Learning Objectives:
The objectives of this course are to familiarize students with the history, religion and traditions of Jews in Europe and especially Germany since the time of the Thirty Years War. Jews have lived in Germany since the second century CE. They gradually progressed from barely tolerated expendable human beings to, eventually, citizens of Western Europe, including Germany. In this course, students will get an overview of European Jewry since the early modern period, follow the evolution of German Jews, also rural German Jews, from Schutzjuden and peddlers to court Jews and eventually, by 1871, German citizens with full rights. From then it was a mere sixty years to the Holocaust and the destruction of Jewish life in Germany.

Course Outcomes:
This course focuses on the history and culture of German Jews, the changes through the centuries in Jewish life, the tragic events of the Holocaust, and the spiritual renewal of the Jewish people. After completing this course, students will have an understanding of the history of German Jewry, their culture and religion.

Course Requirements:
The texts required are The Memoirs of Glückel of Hameln; Emily C. Rose, Portraits of Our Past; Gershom Scholem, From Berlin to Jerusalem, and Aharon Appelfeld, Badenheim 1939. There will also be some readings on Blackboard.

Students are required to

a) View and analyze one video, Swing Kids. A two-page review is to be turned in by 10/13.

b) Observe one of the religious services offered in the Jewish community (Heska Amuna or Temple Beth El) and write a one-page impression paper. Due 11/17.

c) Attend one public lecture on September 10 sponsored by the Judaic Studies Program and write a two-page analysis. Due 9/15.

This is a writing-emphasis course. You are graded on your writing. Please write with care and proofread your reports before turning them in.

Grading is based on the following criteria:

1. Attendance and class participation 20%. Three unexcused absences are allowed, any illnesses must be documented with a written doctor’s excuse. Additional unexcused absences will
subtract 2 points each from the attendance grade. Participation is defined as contributing to the
class discussion on the assigned readings.

2. One movie review, one synagogue service, and one public lecture will make up 20% of the
student’s final grade. Late submissions will subtract one half point from the assignment grade (a
B will become a B-).

3. There will be two in-class short essay exams worth 20% each, for a total of 40% of the student’s
final grade.

4. A final exam, worth 20% of the final grade, is scheduled for Monday, December 8, from 8-10 AM.

Make-up policy: If a student has three exams in one day, he/she may choose to move one of the
exams to a different day. This need as well as any other irregularities must be discussed with the
professor in advance of the scheduled exam date.

For a table of grades and conversion from numerical to letter grades, see Blackboard.

Please check your email regularly for any messages sent via Blackboard.

For study aids, academic integrity, and disability information, please see the campus syllabus on the
Blackboard site.

Discrimination is not permitted:
The University of Tennessee prohibits discrimination against employees and students “on the basis of
race, color, religion, sex (including sexual harassment, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital
status, parental status), national origin, age, disability, or protected veteran status.”

Week I: 8/20 Introduction to course, materials, and requirements.
8/22 Jewish history. 1850BCE-present (handout)

Week II: 8/25 The Jewish year (handout).
8/27 Life-cycle events. On Blackboard, see Goldberg/Rayner, 366-382.
8/29 Emily Rose, holidays, 297-330.

Week III: 9/1 Labor Day. No class.
9/3 On Blackboard, Baskin/Seeskin, 140-68.

Week IV: 9/8 Glückel of Hameln, 40-89.
9/10 Glückel of Hameln, 90-145.
Tonight, 7 PM in the Hodges Library Auditorium, is the required Karen and Pace
Robinson Lecture on Modern Israel, with Professor Yinon Cohen, Columbia
University. Lecture report is due 10/15.
9/12 Glückel of Hameln, 146-221.
Two-page lecture report is due today.

9/17 Review for Test I.

9/19 Test I (Ashley).

Out-of-class, watch Swing Kids before 10/13.

Tonight is Erev Rosh Hashanah.

9/26 Rosh Hashanah II. No class.

Week VII: 9/29 Emily Rose, 1-12, 13-44.

10/1 Rose, 46-97.

10/3 Rose, 99-135.

Week VIII: 10/6 Rose, 136-70.

10/8 Rose, 171-204.

10/10 Sukkot II. In-class video (Ashley).

Week IX: 10/13 Rose, 265-90. 
Two-page review of Swing Kids is due today.

10/15 On Blackboard, Monika Richarz, 211-20, and 270-79.

10/17 FALL BREAK. No class.

Week X: 10/20 Zionism 1897-1948 (lecture).

10/22 On Blackboard, Martin Buber poetry.

10/24 On Blackboard, Gilya Schmidt chapter on Hermann Struck.

Week XI: 10/27 Review for Test II.

10/29 Test II.

10/31 Gershom Scholem, 1-35.

Week XII: 11/3 Scholem, 36-82.

11/7  Scholem, 116-174.

Week XIII:  11/10  Anti-Semitism and the Holocaust (lecture).
            11/12  Holocaust (lecture).
            11/14  Appelfeld, Badenheim 1939, all.

            One-page synagogue reflection paper is due today.
            11/19  On Blackboard, Schmidt, 142-163.

Week XV:   11/24  Stolpersteine and Jewish life in Germany today (lecture).
            11/26  Catch up day.
            11/28  Thanksgiving break. No class.

Week XVI:  12/1  Last class. Review for final.

Final:  Monday, December 8, 8-10 AM, in the classroom.

Have a nice break!