

F601 Judaism, Jews and Jewishness

Suggested Reading

Simon Schama's television series *The Story of the Jews*, which was originally aired by BBC and PBS and is available from PBS, provides an excellent overview of much that is covered (hopefully) in this course. The book of the same title unfortunately only covers Jewish history up to 1492, but does so with great wit and passion. The Bibliography is a first-rate summary of the available scholarship.

The titles listed below are more academic in scope and approach but very much influenced my thinking and planning for this course.

Batnitzky, Leora. *How Judaism Became a Religion: An Introduction to Modern Jewish Thought* (Princeton University Press, 2011).

As the title indicates, an intellectual history of modern European Jews and their responses to the Enlightenment and the rise of the European nation-state.

Biale, David, ed. *Cultures of the Jews: A New History* (Schocken, 2002), originally published in one volume, subsequently in three: Vol 1: Mediterranean Origins, Vol 2: Diversities of Diaspora, Vol 3: Modern Encounters.

Collected essays on various Jewish communities over time and geography by a list of important contemporary historians and social scientists.

Cohen, Shaye J.D. *The Beginnings of Jewishness: Boundaries, Varieties, Uncertainties* (University of California Press, 1999)

An exploration of the concept of Jewishness in antiquity with an especially important and thought-provoking prologue.

Michael L. Satlow. *Creating Judaism* (Columbia University Press, 2006).

Addressing the question "What is Judaism?" discusses the evolution of various answers over time from antiquity to today, with emphasis on the interplay between intellectual/institutional definitions and the everyday experience of ordinary Jews.