

Yotam Hotam, 2005-2006

Yotam Hotam's fields of interests extend from European Jewish History, Zionist history and thought, to contemporary political thought, political-theology, modern Jewish philosophy, and the philosophy of history.

In his current work he examines a complicated web of intellectual discussions carried on by German and German-Jewish thinkers from the 1950s to the 1970s (Hans Blumenberg, Eric Voegelin, Karl Loewith, Hans Jonas and Gershom Scholem) who have not yet been studied together as a group. The aim of his research is to show the dispute about the 'legitimacy of the modern age' in which these intellectuals were engaged, its political-theological character, and the interrelated factors which shaped its form, i.e. the Holocaust, the intellectual dynamics of the late nineteenth and beginning of the twentieth century, and Heidegger's later philosophical work.

In conjunction with his research work on Zionist thought, he has taught both in Israel and the U.S. on the history of the German-Jewish Youth Movement- which proliferated in the first decades of the twentieth century-as a paradigm for a modern European Youth culture.

In his PhD thesis, he examined the relationship between Zionist thought and Life Philosophy (Lebensphilosophie), within the intellectual environment of early twentieth century Germany. The dissertation's thesis was that Life Philosophy provided Zionist thought with a 'Theological modern-Gnostic Model' and the goal of the PhD was divided into two parts: (a) understanding Life Philosophy as modern Gnosticism; and (b) tracing Jewish national interpretation of the modern Gnostic concept, its range of appearances, and evaluating the importance of this understanding to the historical research on Zionist thought.

His Recent Publications

- *Modern Gnosis and the Jew: The Culture Crisis, Life Philosophy and the "Jew"* (Hebrew) Magnes Press, Jerusalem.
- (ed.) *The Age of Youth: German Jewish Young Generation and Modern Times*, (Hebrew) Magnes Press, Jerusalem 2006.
- With Moshe Zimmermann, (eds.), *Zweimal Heimat: Die Jeckes zwischen Mitteleuropa und Nahost*, (Hebrew & German Versions) Shazar/beerenvverlag, Jerusalem/Frankfurt a.M. 2005.
- With Joachim, Jacob, (eds.), *Populäre Konstruktionen von Erinnerung - im Deutschen Judentum und nach der Emigration*, Vanderhoeck und Ruprecht, Tübingen 2003.

Syllabi Below:



Yotam Hotam, History 500, Fall 2005

The Age of Youth: Youth Culture in late 19th and Early 20th Century Europe Wednesdays - 3:30-5:30 (5257 Humanities)

Office Hours: W 2:00-3:30 (4265 Humanities, Phone 263-1835, hotam@wisc.edu)

Course Description

One of the intriguing phenomenon representative of Central European Culture in the late 19th and early 20th century, is the emergence of *Youth Movements*. The young person of the German Youth Movement became the bearer of the 'promethean fire' against the 'old world' and the protagonist of the rebellion against the parents' generation. The appearance of the German *Youth Movement* can be seen as an example of the way in which modern experience became bound up with the notion of 'being young,' and as well as a symbol of the shift from an 'adult' oriented society to a 'youth' oriented one.

In this course, we will examine the appearance of the German Youth Movement, while comparing it to the parallel appearance of the English Scouts. We will further discuss the idea of 'being young' as a modern strategy and its possible broader implications to our understanding of European culture of that era.

Required Readings

- Aschheim, Steven E., *The Nietzsche Legacy in Germany*, (Berkeley, 1992).
- Burrow, John Wyon, *The Crisis of Reason. European Thought 1848-1914*, (New Haven/London, 2000).
- Eley, Geoff (ed.), *Society, Culture, and the State in Germany, 1870-1930*, (Ann Arbor, 1996).
- Gillis, John R. 'Conformity and Rebellion: Conflicting Styles of English and German Youth, 1900-1933, *History of Education Quarterly* 1973 13(3) 249-260.
- Nur, Ofer, 'Hashomer Hatzair's Aesthetic of Anarchism and the Tragic Vision of the World', [Manuscript], to be published in: Yotam Hotam, (ed.), *The Age of Youth: German-Jewish Young Generation and Modern Times*, (Jerusalem 2005).
- Konrad, H. Jarausch, *Students, Society, and Politics in Imperial Germany: The Rise of Academic Illiberalism*, (Princeton, 1982).
- Laqueur, Walter Ze'ev, *Young Germany: A History of the German Youth Movement*, (London, 1962).
- Mosse, George L., *The Crisis of German Ideology*, (New York 1964).
- ----- *Nationalism and Sexuality*, (New York, 1985).
- Rechter, David, "'Bubermania": the Jewish youth movement in Vienna, 1917-1919', *Modern Judaism* 16,1 (1996).
- Ringer, Fritz, K., *The Decline of the German Mandarins 1890-1933*, (Cambridge, 1969).
- Scholem, Gershom, *From Berlin to Jerusalem, Memories of my Youth*, (Jerusalem 1988).
- Sharfman, Glenn Richard, 'Between Identities; the German-Jewish Youth Movement Blau-Weiss, 1912-26', in: Michael Berkowitz, Susan L. Tanenbaum, Sam W. Bloom, *Forging Modern Jewish Identities*, (Portland, 2003).
- Schatzker, Chaim, 'The Jewish Youth Movements as an Historical Phenomenon', *Studies in Jewish Civilization*, 3 (1992).
- Stachura, Peter D., *The German Youth Movement 1900-1945*, (New York, 1981).
- Taylor, A. J. P. *Habsburg Monarchy, 1809-1918*, New York 1965.
- Wedekind, Frank, *Spring Awakening*, (London 1969).
- Wehler, Hans-Ulrich, *The German Empire 1871-1918*, New Hampshire, 1985.
- Wilkinson Paul, 'English Youth Movements, 1908-30', *Journal of Contemporary History*, Vol. 4, 2 (1969) 3-23.

Requirements

- Participation (40%)
- Preliminary Drafts of Term Paper (30%)
 - Bibliography (5%) due on October 5
 - Review of Progress (5%) due on October 19
 - Thesis Statement and Outline (10%) due on November 2
 - Preliminary Draft (10%) due on November 23
- Term paper (30%) due on December 21.

Sep. 7. Introductory Meeting

Part I. Social and Cultural Background

Sep. 14. The German Cultural Sphere

Taylor, A. J. P. *Habsburg Monarchy, 1809-1918*, New York 1965, 130-213.

Wehler, Hans-Ulrich, *The German Empire 1871-1918*, New Hampshire, 1985, 52-99.

Eley, Geoff (ed.), *Society, Culture, and the State in Germany, 1870-1930*, (Ann Arbor, 1996), 1-42.

Sep. 21. Modernity and the Crisis of Culture

Ringer, Fritz, K., *The Decline of the German Mandarins 1890-1933*, (Cambridge, 1969), 1-13, 253-304.

Burrow, John Wyon, *The Crisis of Reason. European Thought 1848-1914*, (New Haven/London, 2000), 197-253.

Sep 28. Romanticism, Anti-Rationalism, Nietzscheanism, Heresy

Mosse, George L., *The Crisis of German Ideology*, (New York 1964), 13-87.

Aschheim, Steven E., *The Nietzsche Legacy in Germany*, (Berkeley, 1992), 1-50.

Part II. Youth Culture

Oct. 5 The German Youth Movement

Laqueur, Walter Ze'ev, *Young Germany: A History of the German Youth Movement*, (London, 1962), 3-86.

Mosse, *The Crisis*, 149-189.

Oct. 12 Culture, Sexuality, Secular-Theology

Mosse Mosse, George L., *Nationalism and Sexuality*, (New York, 1985), 23-65, 114-132.

Stachura, Peter D., *The German Youth Movement 1900-1945*, (New York, 1981), 71-93.

Oct. 19 Student Groups as Youth Groups?

Konarad, H. Jarausch, *Students, Society, and Politics in Imperial Germany: The Rise of Academic Illiberalism*, (Princeton, 1982), 333-392.

Mosse, *The Crisis*, 190-203.

Oct 26. Jewish Youth

Schatzker, Chaim, 'The Jewish Youth movements as a Historical phenomenon', *Studies in Jewish Civilization*, 3 (1992) 149-164.

Sharfman, Glenn Richard, 'Between identities: the German-Jewish youth movement Blau-Weiss, 1912-26', in: Michael Berkowitz, Susan L. Tanenbaum, Sam W. Bloom, *Forging Modern Jewish Identities*, (Portland, 2003), 198-228.

Rechter, David, "'Bubermania": the Jewish Youth Movement in Vienna, 1917-1919', *Modern Judaism*, 16,1 (1996) 25-45.

Ofer Nur, 'Hashomer Hatzair's Aesthetic of Anarchism and the Tragic Vision of the World' [Manuscript].

Nov. 2. Comparative Case Study: The English Scouts

Gillis, John R. 'Conformity and Rebellion: Conflicting Styles of English and German Youth, 1900-1933', *History of Education Quarterly* 1973 13(3) 249-260.

Wilkinson Paul, 'English Youth Movements, 1908-30', *Journal of Contemporary History*, Vol. 4, 2 (1969) 3-23.

Part III. Youth as a Strategy

Nov. 9 Politization of Youth

Mosse, *The Crisis*, 237-311

Stachura, Peter D. *Nazi Youth in the Weimar Republic*, (Oxford/Santa Barbara, 1975), 1-70.

November 16. 'Being Young' as a Metaphor

Wedekind, Frank, *Spring Awakening*, (London 1969).

Scholem, Gershom, *From Berlin to Jerusalem, Memories of my Youth*, (Jerusalem 1988), Ch. 9-10.

Part IV. Term Paper

Nov. 30. Preliminary Draft Due

December 7. Class Presentations

Dec. 14. Class Presentations

RECOMMENDED READINGS

- Blackbourn, David & Eley, Geoff, (ed.), *The Peculiarities of German History: Bourgeois Society and Politics in Nineteenth-Century Germany*, (Oxford, 1984).
- ----- *The Long Nineteenth Century, a History of Germany 1780-1918*, (Oxford, 1998).
- Blackbourn, David & Evans, Richard J., *The German Bourgeoisie*, (London/New York, 1992).
- Blondel Eric, *Nietzsche: The Body and Culture*, (Stanford 1991).
- Brenner, Michael, *The Renaissance of Jewish Culture in Weimar Germany*, (Yale 1996).
- ----- 'Turning inward; Jewish youth in Weimar Germany', in: Brenner, Michael, Derek J. Penslar, (ed.), *In Search of Jewish Community: Jewish identities in Germany and Austria, 1918-1933*, (1998) 56-73.
- Byker, Carl. *The Great War and the Shaping of the 20th Century*, (London, 1996).
- Gilman, Sander, L. & Chamberlin, Edward J. (eds.), *Degeneration - the Dark Side of Progress*, (New York, 1985).
- Green, Abigail, *Fatherlands: State Building and Nationhood in Nineteenth-Century Germany*, (New York, 2001).
- Hughes, Stuart H., *Consciousness and Society. The Re-Orienting of European Social Thought 1890-1930*, (New York, 1958).
- Kaufmann, Walter, *Nietzsche: Philosopher, Psychologist, Antichrist*, (Princeton, 1950).
- Kocka, Jürgen, *Bürgertum im 19. Jahrhundert: Deutschland im europäischen Vergleich*, (München, 1988).
- Koselleck, Reinhart, *Critique and Crisis: Enlightenment and the Pathogenesis of Modern Society*, (Cambridge, 1988).
- Laqueur, Walter, *Weimar: A Cultural History 1918-1933*, (London, 1979).
- Lerman, Tony, 'The "Habonim" story, the formative years', *JewishQuarterly* 25,4 (1977-1978) 29-33.
- Margalit, Elkana, 'Social and intellectual origins of the Hashomer Hatzair youth movement, 1913-1920', *Journal of Contemporary History* 4,2 (1969) 25-46.
- McGarth, William J., *Dionysian Art and Popular Politics in Austria*, (New Haven, 1974).
- Mommsen, Hans, *The Rise and Fall of Weimar Democracy*, (London, 1996).
- Mosse, George L., *The Culture of Western Europe*, (Chicago, 1974).
- ----- *The Culture of Western Europe: The 19th and 20th Century*, (Boulder, 1988).
- ----- *The Image of Man: The Creation of Modern Masculinity*, (New York 1996).
- Peukert, Detlev, *The Weimar Republic: The crisis of Classical Modernity*, (London, 1991).
- Schorske, Carl E., *Fin de Siècle Vienna*, (New York, 1980).
- Smith, Woodruff D., *Politics and the Sciences of Culture in Germany 1840-1920*, (New York, 1991).
- Stern, Fritz, *The Politics of Cultural Despair. A Study in the Rise of the Germanic Ideology*, (New York, 1965).
- Tiech, Michael & Porter, Roy (eds.), *Fin de Siècle and its Legacy*, (New York, 1990).
- Toller Ernst, *I was a German: the autobiography of a revolutionary*, (New York 1991).



Yotam Hotam, History 600, Spring 2006

Modernity Faith and Crisis: 20th century German-Jewish Identity and Thought

Wednesdays - 3:30-5:30 (5257 Humanities)

Office Hours: W 2:00-3:30 (4265 Humanities, Phone 263-1835, hotam@wisc.edu)

Course Description

German-Jewish identity, thought, experience and heritage are a subject of ongoing historical attention and debates. In this course we will explore diverse aspects of the German-Jewish modern experience, by reading a wide range of texts written by German-Jewish thinkers. We will focus on questions of identity, nationality, religion and theology, which constituted the modern Jewish experience, and discuss the impact of the Holocaust on post-1945 German-Jewish identity and thought.

Required Readings

- Arendt Hannah, *The Origins of Totalitarianism*, New York 2004.
- Aschheim, Steven E., (Ed). *Hannah Arendt in Jerusalem*, Berkeley 2001.
- Baeck Leo, *Judaism and Christianity*, New York 1966.
- Breines, Paul, "Germans, Journals and Jews/Madison, Men, Marxism and Mosse: A Tale of Jewish-Leftist Identity Confusion in America", *New German Critique*, 20 (1980): 81-103.
- Brenner, Michael, *The Renaissance of Jewish Culture in Weimar Germany*, Yale 1996.
- Buber Martin, *Two Types of Faith*, New York 1951.
- Glatzer Nahum N., *Franz Rosenzweig, His Life and Thought*, New York 1953.
- Hacoen Malachi Haim, "Dilemmas of Cosmopolitanism: Karl Popper, Jewish Identity and "Central European Culture", *The Journal of Modern History*, 71/1 (1999): 105-149.
- Harnack, Adolf von, *What is Christianity*, New York 1957.
- Jonas Hans, *Mortality and Morality: a Search for Good after Auschwitz*, Evanston 1996.
- Loisy Alfred, *The Gospel and the Church*, New York 1912.
- Löwith Karl, *My Life in Germany before and after 1933*, Chicago 1994.
- Löwith, *Meaning in History*, Chicago 1949.
- Mosse, George L., *Confronting History: A Memoir*, Madison 2000.
- Mosse, George L., *German Jews beyond Judaism*, Bloomington 1985.
- Mosse, George L., *The Crisis of German Ideology*, New York 1964.
- Rabinbach, *In the Shadow of Catastrophe, German Intellectuals between Apocalypse and Enlightenment*, Berkeley 1997.
- Ringer, Fritz, K., *The Decline of the German Mandarins 1890-1933*, Cambridge, 1969.
- Scholem, Gershom, *From Berlin to Jerusalem, Memories of my Youth*, Jerusalem 1988.
- Scholem, Gershom, *On Jews and Judaism in Crisis: Selected Essays*, New York 1976.
- Scholem, Gershom, *On the Possibility of Jewish Mysticism in our Time & other essays*, Philadelphia 1997.
- Stern Frank, "The Return to the Disowned Home – German Jews and the Other Germany", *New Germany Critique*, 67 (1996): 57-72.
- Traverso Enzo, *The Jews & Germany: from the "Judeo-German symbiosis" to the memory of Auschwitz*, Lincoln: 1995.
- Stone Lilo, "German Zionist in Palestine before 1933", *Journal of Contemporary History*, vol. 32 n. 2 (1997): 171-186.
- Wehler, Hans-Ulrich, *The German Empire 1871-1918*, New Hampshire, 1985, 52-99.
- Wolin Richard, *Heidegger's Children: Hannah Arendt, Karl Lo?Nwith, Hans Jonas, and Herbert Marcuse*, Princeton 2001.
- Zweig Stefan, *The World of Yesterday*, Lincoln & London 1964.

Requirements

- Participation (40%).
- Preliminary Drafts of Term Paper (30%).
 - Bibliography (5%) due February 15.
 - Review of Progress (5%) due on March 1.
 - Thesis Statement and Outline (10%) due on March 20.
 - Preliminary Draft (10%) due on April 12.
- Term paper (30%) due on May 10.

January 18. Introductory Meeting

Part I. Modern German Culture

January 25. The Crisis of Culture

Wehler, *The German*, 52-99.

Ringer, *The Decline*, 1-13, 253-304.

Part II. German-Jewish Identity and Thought

February 1. "German-Jewish Symbiosis"

Mosse, *German-Jews*, 1-41.

Brenner, *The Renaissance*, 1-35.

Traverso, *The Jews*, 3-42.

Scholem, *On Jews*, 61-92.

February 8. German-Jewish Experience

Zweig, *The World*, 1-66.

Mosse, *Confronting History*, 7-52.

Scholem, *From Berlin*, Ch. 1-3.

Löwith, *My Life*, 1-19.

February 15. Crisis and Identity

Mosse, *The Crisis*, 13-87.

Rabinbach, *In the Shadow*, 27-65.

Wolin, *Children*, 21-29.

February 22. Political Alternatives

Scholem, *From Berlin*, Chapters 8-10.

Scholem, *On the Possibility*, 27-29.

Stone "German Zionist"

March 1. Theology and Modernity

Harnack, *What is Christianity*, 152-189, 268-301.

Loisy, *The Gospel*, 139-179.

Löwith, *Meaning*, 1-19, 33-59.

March 8. Jewish Perspectives

Leo Baeck, *Judaism*, 189-292.

Buber, *Two Types of Faith*, 7-15, 51-90, 162-174.

Glatzer Nahum N., *Rosenzweig*, IX-XXXIII, 271-275, 340-348

March 22. Review of Thesis Statement and Outline

Part III. Post-1945 Identity and Thought

March 29. Émigrés

Stern Frank, "The Return"

Hacohen, "Dilemmas"

Breins, "Germans"

April 5. Political Thought

Aschheim, *Arendt*, 1-18, 93-104.

Arendt Hannah, *The Origins*, 11-116

April 12. Identity

Jonas, *Mortality and Morality*, 1-40, 131-143.

Scholem, Gershom, *On the Possibility*, 3-24, 30-39, 93-100, 114-117.

Part IV. Term Paper

April 19. Review of Preliminary Draft

April 26. Class Presentations

May 3. Class Presentations

RECOMMENDED READINGS

- Arendt Hannah, *The human condition*, New York 1959.
- ----- *On Revolution*, New York 1963
- ----- *Eichmann in Jerusalem; a report on the banality of evil*, New York 1964
- ----- *Men in dark times*. New York 1968.
- ----- *On Violence*, New York 1970.
- Aschheim, Steven E., *The Nietzsche Legacy in Germany*, Berkeley, 1992.
- ----- *In Times of Crisis: Essays on European Culture, Germans, and Jews*, Madison 2001.
- Baeck Leo, *The Essence of Judaism*, New York 1948.
- ----- *This People Israel: the Meaning of Jewish Existence*, New York 1965.
- Berkowitz Michael, Tanenbaum Susan L., Sam W. Bloom, *Forging Modern Jewish Identities*, (Portland, 2003).
- Bernstein-Nahar, Avi, "Herman Cohen's Teaching Concerning Modern Jewish Identity (1904-1918)", *Leo Baeck Institute Year Book*, XLIII (1998): 25-47.
- Blackbourn, David & Eley, Geoff, (ed.), *The Peculiarities of German History: Bourgeois Society and Politics in Nineteenth-Century Germany*, (Oxford, 1984).
- ----- *The Long Nineteenth Century, a History of Germany 1780-1918*, (Oxford, 1998).
- Blackbourn, David & Evans, Richard J., *The German Bourgeoisie*, (London/New York, 1992).
- Blondel Eric, *Nietzsche: The Body and Culture*, (Stanford 1991).
- Burrow, John Wyon, *The Crisis of Reason. European Thought 1848-1914*, (New Haven/London, 2000).
- Byker, Carl. *The Great War and the Shaping of the 20th Century*, (London, 1996).
- DinerDan, *Beyond the Conceivable: Studies on Germany, Nazism, and the Holocaust*, Berkeley 2000.
- Gilman, Sander, L. & Chamberlin, Edward J. (eds.), *Degeneration - the Dark Side of Progress*, (New York, 1985).
- Green, Abigail, *Fatherlands: State Building and Nationhood in Nineteenth-Century Germany*, (New York, 2001).
- Hughes, Stuart H., *Consciousness and Society. The Re-Orienting of European Social Thought 1890-1930*, (New York, 1958).
- Jonas Hans, *The Gnostic Religion: the Message of the Alien God & the Beginnings of Christianity*, Boston 1963.
- Kaufmann, Walter, *Nietzsche: Philosopher, Psychologist, Antichrist*, (Princeton, 1950).
- Koselleck, Reinhart, *Critique and Crisis: Enlightenment and the Pathogenesis of Modern Society*, (Cambridge, 1988).
- Laqueur, Walter, *Weimar: A Cultural History 1918-1933*, (London, 1979).
- McGarth, William J., *Dionysian Art and Popular Politics in Austria*, (New Haven, 1974).
- Mendes-Flohr Paul, *Gershom Scholem : the Man and his Work*, Albany 1994.
- Mommsen, Hans, *The Rise and Fall of Weimar Democracy*, (London, 1996).
- Mosse, George L., *The Culture of Western Europe*, (Chicago, 1974).
- ----- *The Culture of Western Europe: The 19th and 20th Century*, (Boulder, 1988).
- ----- *The Image of Man: The Creation of Modern Masculinity*, (New York 1996).
- Peukert, Detlev, *The Weimar Republic: The crisis of Classical Modernity*, (London, 1991).
- Scholem, Gershom, *Major Trends in Jewish Mysticism*, New York 1940.
- Sorkin David, "Between Messianism and Survival: Secularization and Sacralization in Modern Judaism", *Journal of Modern Jewish Studies* 3/1 (2004): 73-86
- Schorske, Carl E., *Fin de Siècle Vienna*, (New York, 1980).
- Smith, Woodruff D., *Politics and the Sciences of Culture in Germany 1840-1920*, (New York, 1991).
- Stern, Fritz, *The Politics of Cultural Despair. A Study in the Rise of the Germanic Ideology*, (New York, 1965).
- Taubes Jacob, *The Political Theology of Paul*, Stanford 2004.
- Tiech, Michael & Porter, Roy (eds.), *Fin de Siècle and its Legacy*, (New York, 1990).
- Toller Ernst, *I was a German: the Autobiography of Ernst Toller*, New York 1934.
- Wagar W Warren, "Modern Views of the Idea of Progress", *Journal of the History of Ideas*, 28/1 (1967) 55-70.