested Films***

Aviva Kempner, *Rosenwald* [Jewish philanthropist dedicated to African-American education]

Lacey Schwartz, *Little White Lies*

*Driving Miss Daisy*

*Gentleman's Agreement*

*Blacks and Jews* Documentary by Deborah Kaufman and Alan Snitow

*They Won't Forget* on the Leo Frank case

*Murder of Mary Phagan* 1988 TV mini-series on the Frank case

*Parade* Broadway musical on the Frank case

*The People versus Leo Frank*, documentary by Ben Loeterman

*Falasha: Exile of the Black Jews of Africa* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rEgi7KucN7Q>

*The Identity Question: Blacks and Jews in Europe and America* by Robert Philipson

*Selma*

*From Swastika to Jim Crow*

*Shared Legacies* [Jews in the Civil Rights movement]