

# Jewish Global Leadership in A Changing World

## Spring 2024

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Time, Room: TBD

Office Hours by Appointment

### I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course explores the evolving landscape of Jewish leadership within the context of global changes. It is structured into six units, each addressing different aspects of Jewish life and leadership. The course begins with the watershed moment of October 7, and possible responses. It then delves into the changing Jewish landscape, examining the roles and challenges faced by Jewish communities in Israel, America, and globally. A historical overview of Israel and World Jewry relations sets the stage for understanding current dynamics. The course also addresses Jewish leadership, focusing on communal leadership, the principles of leading Jewishly, and the challenges leaders face today. A critical examination of antisemitism, including its history, new manifestations, and the impact of technology, forms an essential part of the syllabus. The course concludes with a forward-looking perspective, discussing polarization within Jewish communities and strategies to overcome it, envisioning a future for Jewish leadership in a rapidly changing world.

### II. COURSE OBJECTIVES & STUDENT LEARNING GOALS:

1. Understanding Jewish Global Dynamics: Students will cultivate an in-depth understanding of both historical and contemporary aspects of the global Jewish community and Israel, with an emphasis on the interplay between external trends and internal Jewish communal paradigms.
2. Fostering Innovative Leadership Approaches: This course aims to inspire students to develop
3. innovative leadership strategies that are responsive to the unique challenges and opportunities within the Jewish global context.
4. Analytical Proficiency in Antisemitism Studies: Participants will develop advanced analytical skills to deconstruct the historical roots and modern incarnations of antisemitism, including the role of digital platforms, and will examine strategic approaches to counteract these trends.
5. Strategies for Mitigating Polarization: The course is designed to empower students with the theoretical and practical knowledge to comprehend and address the intricacies of polarization within Jewish communities, fostering skills in consensus-building and unity enhancement.

## Unit 1 - Introduction - The October 7 Moment

### Session 1 – Setting the Space

\*\*\* No Readings Required \*\*\*

### Session 2 – October 7

David Barak-Gorodetsky, “From Tikkun Olam to Brit Olam”, *Watersheds*, Vol. 1 (January 2024).

Sara Y. Hirschhorn, The Paradigm Shift of 7 October and a Plan for the Jewish Future, *Fathom*, November 2023.

## Unit 2 - The Changing Jewish Landscape

### Session 3: Israel

Feige, Michael. "Mini Israel: The Israeli Place Between the Global and the Miniature." eds., *Julia Brauch, Anna Lipphardt and Alexandra Nocke, Jewish Topographies: Visions of Space, Traditions of Place, Aldershot* (2008): 327-342.

Eilon Schwartz, “Deep Diversity, the Common Good, and the Israeli Future”, *Sapir*, Autumn 2021.

### Session 4: American Jewry

Krasner, Jonathan. “The Place of Tikkun Olam in American Jewish Life.” *Jewish Political Studies Review* 25, no. 3/4 (2013): 59–98.

Jack Wertheimer, *The New American Judaism*, Princeton University Press, 2020 (ch.10)

### Session 5: World Jewry

DellaPergola, Sergio, and Ira M. Sheskin. "Global dispersion of Jews: Determinants and consequences." *The changing world religion map: Sacred places, identities, practices and politics* (2015): 1311-1343.

## Unit 3 - Israel and World Jewry Relations: A History

### Session 6 – Historical Aspects

Jonathan D. Sarna, "A Projection of America as It Ought to Be: Zion in the Mind's Eye of American Jews," in: Allon Gal (ed.), *Envisioning Israel* (Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 1996), 41-59.

Rock-Singer, Cara. "Hadassah and the Gender of Modern Jewish Thought: The Affective, Embodied Messianism of Jessie Sampter, Irma Lindheim, and Nima Adlerblum." *American Jewish History* 104, no. 2 (2020): 423-456.

### Session 7 – Current Challenges

Steven T. Rosenthal, *Irreconcilable Differences? The Waning of the American Jewish Love Affair with Israel* (Hanover, New Hampshire: Brandeis University Press, 2001), pp. 1-21.

Daniel Gordis, *We Stand Divided; The Rift Between American Jews in Israel*, (Harper Collins, 2019), 3-39, 231-248.

## Unit 4 - Jewish Leadership: Origins and Challenges

### Session 8 – Communal Leadership

Peter Block, *Community: The Structure of Belonging*. Berret-Kohler Publishers, second edition, 2018. (e-Book available on Canvas).

Ronald Heifetz and Martin Linsky, *Leadership on the Line: Staying Alive through the Dangers of Leading*. Harvard Business Press, 2017

### Session 9 – Leading Jewishly

Jonathan Sacks, *Seven Principles of Jewish Leadership*, 2012 (Rabbi Sacks website)

Melanie Roth Gorelick, “It’s a crucial time for supporting female Israeli leadership”, *EJewishPhilanthropy*, December 2023.

## Unit 5 - Leading the Fight against Antisemitism

### Session 10 – Antisemitism: A Short History

Shulamit Volkov: “The Language of Antisemitism”, in: *Germans, Jews, and Antisemites*, Cambridge University Press, 2006, 82-90.

David Nirenberg: “Introduction” in: *Anti-Judaism. The Western Tradition*, 2013, 1-12.

### Session 11 – The New Antisemitism

Judaken, Jonathan. "So what's new? Rethinking the ‘new antisemitism’ in a global age." *Patterns of Prejudice* 42, no. 4-5 (2008): 531-560.

Symposium - *Mapping the New Left Antisemitism* (editor: Alan Johnson), Routledge, 2024.

### Session 12 – Antisemitism and Technology

Monika Hübscher & Sabin von Merig, *Antisemitism on Social Media*, Routledge, 2022, Introduction.

Hands-on Introduction the University of Haifa Comper Center for Contemporary Antisemitism AI project

## Unit 6 – Where do we go Now? Envisioning a Jewish Future

### Session 13 – Polarization

Nissim Mizrachi, *Beyond Suspicion: The Moral Clash between Rootedness and Progressive Liberalism*, Introduction, forthcoming (2024), UCLA Press.

McCoy, Jennifer, and Murat Somer. "Toward a theory of pernicious polarization and how it harms democracies: Comparative evidence and possible remedies." *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 681, no. 1 (2019): 234-271.

### Session 14 – Overcoming Polarization

David Barak-Gorodetsky, Ofer Zalberg, “Israel’s Secular-Religious Cleavage: Postsecular Genealogies and Remedies”, in: *Polarization and Consensus Building in Israel: The Center cannot Hold*, (eds. Elie Friedman, Michal Neubauer-Shani, Paul Scham), Routledge, 2023, pp. 159-172.