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Syllabi

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Fall 2015

### Germans, Jews and Turks (Fall 2015)

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*Clark University*

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Clark University  
Germans, Jews and Turks  
German 286 / Jewish Studies 286 / Holocaust and Genocide Studies 286  
Thursday, 2:50 – 5:50  
Fall 2015

Professor Tobin  
Estabrook 309  
508 793-7353  
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Office hours: Monday and Thursday 1:30-2:30, and by appointment

This class studies the expression of cultural identity in central European literature. How have people come to think of themselves or others as “Germans,” “Jews,” “Turks,” or some combinations thereof? While the Holocaust is obviously central to the German-Jewish relationship, it is not the only focus of this course—we will read literary reflections of the emancipation of the Jews, of German-Jewish assimilation and symbiosis, of the rise of anti-Semitism and Zionism, as well as attempts to remember the past. And while the long history of the relationship between Jews and non-Jews in Germany will be a major component of our course, we will also study the emergence of Turkish culture in the German-speaking world and conclude with reflections on Germany today as a multicultural nation.

Some of the goals of this course include:

- Specifically, an increased knowledge of the complicated relationship between Germans, Jews and Turks in central Europe.
- More generally, a more subtle understanding of the formation of identity and the representation of identity.
- Awareness of important literary texts that address the relationship of Germans, Jews and Turks, as well as issues of identity formation and representation
- Methodologically, increased subtlety in analyzing literary texts
- Increased skill in understanding scholarly writing on literary texts
- Increased abilities to speak and write on sensitive topics.
- Although the course is taught in English, students interested in working on their German will improve their abilities in reading, writing, and speaking German.

Assignments:

Short presentations	20%
2 short papers	40%
Final Exam OR Final Paper	20%
Participation	20%

Short Presentations:

On most days, students will begin with lead the discussion with short presentation on topics suggested in the second and third lines of the syllabus. (These topics may change as necessary.) Please submit any powerpoint or other presentation to be uploaded to the moodle.

Short Essays:

Students will write two short papers (about five pages in length). The topic will be one that the student develops in response to the readings of the section. The second short paper should include references to at least one scholarly secondary source. Papers written in German can be shorter (two to three pages).

Final Exam or Paper:

The final examination will consist of short identifications of materials that we have read and topics that we have discussed (including topics presented by your fellow students). It will also have an extra focus on the texts discussed in the final third of the class.

If a student would rather do an in-depth study of a work, they may write a final paper. This should be a research paper with roughly five scholarly sources (in addition to the literary text at hand). If it's in German, it may be half the length.

Participation:

Participation is vital for a seminar to work. Come to class having read the texts in question and prepared to talk!

Note on Disability: Clark University is committed to providing students with documented disabilities equal access to all university programs and facilities. If you have or think you have a disability and require academic accommodations, you must register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS), which is located in room 430 on the fourth floor of the Goddard Library. If you have questions about the process, please contact The Director of Accessibility Services, Emily Tarconish, at [etarconish@clarku.edu](mailto:etarconish@clarku.edu) or (508)798-4368. If you are registered with SAS, and qualify for accommodations that you would like to utilize in this course, please request those accommodations through SAS in a timely manner.

## Day by Day

8 / 27 Class Cancelled; Tobin in Shanghai

## Enlightenment, Emancipation, and Assimilation

9 / 3 Lessing, Nathan the Wise

Available online: <http://www.gutenberg.org/files/3820/3820-h/3820-h.htm>

G.E. Lessing; Moses Mendelssohn; Haskalah; Christian Wilhelm Dohm;

9 / 10 Annette von Droste-Hülshoff, The Jew's Beech

Available online: [http://germanstories.vcu.edu/droste/juden\\_e.html](http://germanstories.vcu.edu/droste/juden_e.html)

Berlin Salons: Henriette Herz, Rahel Levin Varnhagen, Dorothea Veit Schlegel;

9 / 17 Karl Marx, On the Jewish Question

Available online: <https://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1844/jewish-question/>

Karl Marx; Human Rights; Emancipation; Assimilation

**9/21 Short Essays due in drop box**

## German-Jewish Culture, Anti-Semitism, Zionism and National Socialism

9 / 24 Theodor Herzl, The Jewish State

Available online: <http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/istate/herzl2.html>

Theodor Herzl; Nineteenth-Century Anti-Semitism; Zionism; Austria-Hungary;

10 / 1 Franz Kafka, Metamorphosis

Franz Kafka; Prague, Minority Literature

10 / 8 Veit Harlan, Jud Süß

Veit Harlan, Süß Oppenheimer; Lyon Feuchtwanger

National Socialism

10 / 15 Projects on Concentration Camp Currency at Strassler Center

In-class lecture:

Andrew Wackerfuss, "Stormtrooper Families: Homosexuality and Community in Nazi Germany"

10 / 22 Sigmund Freud, Moses and Monotheism

Sigmund Freud; Emigrés;

Prep for Moyn

**10/23 Short essay due, with references to at least one scholarly secondary sources**

10 / 26 Required Lecture, Monday, 4-6 pm

Samuel Moyn, "Human Rights and the Holocaust: A Belated Entanglement?"

## Post-War German Society

10 / 29 Jurek Becker, Jakob the Liar

Jurek Becker; GDR; film versions

11 / 5 Paul Celan and the Arts  
Paul Celan; other artistic responses to Holocaust

11 / 12 Kutlug Ataman, Lola and Bilidikid  
Turks in Germany; Gays in Germany;

11 / 19 Fatih Akin, Head On  
Fatih Akin; other German-Turkish authors

12 / 3 Timur Vermes, Look Who's Back  
Special Visit by Titler!

**12/11 Final Exam, 6:30-8:30 PM**  
**(Or paper due on this date)**

Engaged Academic Time:

13 class meetings x 3 hours	39 hours
2 hours prep for each hour of class	78 hours
Extra outside lecture and prep for it	10 hours
2 papers, 10 hours per paper	20 hours
Final exam or paper, 15 hours	20 hours
Prep for presentation	20 hours
<b>Total</b>	<b>187 hours</b>