Reli 392/4 - A
Tuesday, Thursday 11:45- 1:00.
Office Hours: Wednesday 3:00- 4:00
(or by appointment)

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WOMEN AND JEWISH HISTORY: THE MODERN PERIOD

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will focus on the distinctive stories of the women who participated in the shaping of the modern Jewish community. The major portion of our attention will be directed at the North American community in the twentieth century. We will look at some of the issues related to studying gender in Israel and in Holocaust studies.

In Canada and in the United States of America, the tale of Jewish immigration, adaptation and successful communal formation included men and women of all ages, geographic distribution, economic means and religious background. Until very recently modern Jewish history was written as if the women played no part or all played the same part. Women's historical experience and interaction with modernity and its forces often differed from the norm as set out for males. Our goal is to uncover their voices and so enrich our historical frame.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. Class attendance and participation 10%
2. Creative interview or letter Due February 1 20%
3. Research paper Due March 27 40%
4. Take home final Due April 1 30%

GUIDELINES FOR GRADING - DEPARTMENT OF RELIGION:

"A" Superior grasp of material, well written, clear explanations, presentation of original insights.
"B" Good understanding, clear and orderly presentation shows ability to apply material and concepts.
"C" Adequate grasp of material, reasonably clear presentation.
"D" Evidence of having done reading but inadequate comprehension.
"F" An "F" indicates that the student did not do the assignment, that the material handed in does not comply with the requirements, or lacks evidence that the work was done.

In the event of extraordinary circumstances beyond the university's control, the content and/or evaluation scheme in this course is subject to change.

List of Student Services:
http://www.concordia.ca/info/currentstudents/studentservices/

The Guide to Concordia Student Services:
http://www.concordia.ca/documents/info/currentstudents/studentservices/2009-2010-studentservices.pdf

The Academic Integrity Website:

http://provost.concordia.ca/academicintegrity/

Code of conduct

Please familiarize yourselves with university regulations contained in the Concordia Undergraduate Calendar concerning academic misconduct (i.e. plagiarism and multiple submissions) and other offences of conduct (i.e. discrimination, harassment, violent or threatening behaviour).

Any improper use of another's work will be reported to the Dean's office.

REQUIRED TEXTS: available at Bookstore

1. ***Course Pack (CP)**
2. *AMERICAN JEWISH HISTORY: A READER, Edited by Pamela Nadell, NYU Press, 2003

RESOURCES

From time to time I will suggest resources to you that will enhance your learning and provide context for the articles and class discussions.

Pay Attention to them

Look up the following:

From Haven to Home: 350 Years of Jewish Life in America. This was a Library of Congress Exhibition and there is still a vast amount of knowledge on line.

The following are required:

Jewish Women's Archive, Online Encyclopedia. If you do research on any Canadian or American topic, your first stop will be this resource. BUT everyone MUST READ:

***CANADA: FROM OUTLAW TO SUPREME COURT JUSTICE, 1738-2005.**

http://jwa.org/encyclopedia/article/canada-from-outlaw-to-supreme-court-justice-1738-2005

***ON THEIR OWN TERMS: AMERICA'S JEWISH WOMEN, 1954-2004**

http://www.jhu.edu/journals/american_jewish_history/v091/91.3nadell.html [11/15/2006].

BACKGROUND READING: optional

Any scholarly book on modern Jewish history such as:

1. H.M. Sachar, A History of the Jews in America.
2. Brym, Shaffir, Weinfeld, The Jews in Canada.
3. J. Sarna, American Judiasm.
4. J. Neusner, Understanding American Judaism
5. R. Klein & F. Dimant, editors, From Immigration to Integration.

*YOU MUST READ THE ABOVE STARRED ITEMS

COURSE OUTLINE

January 6

A Methodological Framework: Remembering Grandma: Problems with History.

Read: Course pack (hereafter CP) 1.

January 11, 13
19th Century Developments
CP: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7.

January 18
Coming to America
AJWH ch 1 CP: 8, 9.

January 20
German Jewish Women
CP: 10, 11.

January 25, 27
Single & Successful: from Rebecca to Emma
CP: 12, 13, AJWH ch 9

February 1, 3
Twentieth Century Transformations
Eastern Europeans Become Americans: 1890-1920
CP: 8, 14, AJWH CH 3

February 8
Identity & Family Patterns: Stereotypes & Changes.
AJWH Ch 1, 15

February 10
Organizational women and volunteerism
AJWH Chapter 4, CP: 15, 16

February 15, 17
Education' revolution
CP 17, AJWH ch 2

February 29,
Women's Work
AJWH ch 5, 6 CP: 18, 19.

March 2
Unions & Organizers
AJWH ch 7, 8 CP: 20.

March 7, 9
Canadian Realities: Canada is different and the same
Film: Lea Roback

CP: 21, 22, 23.

March 14
At Home
AJWH ch 10, 12

March 16
Domestic focus on food
AJWH Ch 16 CP: 24, 25.

March 21
Protest Movements
AJWH ch. 13, 14, 17

March 23
Gender and Holocaust history
CP: 26, 27, 28, 29.

March 28 **Research paper due**.
Zionist dreams and realities
AJWH Ch 9 CP: 30, 31, 32.

March 30
Political and personal: Feminism, Judaism, Diversity and Religious Activism
Ch 11, 18 CP 33, 34, 35.
Film *Half The Kingdom*

April 4
Contemporary issues
Rabbis, Divorces and Women of the Wall and Anti-Semitism
AJWH ch. 11 CP: 36

April 11
We conclude with our beginning
Michael Brown. **"CANADA: FROM OUTLAW TO SUPREME COURT JUSTICE, 1738-2005"**
http://jwa.org/encyclopedia/article/canada-from-outlaw-to-supreme-court-justice-1738-2005

"On Their Own Terms: America's Jewish Women, 1954-2004," Pamela Nadell, American Jewish History (2003).
http://www.jhu.edu/journals/american_jewish_history/v091/91.3nadell.html