

**Course Title: Sources and Manifestations of anti-Semitism in contemporary Czech society**

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**Semester Taught: Spring 2013**

The phenomenon of anti-Semitism during the totalitarian regime of former Czechoslovakia has been largely marginalized, and even today the specifics of that phenomenon have not been sufficiently reflected upon by the Czech public. This course explores and identifies the expressions of anti-Semitism in contemporary Czech society and points out analogous parallel manifestations in the pre-war era.

The course is composed of two parts: a theoretical part and an empirical part. The theoretical part focuses on a description and analysis of the attributes belonging to particular groups in the Czech Republic who, on different bases of interest or ideology, lean toward anti-Semitism. Today, these groups can be categorized as: neo-Nazis or extreme right-wing fundamentalists, pro-Palestinian activists, radical Muslim circles, and pseudo-academic anti-Semitic scholars.

The empirical part is divided into three main phases. In the first phase, students analyse print and electronic text extracts with explicit or latent anti-Semitic content. In the second phase students will do fieldwork of "The Visual History Archive", as students turn their attention to trace back symptoms of anti-Semitism in the pre-war era through eyewitness accounts. Manifestations of pre-war anti-Semitism (once oversimplified) will be shown to have noticeable parallels to the present expression of anti-Semitism used not only by extreme right-wing groups, but even in the conservative spectrum of Czech society. Emphasis will be placed on obtaining active understanding and deeper empathy through listening to the stories. In the third phase, a discussion with a guest-lecturer (a survivor of Nazi persecution) will take place. Students can pose questions which arose during their fieldwork with "The Visual History Archive".

**Schedule:**

- **Week 1: An introduction to the topic, definition of terms and literature list**
- **Week 2: General origins and development of anti-Semitism**
- **Week 3: Different forms of anti-Semitism (with an emphasis on contemporary manifestations)**
- **Week 4: Anti-Semitism in the Czech lands in the period from the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century until today. Specific manifestations of anti-Semitism in Pre-World War II period.**

- Week 5 & 6: Description and analysis of characteristics of neo-Nazis; extreme right-wing fundamentalists; pro-Palestinian activists; radical Muslim circles and anti-Semitic pseudo-academics.
- Week 7: Analysis of print and electronic text extracts with explicit or latent anti-Semitic content
- Week 8: Introduction to fieldwork in "The Visual History Archive" database
- Week 9: Begin fieldwork in "The Visual History Archive" database. Students work to trace back signs of anti-Semitism in Pre-World War II period through eyewitness accounts.
- Week 10: Follow-up fieldwork in "The Visual History Archive" database
- Week 11: Processing and fieldwork results comparison
- Week 12: Discussion with a guest-lecturer (a survivor of Nazi persecution)
- Week 13: Final summary and reflections

Reading:

Arendtová, H. (2000): *Původ totalitarismu I-III*. Praha: OIKOYMENH. (Pouze 1. svazek o antisemitismu)

Bauer, Y. (2003): "Problems of Contemporary Anti-Semitism", lecture to the Jewish Studies Dept of the University of California, Santa Cruz. Dostupné z <http://web.archive.org/web/20030705131522/http://humanities.ucsc.edu/JewishStudies/docs/YBauerLecture.pdf>

Bauer, Y. (2009): *Úvahy o holocaustu*. Praha: Academia.

Bauman, Z. (2009): *Modernita a holocaust*. Praha: Sociologické nakladatelství (SLON).

Bílková, H. ed. (1992): *Antisemitismus v posttotalitní Evropě*. Praha: nakl. Franze Kafky.

Feder, R. (1947): *Židovská tragédie: dějství poslední*. Lusk: Kolín.

Frankl, M. (2007): „Emancipace od židů“: český antisemitismus na konci 19. století, Praha: nakl. Paseka.

Laqueur, W. (2007): *Mění se tvář antisemitismu: Od starověku do dnešních dnů*. Praha: NLN.

Lewis, B. (2006): "The New Anti-Semitism", *The American Scholar*, Volume 75 No. 1, Winter 2006, pp. 25–36. Dostupné z <http://hnn.us/blogs/entries/21832.html>

Lipstadvová, D. (2001): *Popírání holocaustu, sílí útok na pravdu a paměť*. Praha/Litomyšl: Paseka.

Ottolenghi, E. (2012): *Autodafé. Evropa, Židé a antisemitismus*. Praha: Academia.

Pojar, M., Soukupová, B., Zahradníková, M. eds.(2004): *Židovská menšina v Československu ve 30. letech*. Židovské muzeum v Praze.

Pojar, M., Soukupová, B., Zahradníková, M. eds.(2007): *Židovská menšina za druhé republiky*. Židovské muzeum v Praze.

Sharansky, N. „3D Test of Anti-Semitism: Demonization, Double Standards, Delegitimization. Foreword of JPSR Issue“ [online], [datum přístupu: 14.8.2010], dostupne z:<http://www.jcpa.org/phas/phas-sharansky-f04.htm>

Tydlitátová, V. a kol. (2010): *Nová doba, stará zloba: soudobý antisemitismus v historickém kontextu*. Vydala Západočeská univerzita v Plzni.