HIST477/HIST677

Messianic Movements and Millenarian Thinking

NOTE: CLASS CANCELLED WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 26

Course Requirements

1. Several presentations of secondary and/or primary materials. These will be submitted in writing and, in aggregate, will count for 30%

2. Punctual completion of all reading assignments; attendance at class meetings. Students are expected to prepare for and participate in class discussion. *The incentive for this will be the assignment of 10% of the final grade for such participation.* 10%

3. Two brief in-class tests in November and February 10%

4. A substantial research paper (20 to 30 pp.) Final version due April 3 50%

PRESENTATIONS: This is a **10 to 15 minute** discussion of a text, primary or secondary, presented to the class. The grade will be based on the written submission following oral presentation. The submission will normally be 4 to 6 pages in length. The number of presentations will be determined partly on the basis of the size of the class and the interests of the student.

RESEARCH PAPER: The research paper will be prepared in three stages, the first two of which, ideally, will be presented to the group and will benefit from comments by members of the seminar. The stages are:

1. Initial formulation of the question and preliminary bibliography. Ideally earlier, but no later than **Feb. 16**.

2. First draft of the paper. No later than **March 16**.

3. **Final version due April 3.**
Readings

Articles and books that everyone is to read are marked with an asterisk (*) Books on reserve in the library are in **bold**.

1. **GENERAL READINGS**

**Norman Cohn, The Pursuit of the Millenium, N.Y., 1961.**
*Marc Saperstein, Essential Papers on Messianic Movements and Personalities in Jewish History, N.Y., 1992.* [includes various articles that appear on the syllabus]

2. **SECOND TEMPLE AND EARLY RABBINIC PERIOD**


3. **TALMUDIC ERA**

David Berger, "Three Typological Themes in Early Jewish Messianism," *AJSreview* 10 (no. 2, Fall, 1985), 141-164.

AND SEE:
Berakhot 49:10; Sotah 9:15; Shabbat 63a, 118b; *Sanhedrin 91b-99a*; Avodah Zarah 8b-9b; Pesikta Rabbati, ch. 36; Koheleth Rabbah 1:9; ARN (Goldin) 137-138; Mekhilta de R. Ishmael (Laut.), 2:120; Shir ha-shirim Rabbah 2:13:4.

4. GAONIC PERIOD

*S. W. Baron, A Social and Religious History*, vol. 5 and in *Saperstein*.
Israel Friedlaender, “Jewish Arabic Studies,” *Jewish Quarterly Review*, n.s. vols. 1, 2, 3, and in *Saperstein*.

5. SPAIN

*Gerson Cohen, "Messianic Postures of Ashkenazim and Sephardim," in Saperstein*.

6. ASHKENAZ


7 (6a.) ASHER LEMLEIN


8 (6b.) RABBI LOEW OF PRAGUE (MAHARAL)


9. THE SPANISH EXPULSION AND THE CENTRE IN SAFED


10 DAVID REUVENI


Cecil Roth, "David Reubeni" (French), Revue des Etudes Juives 116 (1957), 93-95.


11. THE ORDINATION CONTROVERSY

M. Benayahu, in Yitzhak Baer Jubilee Volume.248-269.

12. SABBATAI SEVI


12a. RaMHaL


12b. JACOB FRANK


13. HASIDISM


*B. Dinur, Be-mifneh ha-dorot, 81-227 and in Saperstein.


14. MORE RECENT TIMES


Arthur Hertzberg, *The Zionist Idea.*


**M. Saperstein, Essential Papers**, 433-455; 475-518.

S. Sharot, *Messianism, Mysticism etc.*

15. LUBAVITCH MESSIANISM


