

## World Religions in Greater Indianapolis Teaching Module

Teacher Name: Joshua M. Phillippe

Humanities Discipline: Art History

Date: November 13, 2015

World Religion: Judaism

Teaching Module Title: The American Jewish Experience

### Teaching Module Goals:

1. Introduce students to early American Jewish History
2. Explore key moments and trends in 20<sup>th</sup>-Century Jewish history

### Assigned Readings and Websites:

Hasia R. Diner, *A New Promised Land, A History of Jews in America*, emphasis on pages 13-21, 55-68, 91-93, 135-139, 146-151.

Jimmy Stamp, *Smithsonian Magazine*, Pioneering Social Reformer Jacob Riis Revealed "How The Other Half Lives" in America, May 2014

<http://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/pioneering-social-reformer-jacob-riis-revealed-how-other-half-lives-america-180951546/?no-ist>

### Suggested Further Reading:

Jacob Riis, *How the Other Half Lives*, 1890

<http://www.authentichistory.com/1898-1913/2-progressivism/2-riis/index.html>

Henry Roth, *Call it Sleep*, (novel), 1934, Noonday.

### Study Questions and/or Discussions Prompts for Students:

1. Why did so many Jewish people seek refuge in the United States in and after the 19<sup>th</sup> century?
2. Name a few pivotal events that defined cultural Judaism in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.
3. Who was Jacob Riis and why is he important? (*Smithsonian* article)
4. What are some topical and socially progressive issues facing American Jews today?

### Written Assignments and/or other Assessment Instruments:

After Reading our selection from Hasia R. Diner's *A New Promised Land* and the Smithsonian article on Jacob Riis and "How the Other Half Lives," complete the following assignment:

**Choose three pivotal moments from Diner's text and write a short paragraph on why each was important.**

**Choose two photographs by Jacob Riis and write a short paragraph on each examining what is being communicated. Remember to describe the composition and state why you chose each image. Copy and paste the photographs into your essay.**