



Tübingen International & European Studies (T-IES)

Doshisha EU Campus European Studies Program

September 1, 2025 – January 31, 2026

Course title:	European Religions - Jewish Women in Modern Europe: A Historical and Cultural Perspective
Date:	September 8 th – September 16 th , 2025
Language of instruction:	English
Lecturer:	Ada Taggar-COHEN
Contact hours:	26 (Face to face) + 4 (on-demand course)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

What strategies Jewish women employed in order to assimilate into the broader European society and how they negotiated their various cultural identities is the leading part of the offered course. In order to understand their world framework, a historical observation of Jewish society during the 18th to the 20th centuries will be given. At the same time a legal perspective of the status of Jewish women – in its religious context – will be presented. Judaism at the period of modernization of Europe went through a transforming state, inside their communities as well as outside in relation to the general Christian society. As the Jewish society confronted modernization, part of it was attracted with secularization and the other part went into extreme religious forms. Women in both sides, and those who found themselves in between, acted differently.

The European society of the 21st century is continuing the developments occurring since second World War, offer Jewish women extensive scope of action in politics, business, entertainment and more.

While looking at specific Jewish European women – born and lived their all life in Europe, or such who were born, raised but left Europe to the USA or the State of Israel – we will encounter the issues of gender, politics, and religious norms as well as have to understand how Antisemitism influenced the Jewish society as a whole and the Jewish women in particular.

In recent years, research focusing on Jewish women has been attracting attention in the field of Jewish studies. The majority of research on women's topics is related to gender studies, and it has also played an important role in research fields such as sociology, ethnography, and law. In line with this trend, especially since the late 1990s, research on women has been actively conducted in the field of Jewish studies as well as Israeli studies, mainly in Europe, the United States, and Israel.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- ① Students will be able to acquire basic knowledge about Jewish women in different eras and regions.
- ② Students will be able to gain an overview of the history of Judaism's development and its secularization trends through the perspective of Jewish women. the students will gain the experience of working in cooperation, and also self-expression.

COURSE SCHEDULE

CLASS DATES	CONTENTS	HOW TO CONDUCT A LESSON	CLASS HOURS
See the note on „OTHERS“	Introduction Introduction to the course main issues and way of study	On-demand (watching video)	90 minutes
September 8 th 10:45-12:15	The historical boundaries of the “modern era” that this course takes into consideration- the span of Jewish history Reading assignment	Face to face	90 minutes
September 8 th 13:15-14:45	The historical circumstances that allowed the rise of an educated and “non-religious” class of Jews in western Europe Reading assignment	Face to face	90 minutes
September 9 th 10:45-12:15	Jewish woman and education in historical perspective: the Biblical women and Medieval women – where is Wisdom? Reading assignment	Face to face	90 minutes
September 9 th 13:15-14:45	Women and ‘general / secular’ education in Europe: Eastern European Jewish communities Reading assignment	Face to face	90 minutes
September 10 th 10:45-12:15	Modern Jewish religiosity: The Reform movement and its women’s rights Reading assignment	Face to face	90 minutes
September 10 th 13:15-14:45	Jewish women in the synagogue in historical perspective Reading assignment	Face to face	90 minutes
September 11 th 10:45-12:15	Examples for Jewish women in modern times Reading assignment	Face to face	90 minutes
September 11 th 13:15-14:45	Examples for Jewish women in modern times Reading assignment	Face to face	90 minutes
September 12 th 9:00-10:30	Anti- Semitism: historical and current perspectives (as well as the question of activism to fight it) Reading assignment	Face to face	90 minutes

September 12 th 10:45-12:15	Nazism and Europe under Germany – women during and after IIWW Reading assignment	Face to face	90 minutes
September 12 th 13:15-14:45	Jewish women: The understanding of survival Reading assignment	Face to face	90 minutes
September 15 th 15:00-16:30	European Jewish women and the Zionist movement Reading assignment	Face to face	90 minutes
September 16 th 15:00-16:30	Biblical women as an example for modern Jewish women Reading assignment	Face to face	90 minutes
See the note on „OTHERS“	Summary Reading assignment for the final report	On-demand (watching video)	90 minutes

PREREQUISITES

No requirements

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING

Regularity of attendance 30%- active participation for discussion is required

Assignment 20 %

Final report 50%

READING

Simha Goldin: Jewish Women in Europe in the Middle Ages: A quiet revolution, 1st, (Manchester University press,2011), 271, ISBN:978-1526106605

Paula E. Hyman: Gender and Assimilation in Modern Jewish History: Roles and Representations of Women' 1st, (University of Washington Press,1995), 208, ISBN:978-0295974262

Judith R. Baskin (ed.): Jewish Women: In Historical Perspective (Wayne State University Press,1991), ISBN:9780814327135

Frederick E. Greenspahn: Women and Judaism: New Insights and Scholarship (New York University Press,2009), ISBN:978-0814732199

Elissa Bemporad and Joyce W. Warren: Women and Genocide: Survivors, Victims, Perpetrators, 1st .(Indiana University Press,2018) , 344 . ISBN:978-0253033819

Carol Meyers: Discovering Eve: Ancient Israelite Women in Context (Oxford University Press,1988), ISBN:9780195362190

Carol Meyers: Women in Scripture — A dictionary of Named and Unnamed Women in the Hebrew Bible the Apocryphal —, (William B. Eerdmans Publishing, 2001) ISBN:978-0802849625

Laurence J. Silberstein and Robert L. Cohn (eds.): The Other in Jewish Thought and History: Constructions of Jewish Culture and Identity (New York University Press,1994), ISBN:978-0814779903

Maurie Sacks (ed.): Active Voices: Women in Jewish Culture (University of Illinois Press,1995), ISBN:978-0252064531

Steven Beller: Antisemitism: A Very Short Introduction (Oxford University Press,2007), 160, ISBN:978-0198724834

Albert Lindemann and Richard Levy (eds.): Antisemitism: A History (Oxford University Press), 304. ISBN:978-0199235025

Deborah E. Lipstadt: Antisemitism: Here and Now (Schocken,2019) , 3004, ISBN:978-0805243376

Sol Goldberg, Scott Ury, Kalman Weiser (eds.): Key Concepts in the Study of Antisemitism (Palgrave Macmillan,2021), 356, ISBN:978-3030516574

Elinor Slater and Robert Slater: Great Jewish women, 2nd. (Jonathan David Publishers ,20015) ,368, ISBN:978-0824603700

INFORMATION ON THE LECTURER

<https://kendb.doshisha.ac.jp/profile/en.a7683374fb59ab1d.html>

OTHERS

Contact method from student to instructor: email
Contact method from instructor to student: email

The first video will be released 1-2 weeks before the first Face to face class.
The release timing of the final video will be announced at a later date.