

JS/HIST 270: Survey of Jewish History
Final Take-Home Exam
Fall 2019
Prof. E. Goldstein

Terms (worth 30 points)

Define **FIVE** of the the following six terms or term pairs, being sure to give not only the narrow definition, but also to provide the historical context. The answers should each be about one to two paragraphs long, and **under no circumstances** should any answer be longer than a single, double-spaced page.

Assembly of Jewish Notables

“A state for the Jews” vs. “A Jewish state”

“Progress Allied to Religion” vs. “Religion Allied to Progress”

“Jews should be denied everything as a nation, but granted everything as individuals”

Political antisemitism vs. social discrimination

Pale of Jewish Settlement

Essay I: Required (worth 40 points):

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. Be sure to address the relevant multiple dimensions of Jewish life (political, religious, economic, geographical, etc.) that have been covered in the readings and in class lectures. 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.

Essay II: choose ONE of the following (worth 30 points):

I. Relations with non-Jews have been a critical issue for Jewish history since its beginnings. For each of the three (3) periods covered in the course, discuss:

- a. a group with whom Jews had relations;
- b. the nature of the relations and the historical context (be specific)
- c. how the relationship affected the nature of Jewish life at that time.

II. Religious diversity has been a perennial feature of Jewish history. For each of the three periods, address the following issues:

- a. a description of the diversity (where, who, when);
- b. the beliefs and practices of the various groups;
- c. the forces and events which brought about that diversity (internal and/or external) when and where it emerged.

III. Migrations have had a profound impact on almost every century of Jewish existence. For each of the three (3) periods, provide an example of a major migration of Jewish population. Describe the migration (time, place, from where to where), the conditions for it (imposed or voluntary, and the reasons), and the cultural, religious, or social consequences it entailed for the development of Jewish history.

As always, your essay 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**, and save them either in WORD format or as a PDF. 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. **All work must be your own. The Emory Honor Code is in force throughout the preparation of this exam.**

All exams should be submitted by email to Prof. Goldstein at egoldst@emory.edu no later than Tuesday, Dec. 17 at 11:59pm. No late papers will be accepted.

Good Luck!!