The Holocaust was the most catastrophic event in contemporary Jewish history. Although the loss of Jewish lives occurred in Europe, the Holocaust had grave and transformative effects for American Jews and Judaism. In one way or another, after World War II, American Jewish communities and leaders realized that they were now leaders of world Jewry. In the past, American Jews had looked to Europe as the center of Jewish learning; now, that leadership role belonged to American Jews.

In addition to a shift in power, other changes occurred among American Jews that affected American Judaism. In the immediate postwar years, Judaism became one of “the big three” religions in America, alongside Protestantism and Catholicism. One of the major questions we will explore in this class is how and why this change took place in the United States, and what it meant for both Jews and American culture.

While a course on “Post-Holocaust Jews” could certainly continue to the present, we will be focused on the immediate postwar era. We will be using a mix of primary and secondary sources.

In addition to learning about post-Holocaust Jews and American culture, you will also have the opportunity to broaden your academic horizons, learn valuable lessons regarding the study of religion and culture, and, it is hoped, improve your analytic and presentation skills. This course is open to everyone. There are no pre-requisites, and no knowledge of religious studies in general or Judaism in particular is presupposed.

Caveats and additional information
Syllabus: Depending on time constraints and other factors, the instructor may alter the syllabus during the semester. Students will be given notice of such alterations.

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.
For grading policies, please see: https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing
appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter that must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

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 (http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honorcode/) 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.

Teaching Center, Broward Hall, 392-2010 or 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring. http://teachingcenter.ufl.edu


Students are invited 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.

Readings: Three books are required for this course. There will be additional required readings, which will be available online or will be distributed as handouts. Students should complete readings before the discussion session for which they have been assigned.

Required Texts:
Nathan Glazer, American Judaism
Peter Novick, The Holocaust In American Life
Laura Z. Hobson Gentleman’s Agreement
Other course readings will be made available on CANVAS or in-class

Attendance & Participation 20%
3 short essays 30%
Midterm 20%
3 How this reading changed/affected my understanding summaries 30%

**Extra credit opportunities:
There will be extra credit opportunities connected with two talks during the semester (Thursday Feb 8 at 5pm and Tuesday, March 27th).

Assignments
1) Attendance and Participation. A significant portion (20%) of your grade is based on your contributions to our class discussion. Your ability to stay focused on
discussion, listen to your classmates’ and professor’s comments and respond to
them, and make use of our readings to further discussion, are all part of this grade.
Absence without notes from a physician or college dean or advance permission
from Professor Gordan will result in a 0/20 A&P grade for that day.

2) Three short essays: There will be 5 essay options provided during the semester.
You may choose 3 of these essays to submit by the deadline on this syllabus.

3) Midterm will be based on readings, in-class lectures & discussions, and the
handouts we work on, during class-time. It will be take-home and due to
rgordan@ufl.edu on Friday, March 2.

4) How this reading changed/affected my understanding – Three times during the
semester you will submit 250-500 words explaining how the reading for that day
affected your understanding of post-WWII Jews in the US. Your submissions will
be graded on your articulate expression of a) the author’s arguments and
evidence, and b) your views on the subject; c) effective use of quotations from the
reading; and d) a larger takeaway regarding the reading and post-Holocaust Jews.
This essay should be submitted by 9 pm, the night before class to
rgordan@ufl.edu.

Grading Scale: Final letter grades will be assigned according to the following
scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
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<td>D</td>
<td>60-69</td>
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<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>0-59</td>
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</tbody>
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For UF policies on grading, please see:
https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx

Monday, January 8: Course Introduction

Part I: What Just Happened? Processing the Holocaust and the Jew in America

Wednesday, Jan 10 Postwar:
1945 American Jewish Book, p. 209-228
Friday, Jan 12
Monday, Jan 15
http://ajcarchives.org/AJC_DATA/Files/1944_1945_5_USCivicPolitical.pdf
133-159
Wednesday, Jan 17
FDR and the Jewish Crisis and Reportage
Part II: What did it all mean to Jews and Americans?
The Holocaust, Judaism, and a new socio-economic status
Wed, Jan 24
Peter Novick, Holocaust in American Life, Part I
Fri, Jan 26
Peter Novick, Holocaust in American Life, Part I
Mon, Jan 29
Peter Novick, Holocaust in American Life, Part II
Wed Jan 31
Peter Novick, Holocaust in American Life, Part II
Friday, Feb 2
Peter Novick, Holocaust in American Life, Part II

***Novick essay due by 10 pm, Sunday, February 4th to rgordan@ufl.edu

Mon, Feb 5
Nathan Glazer, American Judaism, Introduction
Wed, Feb 7
Glazer, Chapter 6: Judaism and Jewishness
Fri, Feb 9
Glazer, Chapter 6: Judaism and Jewishness
Monday, Feb 12
No class
Wed, Feb 14
Glazer, Chapter 7: The Jewish Revival
Fri, Feb 16
Glazer, Chapter 8: The Religion of American Jews
Mon, Feb 19
Glazer, Chapter 8: The Religion of American Jews & epilogue

***Glazer essay due by 2 pm on Tuesday, February 20th to rgordan@ufl.edu

Part III: What are post-Holocaust Jews and Americans?

Wed Feb 21
Kevin Schultz, Tri-Faith America reading on CANVAS
Fri Feb 23
Tri-Faith America reading on CANVAS
Mon Feb26
Ambivalent Embrace excerpt CANVAS
Wed Feb 28 Midterm
Kranson, Ambivalent Embrace excerpt CANVAS
Fri, Mar 2nd
Midterm

Spring Break

Monday, March 12
Lila Corwin Berman, Speaking of Jews excerpt Canvas
Wed, March 14
Speaking of Jews excerpt Canvas
Friday March 16
Philip Gleason “Americans All” article
Monday March 19
“Americans All” article

**Speaking of Jews essay due Tuesday, March 20

Part IV Explaining Post-Holocaust Judaism to Americans

Wed March 21
Herman Wouk, This Is My God Excerpt
Friday March 23 – no class
Monday March 26
Wouk excerpt continued
Wed March 28
Milton Steinberg, Basic Judaism excerpt
Fri March 30 Passover begins tonight
Mon April 2
Steinberg excerpt

****Wouk and Steinberg essay due Tuesday April 3 at 8 pm

Wed April 4
Abraham Joshua Heschel excerpt
Friday April 6 – end of Passover – no class

Monday, April 9th
Heschel excerpt

Part V Telling the story of Post-Holocaust Jews

Wednesday, April 11
Leah Garrett reading on CANVAS
Friday, April 13
Leah Garrett reading on CANVAS
Monday, April 16th
Will Herberg, *Protestant-Catholic-Jew* excerpt
Wed April 18
Will Herberg, *Protestant-Catholic-Jew* excerpt
Friday, April 20
*Gentleman’s Agreement*

***Herberg essay due 2pm, Sunday, April 22nd***

Monday April 23
*Gentleman’s Agreement*
Wed April 25
*Gentleman’s Agreement*