

JEWS IN MODERN CULTURE

**Avinoam J. Patt, Ph.D., Feltman Professor of Modern Jewish History
University of Hartford, patt@hartford.edu**

Mondays, October 22 & 29 and November 5 & 12, 2018; 7:00-9:45 p.m.

Contingent Date If Rescheduling Is Required: November 19, 2017

The Emanuel Synagogue, 160 Mohegan Drive, West Hartford

This course explores the relationship between Jews and Modern Culture: To what extent have Jews shaped modern culture, and how much has modern culture shaped popular images of Jews? We will explore the nature of this dynamic relationship in four key areas: (1) Jews and literature, (2) Jews in film and music, (3) Jews and humor, and (4) Jews and visual arts. In each of these sessions, we will explore prominent Jewish figures who have shaped the development of these cultural forms in the modern era, while also examining the ways in which Jews have negotiated the encounter with modern society through culture. We will seek to understand how Jews have represented themselves and, in turn, shaped the representations of Jews in popular culture. In studying these issues, we plan to examine subjects and personalities such as Isaac Bashevis Singer, Leon Uris, Cynthia Ozick, and Philip Roth; Irving Berlin, Leonard Bernstein, *Gentleman's Agreement*, *Exodus*, Woody Allen, Joan Micklin Silver, Steven Spielberg, and Judd Apatow; Sid Caesar, Jerry Lewis, Mel Brooks, Joan Rivers, Larry David, and Sarah Silverman; Marc Chagall, Arthur Szyk, Roman Vishniac, and Annie Leibovitz.

Summary Syllabus

- I. Introduction; Jews and Literature
- II. Jews in Film and Music
- III. Jews and Humor
- IV. Jews and Visual Arts

Tuition Fee and Registration: The fee for tuition is \$200 per person. To register for this course, notify both Regina Miller (remiller@hartford.edu) and Joel Messing (joel.messing@gmail.com) by email. Then, to complete and confirm your registration, send both (1) your check for the tuition fee, payable to the order of Avinoam Patt in the amount of \$200 per person, and (2) your check for the required coursebook described below, payable to the order of Regina Miller in the amount of \$30 per coursebook, together in one envelope to Regina Miller, 137 Kenyon Street, Hartford, CT 06105-2237 at your earliest convenience but in sufficient time so that Regina will receive both checks not later than Friday, September 22, 2018. We will accept registrations in the order in which they are confirmed by payment until the class is filled.

Assigned Readings, Films, and Other Sources: To take this course, you must purchase the coursebook discussed below and bring it with you to each class. Reading assignments and digital links to films and other preparatory sources for each class will be provided with the detailed syllabus in early October.

Required Coursebook: The readings for this course were assembled into a coursebook that Regina will have printed and bound for distribution to class members in early October. The price of this coursebook is \$30. To purchase this coursebook, send your check, payable to the order of Regina Miller in the amount of \$30 per coursebook, in the same envelope with your check for the tuition fee, to Regina at your earliest convenience but in sufficient time so that she will receive both checks not later than Friday, September 22, 2018.

If you have any questions about this course, please feel free to contact one of us.

Joel Messing (joel.messing@gmail.com; 860.675.7015)
Regina Miller (remiller@hartford.edu; 860.233.0175)