

Teaching Integrated World/Jewish History Syllabus
Avi Berkowitz

The Lookstein Center

Class meets at Lookstein.org's Virtual Campus at 12:30-1:30 pm ET each Thursday for seven weeks, beginning February 15 and continuing until March 29, 2007.

Week 1: Introduction: World/Jewish History; the Integrated Approach.

- a) Integration v Juxtaposition: Methodology and Practice.
- b) *Hasidim* v *Mitnagdim*: The Intellectual Context of the Integrated Approach.

Week 2: Reason, Reform, & Enlightenment.

- a) The Ideological Context of Christian Secularism.
- b) *Hasqala*: Jewish Enlightenment or Secular Romanticism?

Week 3: The Enlightenment Erupts: The French Revolution and the Modern World.

- a) A Three Stage Revolution.
- b) Robespierre: Political Terror and Secular Modernity.

Week 4: Wither the Jews?

- a) The Reform and Abandonment of Judaism.
- b) *Hasqala* versus *Halakha*: Why was There a Battle?

Week 5: Judaism and Romanticism.

- a) To Build a Nation: Using Ancient Heroes for Modern Purposes.
- b) Designing a National Curriculum: *Talmud* vs *Tanakh*.

Week 6: Revolution and War:

- a) The Eclipse of England.
- b) The Bolshevik Revolution.

Week 7: War, Revolution and the Jews.

- a) One Eye on the Past: What Went Wrong.
- b) And One Eye on the Future: A Peek into the Abyss.

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Course Readings:

Any basic text book on modern European history will provide adequate reading and reference material. Two titles are recommended: *Western Civilization: Ideas, Politics and Society, From the 1400's* by Marvin Perry, et. al. (6th or 7th editions) and *Western Civilization: Sources, Images, and Interpretations Vol. II*, edited by Dennis Sherman.

For Jewish history, *Understanding Jewish History* by Steven Bayme is recommended, although any other book will be adequate. Students are also urged to read *A People Apart* by David Vital. This book is truly excellent but written in a very dense and difficult to read style.