This course, the first semester of a two-semester sequence about Jews and modern politics, will explore the ways in which the modern period reshaped the nature of Jewish politics. It will follow four themes:

1. The Jews’ internal traditions of political self-understanding and behavior, especially their relationship to political authority
2. The changing political status of Jews in Europe from 1589-1922, especially the acquisition of increased privileges under the ancien regime and equal rights or emancipation in civil society.
3. The internal politics of the Jewish community.
4. Jews’ participation in politics in the larger society, and especially their relationship to the ideologies or movements that promoted their emancipation, namely, liberalism and socialism, or opposed it, namely, Zionism and Anti-Semitism.

We will explore how the modern period (circa 1589-1922) reshaped the political principles that had governed diaspora Jewish life (the “quietism” of “autonomy,” “intercession,” & the “vertical alliance” vs. revolt-rebellion and/or “messianism”). We will begin with the resettlement of Western and Central Europe and the movement of Jews into Eastern Europe (1600-1700) that marked a new era in European Jewish life, namely, the acquisition of extensive “privileges” in estate society. This was the first phase of the prolonged process of emancipation, the Jews’ acquisition of equal civic and political rights, that took over three centuries and dominated their experience of the modern period. We will study the last great messianic movement, Sabbateanism. We will then study the second phase of emancipation, the acquisition of equal rights in civil society. Finally, we will examine the development of Jewish political movements as well as the Jews’ participation in the politics of the larger society, both of which took place during, and as a result of, emancipation. We will also pay attention to the changing internal politics of the Jewish community under emancipation’s impact.

The course will meet four hours per week. There will be two “lectures” per week (T/Th) that will be conducted as discussions of the readings. You should come to class each day prepared to discuss the assigned readings. Lindsay Starkey will lead the weekly discussion sections and grade assignments. This is an upper division 4 credit course.

Readings:
David Biale, Power and Powerlessness in Jewish History (New York, 1986)
Michael Burns ed., France and the Dreyfus Affair: A Documentary History (Boston, 1999)
David Kertzer, The Kidnapping of Edgardo Mortara (New York, 1997)
Raphael Mahler ed., Jewish Emancipation: A Selection of Documents (New York, 1944) (photocopy; on-line)
Theodore Herzl, The Jewish State (Herzl Press)

Assignments
You will write four short essays on assigned topics. You will do peer review of these paper in discussion section and you will have the opportunity to rewrite them. You will also write a final 6-8 page paper. There will be no exams.
January 18: Introduction
I. Biblical and Medieval Legacy

January 20: Political Archetypes I
Biale, Power and Powerlessness, “Political Ideologies of Antiquity,” 10-33;
Yosef Hayim Yerushalmi, “Servants of Kings and not Servants of Servants’: Some Aspects of the Political History of the Jews,” 7-23
Joseph Story: Genesis 37; 39-41; 47:1-26; Exodus 1:1-14

Political Archetypes II
Book of Esther; Maccabees I 1-2;

January 25: The Jewish Diaspora in the Middle Ages

1st paper: bring to Discussion Section on January 26th/27th

II. New Status of Jews in Early Modern Europe
January 27: 1593 Venice and Livorno
“La Livornina,” 1593 (trs. by Bernard Cooperman)
David Sorkin, “The Port Jew: Notes Toward a Social Type,” Journal of Jewish Studies 50 (Spring 1999) 87-97

February 1: Amsterdam
Levine, Scattered Among the Peoples, “The Portuguese Nacao - Amsterdam, 1700,” 113-140
Mahler, Declaration of the Estates General of the United Netherlands, 10

February 3: 1656 England
Manasseh ben Israel, “How Profitable the Nation of the Jews are,” Mendes-Flohr/Reinharz, Jew in the Modern World, 10-13; John Toland, “Reasons for Naturalizing the Jews in Great Britain and Ireland.”

February 8: Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth
Jampol Community and Town Privilege, 1711, 1753 (trs. Teller Early Modern Workshop)
Memoirs of Ber of Bolechow (London, 1922) 60-67
“The Council of Four lands and the Lithuanian Council” in Jacob Rader Marcus, The Jew in the Medieval World, 205-211
Integration,” 32-47;

February 10: Constantinople, 1666
Paul Rycaut, History of the Turkish Empire (1687), in Marcus, The Jew in the Medieval World, 262-268
Levine, Scattered Among the Peoples, “Physicians, Poets and a False Messiah, Constantinople, 1666,” 79-112

February 15: Prague 1744
Levine, Scattered Among the Peoples, “Court Jews -Vienna, 1730,” 141-168

2nd paper: bring to Discussion Section on February 16th/17th

III. Impact of Revolution on European Jewry
February 17: Berlin, 1781
Christian Wilhelm Dohm, “Concerning the Amelioration of the Civil Status of the Jews” (1781)
Christopher Clark, “German Jews,” in Liedtke & Wendehorst eds., The emancipation of Catholics, Jews and Protestants (Manchester, 1999) 122-147
Mahler, Jewish Emancipation, 18-20 (Austria)

February 22: Paris, 1790-1791
Mendes-Flohr/Reinharz, 117
Paula Hyman, Jews of Modern France, 17-35
Malino, “From Patriot to Israelite: Abraham Furtado in Revolutionary France,” in Reinharz and Swetschinski eds., Mystics, Philosophers and Politicians (Durham, NC, 1982) 213-33

February 24: Paris 1806-08
Transactions of the Parisian Sanhedrim, or Acts of the Assembly of Israelitish Deputies of France and Italy trs. Diogene Tama (London, 1807) 105-08, 130-38, 149-56, 176-95, 201-07, 242-47
Malino, “From Patriot to Israelite: Abraham Furtado in Revolutionary France,” 233-48
Mahler, Jewish Emancipation, 30-37 (Poland, 1807, Westphalia, Frankfurt, Prussia, Denmark, France, Germany & Austria)
March 1:  1815-1818 Congress of Vienna, Aix-la-Chapelle
Wilhelm von Humboldt, “Regarding the Draft of a New System of Legislation of the Jews,” (July 17, 1809) [Max Kohler, Jewish Rights at the Congresses of Vienna (1814-15) and Aix-La-Chapelle (1818) (New York, 1918) 71-83]
Mahler, Jewish Emancipation, Congress of Vienna, 37-38

3rd paper: bring to Discussion Section on March 2nd/3rd

IV.  Emancipation in the 19th century

March 3:  Damascus 1840
Abigail Green, “The Damascus Affair,” in Moses Montefiore: Jewish Liberator, Imperial Hero, 133-57

March 8:  Frankfurt 1848
Mahler, Jewish Emancipation, 47-49, 57-9
Mendes-Flohr/Reinharz, “Reform Rabbinical Conference at Brunswick,” 177-78; “Reform Rabbinical Conference at Frankfurt,” 183-85

March 10:  London 1858
Mahler, Jewish Emancipation, 40-43, 53-57

March 22: Italy 1848-1870
Mahler, Jewish Emancipation, 50-52, 59
Andrew M. Canepa, “Emancipation and the Jewish Response in Mid-Nineteenth Century Italy,” European History Quarterly 16 (1986) 403-39

March 24:  Bologna 1858
David Kertzer, The Kidnapping of Edgardo Mortara (New York, 1997) 1-161

March 29
David Kertzer, The Kidnapping of Edgardo Mortara (New York, 1997) 162-end

March 31  Odessa 1881
Mendes-Flohr/Reinharz, 375-380
Michael Stanislawski, “Russian Jewry, the Russian State, and the Dynamics of Jewish Emancipation,” in *Paths of Emancipation*, 262-83

April 5: Berlin 1878/79
Mahler, *Jewish Emancipation*, 57-61

April 7: Jews in Politics

April 12: Jews as Civil Servants

4th paper: bring to Discussion Section on April 13th/14th
April 14: No Class!!

V. The New Politics and Jewish Emancipation
April 19: Berlin 1893
April 21: Paris 1894-1906
Michael Burns ed., *France and the Dreyfus Affair: A Documentary History* (Boston, 1999) 1-123

April 26: Basel 1897
Biale, *Power and Powerlessness in Jewish History*, 118-141

April 28: Vilna 1897
Simon Dubnow, “Letters on Old and New Judaism,” letters 2-4, in
Simon Dubnow, *Nationalism and History*, 100-142

May 3: Versailles 1919
Mahler, *Jewish Emancipation*, 63-5 (Russia), 67-71 (Poland, Balfour Declaration)

May 5 Conclusion

Final Paper due