



**The Dreyfus Affair**  
 JST 3930, EUS 3930, FRT 3004  
 T, 7; R, 7, 8th periods

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 Office hours: T-8th; R-9th periods  
 ...and by appointment

Referred to as the “scandal of the century,” the “trial of the century,” and a “rehearsal” for the Holocaust, the Dreyfus affair captured the attention of the world. Alfred Dreyfus, a Jewish officer in the French Army, was wrongly accused of spying for Germany, convicted, and imprisoned. The now infamous case polarized France, stirring nationalism and anti-Semitism. This course focuses on the figure of Dreyfus, a powerful image in French collective memory, culture and discourse. It explores what the “Trial of the Century” may tell us about fin de siècle and belle époque France, as well as our days. Readings from a broad section of literary, journalistic and visual work trace the history of the infamous trial and the inscription of Dreyfus’ enduring legacy in French history, memory and literature.

Class will be of interest to students of History, French and Francophone studies, European and Jewish Studies. Class may count for the Certificate in European Jewish Studies and the Certificate in Holocaust Studies. This class will be taught in English. No prerequisites or knowledge of French required.

**Preparation, Attendance, Assignments:**

Attendance and demonstration of preparation at each class session are required.

For each week there will be reading assignments in canvas as well as themes for discussion questions to guide your reading. Most material for the course will be available electronically in canvas, with some exceptions for films that I will announce in class.

**Organization of class sessions (some preliminaries):**

Participation and attendance are mandatory. This course will be conducted in seminar format. Each student is expected to come to each session prepared to discuss the readings assigned. Reading of the assigned material and participation in class discussion are essential to the successful completion of the course. Everyone prepares questions and comments on the texts and critical texts.

**Written Work:**

*Everyone prepares one page of written comments on one chosen theme or aspect of the text for discussion. Each Tuesday, you will turn in a mini essay of 1-1.5 pages max addressing an aspect (a theme, a technique, a strategy, a question) of the readings that you have thought about/considered/studied. In class, I will explain further how these assignments work with primary and secondary materials and the logic behind them for stimulating class discussion and building material for class papers.*

Final Paper: 8-10 pp.

**Grading:**

Participation/demonstrated preparation (25%), oral presentations/preparation of weekly mini-essays on readings (50%): 75%

Final Paper: 25% (see last page for UF grading policies and resources)

## **Preliminary Program Themes and Primary Readings**

*N.B. You will receive weekly instructions with reading assignments, secondary readings, themes for discussion and where relevant, questions to guide your reading. Below you will find a listing of themes and some of the primary materials studied.*

### Week of August 31

#### ***Why the Dreyfus Affair Matters: France, the French Jewish Community, ... and French and French Jewish studies***

- Tuesday: Introduction to the course and its terms  
*Why the Dreyfus Affair Matters* and *The Birth of National Icon*
- Thursday: Cahm, Eric. *The Dreyfus Affair in French Society and Politics*, 1996  
pp. 1-30
- Alfred Dreyfus, Letters to Lucie, 1894, 1895, 1899

### Week of September 7

#### ***Setting the Stage for the Dreyfusards Children of the Revolution, Jewish questions, the Past, the Present, the Israelite and the Nation***

- Tuesday: Zadoc Kahn, Acceptance Speech (1889) pp. 18-29
- Michael R. Marrus, *The Politics of Assimilation*, 1971, pp. 196-241
- Thursday: Frederick Brown, "Birth Pangs of a Secular Republic," *For the Soul of France: Culture Wars in the Age of Dreyfus*, 2011  
pp 39-58
- Paula Hyman, "The French Jewish Community from Emancipation to the Dreyfus Affair," 1987. pp. 25-36

### Week of September 14

#### ***Cultures of Defeat & Jewish Questions: Past, Present, Israelite and Nation***

- Tuesday: Images of the Jew, Jewish Patriotism  
Edouard Drumont, "Jews in the Army," *La Libre Parole*, 1892  
Zadoc Kahn, Funeral Oration, 1892

Edouard Drumont, "High Treason," *La Libre Parole*, 1994  
Bernard Lazare, "A Judicial Error," 1896

Thursday: Michael R. Marrus, "Popular Anti-Semitism," *The Dreyfus Affair: Art, Truth, and Justice*. Ed. Norman Kleeblatt, 1987, pp. 50-60

Bell, Dorian. *Globalizing Race: Antisemitism and Empire in French and European Culture*, 2018, pp. tbd

### Week of September 21

**The Fin de Siècle: The Affair and the Dreyfusards**  
***Culture Wars and "Non-Fiction"***  
**--*Drama, Heros, Heroines, Literature, Society and History***

Tuesday: Emile Zola, "A Plea for the Jews", *Le Figaro*, 1896, pp 2-7  
-- "M. Scheurer-Kestner," *Le Figaro*, 1897, pp. 10-14

Thursday: Emile Zola, "The Syndicate," *Le Figaro*, 1897, pp. 14-19

### Week of September 28

***"J'Accuse" and Rennes***

Tuesday: Emile Zola, "Letter to the Young People," 1897, pp. 29-35  
-- "Letter to France," 7 January 1898, pp 35-43

Thursday: Ruth Harris, "The Dreyfusard Mystique," *Dreyfus: Politics, Emotion, and the Scandal of the Century*, pp. 247-272

Christopher Hitchens, "The Dreyfus Wars," *The Weekly Standard*, July 19, 2010

### Week of October 5

***Aftermaths, Amnesties, Exoneration: Processing the Affair***  
***Spinning Dreyfus: Memory, Memoir, Fiction and Politics***

Tuesday: Dreyfus, the Church, the School, the Press  
Zola, *Truth (Vérité)*, 1903

Thursday: Zola, *Truth (Vérité)*, 1903

### Week of October 12

***Aftermaths, Amnesties, Exoneration: Processing the Affair***  
***Memory, Memoir, Fiction and Politics***

Tuesday: Dreyfus, the Church, the School, the Press  
Zola, *Truth (Vérité)*, 1903

Thursday: Zola, *Truth (Vérité)*, 1903

#### Week of October 19

##### *Aftermaths: Caricature, Humor, Satire and Dreyfus Affair*

Tuesday: Anatole France, *Penguin Island* (1908)  
pp. 314-409

Thursday: Anatole France, *Penguin Island* (1908)  
pp. 314-409

#### Week of October 26

##### *Aftermaths and Jewish Renaissance: Stranger than fiction*

Tuesday: Marcel Proust, *Jean Santeuil* (Selections, 1952, posthumous)

Thursday: Marcel Proust, *Jean Santeuil* (Selections, 1952, posthumous)

#### Week of November 2

##### *Aftermaths and Jewish Renaissance: Stranger than fiction*

Tuesday: Marcel Proust, Selections from *The Guermantes Way*, 1920-21

Thursday: Marcel Proust, Selections from *The Guermantes Way*, 1920-21

Lynn R. Wilkinson, "The Art of Distinction: Proust and the Dreyfus Affair," 1992, pp. 976- 999.

#### Week of November 9

##### *Jewish Modernists, Anti-Dreyfusism and Action Française*

Tuesday: Maurras, *First Blood* (1892)

Lunel Armand, "Nicolo-Peccavi, or the Dreyfus Affair at Carpentras," 1926. pp. 73-80

Fleg, *Why I am a Jew* (1928)

André Spire, Préface (1959) to Jewish Poems; Prologue (1919)

Thursday: Maurras, *First Blood* (1898)

Lunel Armand, "Nicolo-Peccavi, or the Dreyfus Affair at Carpentras," 1926. pp. 73-80

Fleg, *Why I am a Jew* (1928)

André Spire, Préface (1959) to Jewish Poems; Prologue (1919)

Week of November 16      *Post-War Dreyfus: Invocations, Repetitions, and Rehearsals*

Tuesday: Hannah Arendt, "Antisemitism," *The Origins of Totalitarianism*, 1958, pp. 3-120

Week of November 23

*Post-War Dreyfus, the Pantheon and the Rise of Antisemitism*

Tuesday: The Dreyfus Affair: Commemoration, Literature, Film, and the Post-War Press (Selections)

Week of November 30

Tuesday: The Dreyfus Affair in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Commemorations, Film, Press ...and Internet (Selections)

Thursday: The Dreyfus Affair in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Commemorations, Film, Press ...and Internet (Selections)

Week of December 7

*Thinking through the Dreyfus Affair...*

Tuesday: Presentation of Abstracts for Final Papers

Papers due: No later than midnight December 16

## **Helpful Information:**

### **UF Policies: Grades, Feedback, Honor code and Accommodations:**

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center by visiting <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/>. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at [gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu/students/](http://gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu/students/). Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via [ufl.bluera.com/ufl/](http://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/). Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at [gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu/public-results/](http://gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu/public-results/).

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The Honor Code ([sccr.dso.ufl.edu/process/student-conduct-code/](http://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/process/student-conduct-code/)) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor.

Current UF grading policies for assigning grade points: [catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-gradingpolicies/](http://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-gradingpolicies/).

Attendance, make-up exams and other work such as: Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at: [catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/](http://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/)

### **Campus Resources:**

Online course assistance: (e.g. [helpdesk.ufl.edu](http://helpdesk.ufl.edu), 352-392-4357).

Health and Wellness:

U Matter, We Care: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact [umatter@ufl.edu](mailto:umatter@ufl.edu), 352-392-1575, or visit [umatter.ufl.edu/](http://umatter.ufl.edu/) to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.

Counseling and Wellness Center: Visit [counseling.ufl.edu/](http://counseling.ufl.edu/) or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.

Student Health Care Center: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or visit [shcc.ufl.edu/](http://shcc.ufl.edu/).

University Police Department: Visit [police.ufl.edu/](http://police.ufl.edu/) or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).

UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; [ufhealth.org/emergency-room-trauma-center](http://ufhealth.org/emergency-room-trauma-center).