



**The Dreyfus Affair**  
 JST 3930, EUS 3930, FRT 3004  
 MWF 5th period

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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 and/or 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 Monday, 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 January 9

##### *Why the Dreyfus Affair Matters:*

*France, the French Jewish Community,  
... and French and French Jewish studies*

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

#### Week of January 16

##### *Setting the Stage for the Dreyfusards*

*Children of the Revolution, Jewish questions, the Past, the  
Present, the Israelite and the Nation*

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

Week of January 23

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

- Monday: 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*, 1894  
Bernard Lazare, "A Judicial Error," 1896
- Wednesday: Michael R. Marrus, "Popular Anti-Semitism," *The Dreyfus Affair: Art, Truth, and Justice*. Ed. Norman Kleeblatt, 1987, pp. 50-60
- Friday: Continued

Week of January 30

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

- Monday: Emile Zola, "A Plea for the Jews", *Le Figaro*, 1896, pp 2-7  
-- "M. Scheurer-Kestner," *Le Figaro*, 1897, pp. 10-14
- Wednesday: Emile Zola, "The Syndicate," *Le Figaro*, 1897, pp. 14-19
- Friday: Continued

Week of February 6

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

- Monday: Emile Zola, "Letter to the Young People," 1897, pp. 29-35  
-- "Letter to France," 7 January 1898, pp 35-43
- Wednesday: Ruth Harris, "The Dreyfusard Mystique," *Dreyfus: Politics, Emotion, and the Scandal of the Century*, pp. 247-272
- Friday: Christopher Hitchens, "The Dreyfus Wars," *The Weekly Standard*, July 19, 2010

Week of February 13

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

- Monday: Dreyfus, the Church, the School, the Press  
Zola, *Truth (Vérité)*, 1903
- Wednesday: Zola, *Truth (Vérité)*, 1903
- Friday: Continued

Week of February 20

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

- Monday: Dreyfus, the Church, the School, the Press  
Wednesday: Zola, *Truth (Vérité)*, 1903  
Friday: Zola, *Truth (Vérité)*, 1903

Week of February 27

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

- Monday: Anatole France, *Penguin Island* (1908)  
pp. 314-409  
Wednesday: Anatole France, *Penguin Island* (1908)  
pp. 314-409  
Friday: Anatole France, *Penguin Island* (1908)  
pp. 314-409

Week of March 6

*Aftermaths and Jewish Renaissance: Stranger than fiction*

- Monday: Marcel Proust, *Jean Santeuil* (Selections, 1952, posthumous)  
Wednesday: Marcel Proust, *Jean Santeuil* (Selections, 1952, posthumous)  
Friday: Marcel Proust, *Jean Santeuil* (Selections, 1952, posthumous)

Week of March 20

*Aftermaths and Jewish Renaissance: Stranger than fiction*

- Monday: Marcel Proust, Selections from *The Guermantes Way*, 1920-21  
Wednesday: Marcel Proust, Selections from *The Guermantes Way*, 1920-21  
Friday: Lynn R. Wilkinson, "The Art of Distinction: Proust and the Dreyfus Affair," 1992,  
pp. 976- 999.

Week of March 27

*Jewish Modernists, Anti-Dreyfusism and Action Française*

- Monday: Maurras, *First Blood* (1892)  
Lunel Armand, "Nicolo-Peccavi, or the Dreyfus Affair at  
Carpentras," 1926. pp. 73-80  
Wednesday: Fleg, *Why I am a Jew* (1928)

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

Week of April 3

*Post-War Dreyfus: Invocations, Repetitions, and Rehearsals*

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

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

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

Week of April 10

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

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

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

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

Week of April 17

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

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

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

Week of April 24

*Thinking through the Dreyfus Affair...*

Monday and Wednesday: Presentation of Abstracts for Final Papers

**Papers due: No later than midnight May 3. Upload to canvas**

## Helpful Information:

### Grading Scale & GPA Equivalent

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E
100-93	92.9-90	89.9-87	86.9-83	82.9-80	79.9-77	76-73 (2.0)	72.9-70	69.9-67	66.9-63	62.9-60	59- (0)
(4.0)	(3.67)	(3.33)	(3.0)	(2.67)	(2.33)		(1.67)	(1.33)	(1.0)	(0.67)	

Students will need to earn a C or higher to use this course toward a major or minor and/or earn General Education Credit.

To receive writing requirement credit, a student must receive a grade of C or higher and a satisfactory completion of the writing component of the course.

For further information on UF's Grading Policy, see:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

### GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

#### Canvas

All assignments, lecture notes, handouts, study guides, grades, etc. will be posted on the course website on Canvas. It is your responsibility to check the website regularly and keep up to date with the class.

#### Attendance and make-ups

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:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>.

Attendance is mandatory and will be assessed by roll call. Acceptable excuses include illness, religious holidays, & military obligation. These need to be documented excuses. Should you miss a class for any reason, you are responsible for informing yourself as to the material covered. Except in the case of certified illness or other UF accepted excuse, there will be no make-up option for missed exams/assignments. Where possible, make-ups should be arranged prior to absence. Alternatively, students should contact me on return to classes.

#### Class Demeanor & Academic Integrity

Students are expected to arrive to class on time and behave in a manner that is respectful to the instructor and to fellow students. Please avoid the use of cell phones and eating during class time. Opinions held by other students should be respected in discussion, and conversations that do not contribute to the discussion should be held at minimum, if at all.

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 Conduct Code specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. [Click here to read the Conduct Code](#). If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

#### Accommodations

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation. For more information see <https://disability.ufl.edu/>.

#### HEALTH AND WELLNESS

- U Matter, We Care: [umatter@ufl.edu](mailto:umatter@ufl.edu) – <https://umatter.ufl.edu/> ; 392-1575
- Counseling and Wellness Center: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx> ; 392-1575
- Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS): Student Health Care Center; 392-1161
- University Police Department: <http://www.police.ufl.edu/> ; 392-1111 (911 for emergencies)

#### ACADEMIC RESOURCES

- E-learning technical support: [Learningsupport@ufl.edu](mailto:Learningsupport@ufl.edu); <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml> ; 352-392-4357 (opt. 2)
- Career Resource Center: Reitz Union; <http://www.crc.ufl.edu/> ; 392-1601
- Library Support: <http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask>
- Teaching Center: Broward Hall; 392-2010 or 392-6420
- Writing Studio: 302 Tigert Hall; <http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/> ; 846-1138
- *Student Complaints On-Campus*: <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/> Visit the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code webpage for more information.

#### Course Evaluation

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu> . Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/> .

#### COVID-19 Statement

In response to COVID-19, the following recommendations are in place to maintain your learning environment, to enhance the safety of our in-classroom interactions, and to further the health and safety of ourselves, our neighbors, and our loved ones.

- If you are not vaccinated, get vaccinated. Vaccines are readily available and have been demonstrated to be safe and effective against the COVID-19 virus. Visit [one.ufl](http://one.ufl.edu) for screening / testing and vaccination opportunities.
- If you are sick, stay home. Please call your primary care provider if you are ill and need immediate care or the UF Student Health Care Center at 352-392-1161 to be evaluated.
- Course materials will be provided to you with an excused absence. As with any excused absence, you will be given a reasonable amount of time to make up missed work.