

## World Religions in Greater Indianapolis Teaching Module

Teacher Name: Audrey Jefferson Humanities Discipline: American History

Nov. 13, 2015 World Religion: Judaism

### Teaching Module Goals

1. Student will gain awareness and understanding of Jewish American ethics, practices, festivals and religious ideas
2. Student will explore the concept of the “religious other” in American history and the impact of othering on the Jewish minority and the development of the American mainstream

### Assigned Reading

Diner, Hasia R. *A New Promised Land*. Pages 22-40. Pages 41-66

### Study Questions and/or Discussion Prompts for Students

1. In early America many groups sought refuge in the new country. Many came seeking religious freedoms. What political, economic, and social factors led Jews to immigrate to America?
2. U.S. history has many examples of groups were viewed as “others”. Enumerate the ways Jews were viewed as other not only because religious beliefs but also because of what many Americans saw as their foreign dress, diet, and customs.
3. What role did the rabbi play in establishing the Jewish communities in America?
4. How did the Jewish community seek to define itself and shape its cultural identity in America?

### Written Assignments

1. Write your answers to the questions listed above; I will collect these in class.
2. 3-4 page Essay: Select a group in American society that has or currently been viewed as “other”—it might be African Americans, Latino/as, Native Americans, or Asian Americans. Write an essay comparing that group’s struggle for acceptance with the obstacles faced by the Jewish community. Has one group gained more full acceptance in your view? Why? Give clear examples to support your statements. In your opening paragraph you must identify the group(s) you choose to compare, state why this group was chosen, and set the stage for your essay.