

**JS/HIST 270: Survey of Jewish History**  
**Final Exam Take-Home Section**  
**Fall 2016**

**Part I: Definitions (worth 30%)**

Explain the meaning of the following phrases or quotations, and also provide the **historical significance** (for modern Jewish history) **and context** (including relevant names, dates, circumstances) as part of each definition. Answers should be no less than one paragraph and no longer than one double-spaced page each.

**Choose FIVE of the SIX term pairs/groups:**

Progress Allied to Religion/Religion Allied to Progress

political Zionism/cultural Zionism

political antisemitism/social discrimination

necessary vs. sufficient causes of the Holocaust

emancipation/acclulturation/integration

absolutism/mercantilism/enlightenment

**Part II: choose ONE of the following essays (worth 30%):**

I. In the United States and in parts of Europe during the modern period, several “branches” or “streams” of Judaism emerged, the most influential being: Reform, Conservative, and Orthodox. Briefly define the core beliefs of each movement, noting especially their approaches to the concept of *halakhah* (Jewish law).

II. While Jewishness was redefined in religious terms in some parts of the world during the modern period, in many places it took on other, non-religious forms. Discuss in detail at least two examples of secular Jewishness in the modern world, the ideologies or practices associated with them, and the historical context that brought them about.

### **Part III: Required Essay (worth 40%)**

Over the course of this semester, we have studied three main periods of Jewish history: ancient, medieval, and modern. For each of these periods, explain the features that enable it to cohere as a distinctive historical era. For the medieval and modern periods, also explain how they were significantly different from their predecessors as to warrant a separate designation. In order to address the multiple dimensions of Jewish life, you should keep in mind for each period the questions we have addressed throughout the course: Where are the Jews? How are they constituted as a group? How do they interact with their neighbors? How do they practice their religion and/or culture? Use examples to illustrate your points, but avoid simply summarizing what happened in each period. The goal here is **NOT** to provide a comprehensive timeline or inventory of historical events, but rather to identify the **larger unifying themes** that make each period distinctive. If you disagree with the way the boundaries of these periods have been assigned in the course, offer an alternative and justify it.

As always, your essays will be measured for: accuracy of information, completeness of your answer, clarity of your writing, organization of the material, and analysis. Please limit each essay to **THREE (3)** double-spaced, typed (12 pt.) pages. **Completed Exams will be due by midnight on Tuesday, Dec. 13 and should be emailed as an attachment to Prof. Goldstein at [egoldst@emory.edu](mailto:egoldst@emory.edu).** You may consult all books and lecture notes, but you may **NOT** discuss your answers with any other students, whether they are registered for this class or not. **Direct quotations from all sources must be properly cited. All work must be your own. The Emory Honor Code is in force throughout the preparation of this exam.**

**Good Luck!!**