JEWISH HISTORY

Answer any two questions. You have a total of four hours. You are on your honor not to consult any other materials, including notes or papers stored on your computer. Please return your completed exam to the graduate office by 5:00 pm today. Good Luck.

1. Compare the organizing principles of Heinrich Graetz and Simon Dubnow in their respective histories of the Jews. Against whom did the two take aim in seeking to correct the errant course of Jewish historiography?

2. Discuss the origins of Wissenschaft des Judentums. In what circumstances did this movement come to life? To what extent did the movement fulfill the promise of Leopold Zunz’s programmatic statement from 1818?

3. How would you periodize the rise of modern anti-Semitism? When, where, and in what conditions did it take rise? What scholars do you find most helpful in understanding the phenomenon?

4. Compare and contrast fin-de-siecle Vienna and Weimar-era Berlin in terms of political and cultural developments and innovations. Do you see continuity or rupture between the two milieux?

5. What does Marion Kaplan argue about the role of Jewish women in 19th-century Germany? Do you agree with her argument?

6. Compare the approaches of George Mosse and David Sorkin to the course of post-Enlightenment German Jewry. Which do you find more convincing?

7. How do you assess the significance of Moses Mendelssohn to modern German-Jewish history? Would you describe him as “the first modern Jew”? What have others before you argued?

8. Is history the “faith of the fallen Jew” in the modern age, as Yosef Hayim Yerushalmi argues?

9. What happens to the long-standing “royal alliance” of the Jews in the modern age, according to Hannah Arendt? Do you agree with her analysis?

10. To what extent to German Jews participate in the new racialist discourse of turn of the century Germany? Discuss a number of specific cases.