

World Religions in Greater Indianapolis Teaching Module

Teachers name: Joe Skvarenina

Humanities Discipline: History

Date: November 9, 2015

Title: History of Jewish Adaptation to 20th Century American Life

Teaching Goals:

*To explore the influence of Judaism in 20th century American social life by considering the relationship between traditional community norms and modern individualism in American Judaism.

*To explore the social integration of American Jewish immigrants through the lens of science, entertainment, and government.

Assigned Readings:

A New Promised Land: A History of Jews in America by Hasia R. Diner.

www.jewishpress.com

JWA.org

www.jcpa.org

"Review of Jewish Assimilation in Modern Times." by Masha Rosenbilt

Jewish Social Studies Vol. 44 Summer/Autumn 1982 pp.334-335

Study Questions:

What is acculturation? How is it different from assimilation?

According to Diner and others, how did American Jews respond to the New Deal and what role did Jewish politicians or social leaders play in its implementation?

What role does Zionism play in uniting American Jews in the 20th century? According to Diner, when did Zionism begin to play this role?

How did the social roles played by Jewish women change over the course of the 20th century?

Written Assignment:

Write a 3-4 pp. essay in that includes responses to the following questions. What three 20th century events or social movements were most critical in shaping Jewish experience in America? Why were these so important? In what ways did they shape the experience American Jews? Credit is given not for choosing any particular events or movements, but for explaining the reasoning behind your choices.