



Hebrew College Tamid: Me'ah Spring 2025 course leading up to the Hebrew College Jewish Journey to Central Europe tour

THE JEWISH EXPERIENCE IN CENTRAL EUROPE

Course description:

Our course will examine Jewish life and thought in Central Europe during modern times. Central Europe stands on a number of boundaries, and we will learn about how Jews lived under the Austro-Hungarian Empire and at the edges of the Nazi and Soviet Empires. Our focus will be on three cities: Prague, Vienna, and Budapest, and representative Jewish thinkers from each. After grounding ourselves in the history of the region, we will read from the stories of Franz Kafka (Prague), the social scientific writing of Sigmund Freud (Vienna), and the early Zionist writings of Theodor Herzl (Budapest). Our class will explore the claim that despite their secular identities, each of these writers can be read as an exemplary secular Jew at the turn of the 20th century. Our texts will include a small volume on modern Jewish history and selected writings from each of our authors. No prior background is assumed.

This class is occasioned by a Hebrew College Jewish Educational Journey to Central Europe from May 5-15, 2025.

Instructor: Rabbi Dr. Leonard Gordon

Dates: Tuesdays 7:00-9:00 p.m.

6 Sessions: 2/18, 2/25, 3/4, 3/11, 3/18, 3/25, make-up date 4/1 if needed

Location: Online via Zoom