

# Religion & Antisemitism Webinar Teaching Resources

[YouTube Link](#) - Released September 2024

Below you will find a document of resources for learning and teaching about religion, antisemitism, and the impact it has and continues to have on American culture. You will find resources provided by the panelists and host(s), recommended books, articles, etc., and assignment prompts to use in a class.

## **Overview**

Antisemitism has deep roots in American history and has continued to shape popular and political culture in the contemporary moment. Yet in many mainstream discussions in the United States, we often talk about it as if it were something new. This panel—featuring the authors of and experts featured on the podcast *Antisemitism, U.S.A.*—will discuss the long history of antisemitism, and how the fields of religious studies and American religious history think through the significance of that form of discrimination and violence in relation to the rest of American history. Join us for a conversation at the intersection of religion, American culture, and the history of antisemitism.

## **Hosts**

- Lincoln Mullen
- John Turner

## **Panelists**

- Britt Tevis
- Sarah Imhoff

## [Resources from Panelists](#)

## [Webinar Show Notes](#)

## **Sources Mentioned in Webinar**

### [The 1619 project](#)

- “The goal of the 1619 Project is to reframe American history by making explicit how slavery is the foundation on which the United States of America is built, and by considering what it would mean to regard 1619 as the nation's birth year.”

### [Leo Frank Case](#)

- “The Leo Frank case is one of the most notorious and highly publicized cases in the legal annals of Georgia. A Jewish man in Atlanta was placed on trial and convicted of raping and murdering a thirteen-year-old girl who worked for the National Pencil Company, which he managed. Before the lynching of Frank two years later, the case became known throughout the nation. The degree of anti-Semitism involved in Frank’s conviction and subsequent lynching was enough of a factor to have inspired Jews, and others, throughout the country to protest the conviction of an innocent man.”

### Naomi Cohen book – [Americanization of Zionism](#)

- “Although much has been written about philosophical and political Zionism, Zionism in the United States prior to 1948 requires separate treatment. The early development of American Zionism not only mirrors the paradoxes and challenges that faced first and second-generation Jews adjusting to life in the United States, it also has ramifications for contemporary attitudes of American Jews toward Israel. According to Naomi Cohen, American Zionism was shaped

originally by three factors: the needs of Jews in the United States and Europe, the stance of the American government, and the demands of non-Jewish public opinion.”

[Antisemitism, U.S.A. Podcast](#)

[Kugel and Frijoles: Latino Jews in the United States](#) [Laura Limonic](#)

- “*Kugel and Frijoles: Latino Jews in the United States* analyzes the changing construction of race and ethnicity in the United States through the lens of contemporary Jewish immigrants from Latin America. Since Latino Jews are not easily classified within the U.S. racial and ethnic schema, their ethnic identity and group affiliation challenge existing paradigms.”

[The Mythical Jew and The Jew Next Door](#) by Johnathan D. Sarna University of Illinois Press, 1986

[Wilhelm Marr](#)

- Journalist who was incredibly determined that Jews should not gain rights in this new country. He started a “club” called “the antisemites”. This was based around a racialized understanding of speakers of certain languages and a category he referred to as “sematic”, this included Hebrew and Arabic speakers.

### **Assignment Prompts**

Discussion: Look at some of the many conspiracy theories, discuss the main problems, stereotypes and implications of said theories.

Discussion or Writing Assignment: As the panelists mentioned, the terms we use must be specific and work for the purpose of making people learn or understand something. Examine your thoughts on the term antisemitism. Use the resources and the webinar to explain reasoning and learn more.

Discussion or Writing Assignment: How do race and antisemitism interact or intersect? In what ways and when is antisemitism a form of racism? How and when is it something else, such as religious prejudice?

Discussion or Other Assignment: Think and research about the varieties of religious people. Looking at race, socioeconomics, voting patterns, etc. while considering people's religious beliefs. How do these people fit into various categories, how do they view themselves and their place in the world or in American culture? What are some struggles or lacks thereof that people face?

- Black Muslims who aren't NOI, Latinx Jews (as mentioned in the episode), females who vote and associate more conservative, and many more.

### **Resources Related to Issues on College Campuses.**

[Antisemitism, USA podcast episode 9: David and Goliath](#)

Anti-Defamation League, [“Anti-Israel Activism on U.S. Campuses, 2021-2022,”](#) (October 12, 2022)

Divest This Time at GW, [“George Washington University Students Vote to Divest From Companies Complicit in Violations of Palestinian Rights,”](#) *BDS*, (April 24, 2018).

[“Harvard CAPS Harris Poll,”](#) (October 19, 2023),

Pamela S. Nadell, “Examining Anti-Semitism on College Campuses’ United States House of Representatives Committee on the Judiciary,” *American Jewish History* 105, no. 1 (2021).

Cary Nelson, *Israel Denialism: Anti-Zionism, Anti-Semitism, and the Faculty Campaign Against the Jewish State* (2019).

Cary Nelson, [“Lara Sheehi’s Joyous Rage: Antisemitic Anti-Zionism, Advocacy Academia and Jewish Students’ Nightmares at GWU,”](#) *Fathom*(April 2022)

Stephen H. Norwood, “Legitimizing Nazism: Harvard University and the Hitler Regime, 1933-1937,” *American Jewish History* 92, no. 2 (2004).

Mary Margaret Olohan, [“WATCH: Anti-Israel Students Host DC Vigil for Hamas ‘Martyrs’”](#) *The Daily Signal* (October 11, 2023).

Yair Rosenberg, [“How Anti-Semitism Shaped the Ivy League as We Know It,”](#) *The Atlantic* (September 22, 2022).

Yair Rosenberg, [“How to Learn About Jews From Jews, Rather Than the People Who Hate Them,”](#) *The Atlantic* (October 21, 2022).

Leonard Saxe, Graham Wright, Shahar Hecht, Michelle Shain, Theodore Sasson, Fern Chertok, [“Hotspots of Antisemitism and Anti-Israel Hostility on US Campuses,”](#) *Brandeis University Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies* (October 2016).

[“The Top 60 Schools Jews Choose & the Top 25 By Percentage of Jews,”](#) *Insider’s Guide to College Life Admissions*,

### People to Look Into

**Mitchell Hart:** He teaches courses on modern Jewish history, modern Germany, the history of racial thought, and anti-Semitism at The University of Florida. He is the author of [《Social Science and the Politics of Modern Jewish Identity》](#) (Stanford University Press, 2000), [《The Healthy Jew》](#) (Cambridge University Press, 2007)

**Zev Eleff:** He is President and Professor of American Jewish History at Gratz College. He is author of [《Who Rules the Synagogue? Religious Authority and the Formation of American Judaism》](#) (Oxford, 2016), [《Modern Orthodox Judaism: A Documentary History》](#) (JEWISH PUBLICATION SOCIETY; 2016).

**Jonathan Sarna:** He is the Joseph H. and Belle R. Braun Professor of American Jewish History in the department of Near Eastern and Judaic Studies and director of the Schusterman Center for Israel Studies at Brandeis University in Waltham, Massachusetts. He is author of [American Judaism: A History](#) (Yale, 2005) and [Lincoln and the Jews](#) (NYU Press, 2015).

**Alan Kraut:** He is a professor of history at American University. He is the author of [Silent Travelers: Germs, Genes, and the Immigrant Menace](#) (Hopkins Press, 1994), which won the Theodore Saloutos Memorial Book Award. And one of the authors of [Beyond Chicken Soup: Jews and Medicine in America](#) (2016).

**Rebecca Eberling:** She has been a historian, archivist, and curator at the US Holocaust Memorial Museum for the past twenty years. She holds a Ph.D. in American history from George Mason University and is the author of *Rescue Board: The Untold Story of America's Efforts to Save the Jews of Europe* (2018), which won the National Jewish Book Award for Writing Based on Archival Material.

**Tony Michaels:** Author of [“Is America ‘Different’? A Critique of American Jewish Exceptionalism”](#)

### Podcasts, Film, or other Media

Bradley W. Hart, host, *Star-Spangled Fascism* Podcast (2024).

[Antisemitism, USA Podcast](#)

### Books & Recommended Readings

[“Antisemitic Attitudes in America: Conspiracy Theories, Holocaust Education and Other Predictors of Antisemitic Belief,”](#) *Anti-Defamation League* (2023).

Joseph Bendersky, *The Jewish Threat: The Anti-Semitic Politics of the U.S. Army* (2000).

Rebecca Erbelding, *Rescue Board: The Untold Story of America's Efforts to Save the Jews of Europe* (2018).

Kevin Harty, “William Dudley Pelley, An American Nazi in King Arthur's Court,” *Arthuriana* 26, no. 2 (2016).

Kirsten Fermaglich, *A Rosenberg by Any Other Name: A History of Jewish Name Changing in America* (2018).

Jonathan Greenblatt, *It Could Happen Here: Why America is Tipping from Hate to the Unthinkable – And How We Can Stop It* (2022).

Glen Anthony Harris, *The Ocean Hill – Brownsville Conflict: Intellectual Struggles Between Blacks and Jews at Mid-Century* (2012).

Eitan Hersh and Laura Royden, “Antisemitic Attitudes among Young Black and Hispanic Americans,” *Journal of Race, Ethnicity, and Politics* 8, no. 1 (2023).

Charles Isaacs, *Inside Ocean Hill – Brownsville: A Teacher’s Education, 1968-69* (2014).

Suzanne G. Ledebor, “The Man Who Would be Hitler: William Dudley Pelley and the Silver Legion,” *California History* 65, no. 2 (1986).

Alexander G. Lovelace, “The Image of a General: The Wartime Relationship between General George S. Patton Jr. and the American Media,” *Journalism History* 40, no. 2 (2014).

Pamela S. Nadell, *American Jewish Women: A History from Colonial Times to Today* (2019).

Jeffrey Shandler, *While America Watches: Televising the Holocaust* (1999).

[Yair Rosenberg, “There’s a Word for Blaming Jews for Anti-Semitism,” \*The Atlantic\* \(September 6, 2023\)](#)

### **Related Recommended Resources**

[American Jewish History and Culture syllabi](#) by Lila Corwin Berman

[Educational Resources on Antisemitism](#) from The Jewish Education Project

[Berman Jewish DataBank Learning Module-Exploring Jewish Identity](#) by Harriet Hartman

[Is Barbie Jewish? “The Tribe”](#) assignment by Laura Levitt

[Online Tools for Learning and Teaching](#) from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

[The Posen Library of Jewish Culture and Civilization](#)

[Teaching Materials on Antisemitism and Racism](#) from United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

[Chosen Peoples, Chosen Nation syllabi](#) by Henry Goldschmidt