

JWST/HIST 4348: Topics in History

# Antisemitism:

Concepts, Discourses, Practices

**Dr. Thomas Pegelow Kaplan**

**Fall 2022 Course | In Person**

**Tuesday/Thursday 9:30 - 10:45 am | Muenzinger  
Psyc & Biopsych E131**



Antisemitism as a global phenomenon is on the rise. Hardly limited to far-right groups, the phenomenon pervades all levels of society, also in mainstream democracies like postwar Germany and the U.S. In light of its many evolving manifestations that resist easy definitions, there is little conceptual or methodological clarity. What are the main antisemitic tropes, discourses, and practices, how did they emerge, and what accounts for their persistence? Why are Jews targeted in the first place? Is there a “new” antisemitism that differs significantly from older manifestations? How is antisemitism related to racism? And how have political, social, and religious groups and organizations, including Jewish communities, responded to these threats and what challenges have they faced?

To answer these and other questions, this new course combines conceptual and methodological discussions in the study of antisemitism with thorough historical overviews from antiquity to the present day. Moreover, it discusses and contrasts a range of case studies of past and present forms of anti-Jewish violence in Europe, North America, the Middle East and Asia.



**Program in Jewish Studies**  
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