



UNIVERSITÄT  
HEIDELBERG  
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SEIT 1386



UNIVERSITY OF  
COPENHAGEN



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DI MILANO



UNIVERSITY  
OF WARSAW



EUROPEAN  
UNIVERSITY  
ALLIANCE



## “Jews in Europe, the historical background and today’s realities – introductory course”

This is the introductory course of the project running in four European universities of the 4EU+ titled “**Jewish identities in Changing Europe: Challenges, Problems and the Burden of the Past**” (academic year 2021/2022). Students are not obliged to follow both courses, but the introductory part prepares students to participate in field studies and journeys to other universities payed by the 4EU+ Alliance

**LECTURERS:** Dr. Germano Maifreda (UNIMI), Dr. Jessica Ortner (UCPH), Dr. August Grabski (UW), Dr. Urszula Ługowska (UW), Dr. Dekel Peretz (HU)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**CREDIT:** 15 ECTS

Enkeltstående BA-tilvalg and enkeltstående KA-tilvalg

**Department of English, Germanic and Romance Studies.**

**Contact person:** Jessica Ortner [ortner@hum.ku.dk](mailto:ortner@hum.ku.dk)

**REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION:** The course is open for BA, MA, Ph.D. students from Heidelberg University, University of Copenhagen, University of Milan, University of Warsaw.

### **ASSESSMENT METHODS AND CRITERIA:**

To pass the course, students must carry out a portfolio exam of 26-30 pages in English or in their native language, the subject of which is to be agreed upon with the professor/lecturer of their university. In addition, the students will be asked to answer a questionnaire before and after the course to measure the improvement of their knowledge and awareness regarding the subjects of the course.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This is the introductory course of the project running in four European universities of the 4EU+ titled “**Jewish identities in Changing Europe: Challenges, Problems and the Burden of the Past**” (project time-frame: academic year 2021/2022) that brings together various lecturers from the best European universities and with different areas of expertise, ensuring a multifaceted introduction to the topic of Jewish past and identity across Europe. Through active learning and an interdisciplinary approach, the course intends to guide

students to acquire theoretical knowledge and tools in order to answer the following questions: how does the past and present experiences affect the self-identity of EU citizens of Jewish origins? How do these experiences affect their Jewish, national, and European self-identity? How do these communities exercise their minority-based rights? What kind of support and obstacles do they encounter? How have they undergone the processes of generational and cultural transformation and migrations? What is at present the extent of anti-Semitism in selected countries? How do selected societies incorporate the experience of the Holocaust into their historical and cultural memory?

#### **4EU+ PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

One of the main goals of this introductory course is to prepare selected students to participate in the further stages of the 4EU+ project titled **“Jewish Identities in changing Europe: Challenges, Problems and the Burden of the Past”**. In the frames of this project, students will travel to partner universities (starting from February 2022) and participate in their activities; they also will visit and interact with local Jewish institutions and activists, in order to conduct interviews (in-person or online) with representatives of Jewish communities. After a general discussion and individual re-elaboration, results would be published. The students from the UNIMI, UCPH, and UW participating in the project will meet in April-May 2022 at an international student conference in Warsaw, to present their interviews and visit Jewish institutions in the Polish capital. **All costs of students’ participation in the project (related to travels to partner universities) will be covered by the 4EU+ Alliance.**

The successful attendance and active participation in the course **“Jews in Europe, the historical background and today’s realities – introductory course”** is strongly suggested for students that are planning to participate in the whole project. The course is also open to other students (BA, MA, Ph.D.) interested in Jewish history and other topics covered here. The obligatory and optional readings will be discussed during the first lecture of the course. Lectures will be online, registered, and later made available on the course website. Students who cannot attend will be therefore able to see the lectures later in the week. *A maximum* of three absences is allowed.

#### **LECTURERS**

This first one main online course of 30 hours will be shared between lecturers from partner universities for all students: **“Jews in Europe, the historical background and today’s realities – introductory course”**. Timeframe of the course: October-November 2021.

**Germano Maifreda’s** lectures will provide students with an overview of the political, economic, and social history of Jews in Europe from the late fifteenth to the early twentieth century.

**August Grabski’s** classes will inform about the Holocaust in Poland and the post-war fate of Polish Jews under Communist rule.

**Jessica Ortner’s** lecture is concerned with memory politics about the Holocaust in Denmark comparison with Germany, museums as a site of representations of Jewish history, and the situation of the Danish-Jewish society after 1945.

**Urszula Ługowska** will lecture about Jewish migration movements from Poland in the XXth century and the differences between contemporary antisemitism in Western Europe and Poland.

**Dekel Peretz’s** lecture will focus on contemporary Jewish life in Germany.

See detailed semester plan below

## Semester-plan

**08 Oct. 2021 (Friday), hrs. 9:15-11:45**

Introduction by Jessica Ortner and August Grabski.

**14, 15 Oct. (Thursday and Friday), 9:15-11:45**

Germano Maifreda's lecture: "The political, economic and social history of Jews in Europe from the late fifteenth to the early twentieth century".

**Obligatory reading:**

Adam Shear, "Jews and Judaism in Early Modern Europe" and Marsha L. Rozenblit, "European Jewry: 1800–1933", in *The Cambridge Guide to Jewish History, Religion and Culture*, ed. by J.R. Baskin and K. Seeskin (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2010), pp. 140-68 and 169-207.

**21, 22 Oct. (Thursday and Friday) 9:15-11:45**

**August Grabski's lecture: "The Holocaust in Poland" (part 1)**

Optional reading:

Jan Tomasz Gross, "Neighbors: The Destruction of the Jewish Community in Jedwabne, Poland", Princeton University Press, 2001, pp. 3-110

**August Grabski's: "The Holocaust in Poland" (part 2)**

**"The Solution of the Jewish Question in Real Socialism: The Polish Case (1944-1989)"**

Obligatory reading:

August Grabski, Albert Stankowski, "Jewish Religious Life in Poland after the Holocaust", [in:] F. Tych, M. Adamczyk-Garbowska (eds.), "Jewish Presence in Absence. The Aftermath of Holocaust in Poland, 1944-2010", Yad Vashem, Jerusalem 2014, pp. 247-282.

**28, 29 Oct. (Thursday and Friday) 9:15-11:45**

**Jessica Ortner's lecture: "The memory politics about the Holocaust in Denmark in comparison to Germany"**

Obligatory reading:

Klas-Göran Kalrsson, "On Processing Time – On the Manifestations and Activations of Historical Consciousness", in Helle Bjerg, Claudia Lenz, Erik Thorstensen (eds.), *Historicizing the Uses of the Past. Scandinavian Perspectives on History Culture, Historical Consciousness and Didactics of History Related to World War II* (Bielefeld: transcript, 2011), pp. 129-144.

Ola Svein Stugu, "Exhibiting the War. Approaches to World War II in Museums and Exhibitions", in Helle Bjerg, Claudia Lenz, Erik Thorstensen (eds.), *Historicizing the Uses of the Past. Scandinavian Perspectives on History Culture, Historical Consciousness and Didactics of History Related to World War II* (Bielefeld: transcript, 2011), pp. 189-206.

Optional reading: Cecilie Felicia Stokholm Banke, "Small and Moral Nations. Europe and the Emerging Politics of Memory", in Helle Bjerg, Claudia Lenz, Erik Thorstensen (eds.), *Historicizing the Uses of the Past Scandinavian Perspectives on History Culture,*

*Historical Consciousness and Didactics of History Related to World War II* (Bielefeld: transcript, 2011), pp. 107-128.

**Jessica Ortner's lecture: "Saving the Jews and then?"**

Obligatory reading:

Bak, Sofie Lene: "Repatriation and restitution of Holocaust victims in post-war Denmark", in Ruth Illman, Björn Dahla (eds.), *Jewish Studies in the Nordic Countries Today*. Vol 27 (2016), pp. 134-152.

Excerpts from Bak, Sofie Lene: *Nothing to Speak Of: Wartime experiences of the Danish Jews 1943-1945*, Museum Tusulanum Press 2013.

**4 November (Thursday) 9:15-11:45**

**Dekel Peretz's lecture: "Contemporary Jewish life in Germany"**

Obligatory reading: Kranz, Dani. 2016. "Forget Israel – the Future is in Berlin! Local Jews, Russian Immigrants, and Israeli Jews in Berlin and Across Germany." *Shofar: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Jewish Studies* 34 (4): 5-28.

Optional reading: Yurdakul, Gökçe. 2013. "Jews and Turks in Germany: Immigrant Integration, Political Representation, and Minority Rights." pp. 251-268 in *Rethinking the Public Sphere Through Transnationalizing Process: Europe and Beyond*, edited by Armando Salvatore, Oliver Schmidtke, and Hans-Jörg Trenz. London: Palgrave Macmillan.

**5 November (Friday) 9:15-11:45**

**Urszula Ługowska's lecture: "The Jewish emigrations from Eastern Europe: the Polish case"**

Optional readings:

Arieh Tartakower, "The migrations of Polish Jews in recent times", "Yearbook", no 1, New York 1964, pp. 7-46.

Dariusz Stola, "Fighting against the shadows: The anti-Zionist campaign of 1968" in: Robert Blobaum (ed.), *Antisemitism and Its Opponents in Modern Poland*, Cornell University Press, Ithaca and London 2004, pp. 284-300.

**Urszula Ługowska's lecture: "The European Contemporary Antisemitism"**

Obligatory reading:

Todd M. Endelman, "Antisemitism in Western Europe Today" in: D. J. Penslar, M. R. Marrus, J. Gross Stein (eds.), *Contemporary Antisemitism, Canada and the World*, Toronto 2005, pp. 64-79.

**12 November (Friday) 9:15-11:45**

A summary of the course by Germano Maifreda, Jessica Ortner, August Grabski, Urszula Ługowska, Dekel Peretz.

Presentation of the second semester two optional courses and its activities