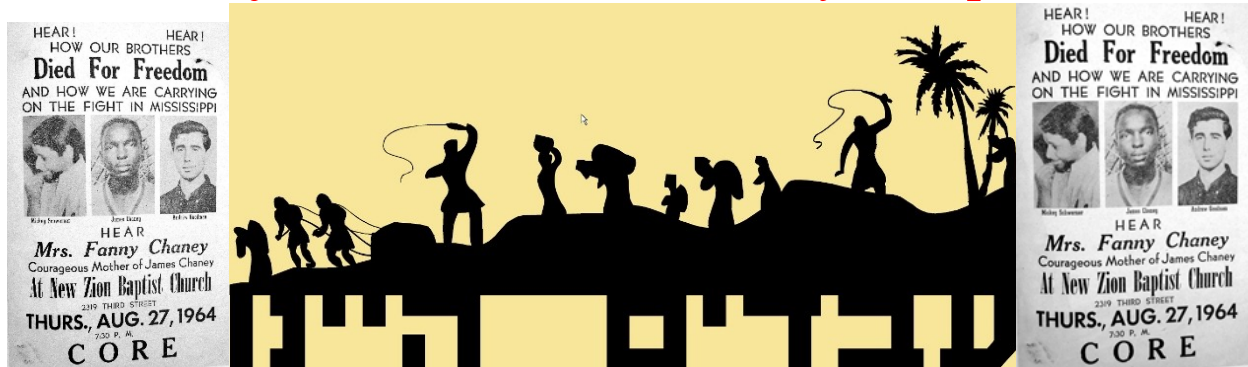


University of California at San Diego

Jews and African Americans: Slavery, Diaspora, Ghetto



HITO 136

Fall 2024

Professor Deborah Hertz

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Class meets Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11 AM in Cognitive Science Building 005

Office Hours: In my office in the Department of History in the Ridgewalk building, Room 919, Tuesdays 9-10 AM. Telephone office hours available by request. Best time to chat is during the History Club sessions on Thursdays, or any day after class.

PODCASTS. The lectures will be podcast and will be available on the UCSD podcast site the day of the lecture. The podcast should include audio and visual.

POWER POINTS The Power Points for each lecture will be posted on CANVAS right before class begins.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY. Students are expected to do their own research and their own writing. In cases where instructors are concerned about academic integrity, we will definitely rely on the Office of Academic Integrity to advise on the case. University learning is a privilege, so use it to develop you mind and your research and writing skills. CANVAS platform includes a Turnitin report, and you will have a chance to submit your rough drafts a week early and use the Turnitin report to assist you in making revisions before the due date. Feel free to use ChatGPT to help you choose an essay topic. But you would be advised to stop using the platform once you have chosen a topic. The best way to avoid plagiarism is to start your work early, keep at it, and avoid the panic of a deadline you cannot possibly meet without cheating.

STUDENT REQUIREMENTS

Independent Essays: Two five-page essays required. You must have approval for your topic using the

Discussion Board. You can use the topics of each lecture, topics and films listed at the end of the syllabus, the issues discussed in the lectures, or the class readings to choose your topics. For each essay you have the chance to submit a rough draft a week early and use the Turnitin report for revisions. You will receive guidelines for writing the essays. Each essay is worth 30 points.

Due dates:

October 24 Rough Draft Essay One: optional

October 31 Essay One due

December 3 Rough Draft Essay Two: optional

December 7 Essay Two due

Students are strongly encouraged to visit the **Writing Hub** at the **Teaching and Learning Commons** on the ground floor of the Library.

History Club meetings. Each group will meet every Thursdays for the last 20 minutes of the class. We will need volunteer leaders for each group, and those volunteers should choose their topic by October 10. Students will be able to join the topic group of their choice. The aim of the Club meetings is to plan a presentation on the topic they all agree to work on for the last day of class. No points associated with this project. Club meetings could also include conversation about current politics.

Quizzes. There will be five quizzes during the quarter, worth two points each. The quizzes will be posted on five Monday mornings, and you will have the entire day of Monday to complete each quiz. Two points per quiz. Ten points total for quizzes.

Discussion Board on CANVAS. Total number of available points is 30. Each paragraph-long post will count for 3 points. Please post your comments in a timely manner. You will be responding to questions about each lecture which will create a thread of student commentary. You may not count your conversations with the professor about your essay topics toward your total number of posts for the quarter.

TOTAL POINTS: 60 for essays; 10 for quizzes; Discussion Board 30

Class Books and Films

The books have been ordered at the Price Center Bookstore, and they are also available through Library Reserves. Students are encouraged to purchase Kindle versions of the books, use the copy on digital reserves at the Library, or use your local public library. If you find a handy link to full text of a particular book online, please do share with the class on CANVAS.

Edward Kritzler, *The Jewish Pirates of the Caribbean* (New York: Anchor Books/Random House, 2008.) \$18.
978 07679 19524

Olaudah Equiano, *The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano, or Gustavus Vassa, the African, Written by Himself.* \$9. 978 1499629606

George Fredrickson, *Racism: A Short History* (Princeton: Princeton University Press). \$19.

The 1619 Project: A New Origin Story, edited by Nikole Hannah Jones (Random House), Kindle \$13

Kai Wright, editor, *The African-American Experience* (Black Dog and Leventhal Publishers)

FILMS

The Jazz Singer (1929)

The People Versus Leo Frank

Malcolm X (film streaming on Amazon Prime, You Tube TV, and Apple TV)

Eyes on the Prize (14 episode PBS TV show, streaming on Amazon Prime, You Tube TV and Hulu)

Class Schedule

September 26: Introduction to the course

No reading. Begin going through the books and articles to choose a topic for your essay. If you want to be a History Club leader, come up with a topic for your future group. These topics can be identical.

October 1: Hidden Jews in Ocean Commerce

Read: Kritzler, Introduction and Chapters One through Five, 13-124

October 3: Rosh Hashanah Jewish holiday no class

October 8: How Do We Define Jews in the Era of Colonial Trade?

Read: Kritzler, Chapters Six through Epilogue, 125-263

First meeting of the History Clubs.

Post your proposed essay topics in CANVAS

October 10: America's Sugar Slavery

Read Khalil Gibran Muhammad, "Sugar," in the *1619 Project*, 72-87

Quiz One on Monday October 14

October 15: The Jews and Slave Trade Debate

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

October 17: The Amazing Journey of the Slave Equiano

Olaudah Equiano, Chapters One, Two, Eleven and Twelve

History Clubs meet in class

October 22 What Role did Jews Play in the Slave Trade?

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

October 24 What Do We Mean by Whiteness?

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

Rough draft of Essay One can be submitted: optional

History Clubs meet in class

Monday October 28: Quiz Two

October 29 Status of Slaves in the United States Constitution

Thomas Jefferson et al., in *African-American Experience*, 92-100

October 31 The Shocking Case of the Lynching of Leo Frank

Watch *The People versus Leo Frank*

History Clubs meet in class

Essay One due

November 4: Slavery and Capitalism

Matthew Desmond, "Capitalism," in *The 1619 Project*, 166-185

November 7: The Blackface Problematic

Watch The Jazz Singer before class.

Read: 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](#)

History Club meetings

November 11 Quiz Three

November 12 The Civil Rights Movement

Watch *Eyes on the Prize*, first and last episode

Read James Baldwin, "Go Tell It On the Mountain," 482, and Martin Luther King, "Eyes on the Prize, 485-489 (both pieces in the Kai Wright collection)

November 14 Pan-Africanism and Zionism

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

History Clubs meet

November 19: Blackface Nation and the Politics of Popular Music

Brian Roberts, *Blackface Nation* (University of Chicago 2017), Introduction 1-23; Chapter One "Carnival" and Chapter Ten "Conclusion."

November 21: Malcolm X and the Politics of Black Nationalism

Watch the film about Malcolm X

History Club meets

November 25 Quiz Four

November 26 No Class

November 28 No Class

December 2 Quiz Five

December 3: The True Origins of Racism

Fredrickson, Chapters Two and Three

Rough draft of Essay Two due: optional

December 5: History Club Presentations

Monday December 7: Essay Two due

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 for Essay Topics

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