



## November 2024 Newsletter



### American Jews and the Movement for Justice in Palestine

Monday, Nov. 11 | 6:30–8 p.m. | Fromm Hall, Maraschi Room

In this talk, Swig JSSJ Program Assistant Director Oren Kroll-Zeldin (he/him) will discuss his new book, ***Unsettled: American Jews and the Movement for Justice in Palestine***, which examines the experiences of young Jewish Americans who engage with the Palestine solidarity movement, thereby challenging the staunch pro-Israel stance of mainstream Jewish American institutions. Kroll-Zeldin argues that these young people perceive their commitment to ending the occupation and Israeli apartheid as a Jewish value, deeply rooted in the changing dynamics of Jewish life in the twenty-first century.

Kroll-Zeldin will be in conversation with new JSSJ team member Rabbi Chel Mandell (they/them), who is part of the generation featured in the book and a participant in numerous Bay Area Jewish activist communities.

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### Spring 2025 JSSJ Classes

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Course Name	Course No.	Days/Times	Instructor	Course Req.
Forgiving the Unforgivable	JSSJ 132-01 / THRS 132-01	TR 9:55-11:40 a.m.	Hahn Tapper	D3; CD
Hebrew (Second Semester)	HEBR 102-01	MWF 12-1:40 p.m.	Gvirtzman	Foreign Lang.
Holocaust and Genocide	JSSJ 136-01 / THRS 136-01	M 11:45 a.m.-3:25 p.m.	Herr	D3
International Relations of the Middle East	POLS 354-01	MWF 9:15-10:20 a.m.	Zunes	
Israeli-Palestinian Conflict Thru Lit & Film	JSSJ 238-01 / THRS 238-01	TR 9:55 a.m.-11:40 a.m.	Kroll-Zeldin	D3; CD
Jews, Judaisms, & Jewish Identities	JSSJ 130-01 / THRS 130-01	W 11:45 a.m.-3:25 p.m.	Bar Gabai	D2
Mideast Peoples and Cultures	ANTH 270-01	TR 12:45-2:30 p.m.	Kroll-Zeldin	E; CD
Paris-Berlin	GERM 350-01	TR 9:55 a.m.-11:40 a.m.	Ramos	C1
Queering Religion	JSSJ 129-01 / THRS 129-01	TR 4:35-6:20 p.m.	Angel	D2; CD
Refugees: Justice & Ethics	JSSJ 236-01 / THRS 236-01	F 11:45 a.m.-3:25 p.m.	Herr	D3; CD; CEL

**Learn more about the requirements for the JSSJ minor »**

Questions? Email JSSJ Assistant Director **Oren Kroll-Zeldin**.



UNIVERSITY OF SAN FRANCISCO  
JEDI + JSSJ Graduate-Level Certificate Program



Bridge Gaps,  
Heal Divides.

**JEDI + JSSJ Spring Courses**

# Meet the Moment — Fighting Antisemitism and Building a Just World

Wednesdays, 4–7 p.m., beginning Jan. 22

Instructor: **Ben Lorber**

For many Jews, antisemitism feels omnipresent these days. Yet understanding and confronting it is more challenging than ever. Since Oct. 7, 2023, longstanding fault lines in American political discourse around the question of antisemitism have only deepened; the Jewish community, too, remains more divided than ever. All too often, establishment leaders wield charges of antisemitism as a cudgel to stifle progressive voices. Social justice movements, for their part, often lack a textured analysis of antisemitism and its relation to other forms of oppression, allowing the Right to drive the conversation.

This course offers an intersectional, justice-driven analysis of antisemitism, tracing its deep history and contemporary manifestations in order to develop fresh strategies for combating its rise. Utilizing critical analysis and social and political frameworks to situate antisemitism alongside racial capitalism, xenophobia, anti-LGBTQ bigotry, and other systems of injustice, we will examine contemporary debates around antisemitism and Israel/Palestine, free speech, rising authoritarianism, and other timely topics, while drawing upon practical insights from on-the-ground social movements dedicated to confronting these issues. Informed by an ethos of humility and care, we will explore each participant's personal stake in these questions, learning how a solidarity approach can carve new pathways toward collective flourishing for Jews and all people.

## Dismantling Racism from the Inside Out

Mondays, 4–7 p.m., beginning Jan. 27

Instructor: **Yehudah Webster**

Form antiracist habits and behaviors through Jewish spiritual practice in our course, Dismantling Racism from the Inside Out.

Efforts to dismantle racism are often comprised of education, advocacy, and systemic change. These efforts are not enough — it's crucial that we also do the inner work necessary to change our habits of mind, body, and spirit to wholly dismantle racism. Indeed, it's through strengthening our habits of mind, body, and spirit that we'll be most effective and successful in our advocacy and organizing to dismantle racism systemically. We have ancestral wisdom available to support this change; Mussar is the Jewish spiritual discipline designed to integrate what the head understands with what the heart feels through daily practice. Emerge from this program with a renewed ability and resilience to disrupt racism, a regular spiritual practice, and a set of concrete tools to support your antiracism efforts.



# CALIFORNIA TEACHERS COLLABORATIVE FOR HOLOCAUST AND GENOCIDE EDUCATION

## JSSJ Faculty Confront Xenophobia and Antisemitism

JSSJ Professor Alexis Herr is a leading member of the **California Teachers Collaborative for Holocaust and Genocide Education**, a groundbreaking statewide network of organizations, genocide survivors, and educators working to eliminate antisemitism and hatred by ensuring that every California student benefits from impactful Holocaust and Genocide education. We are excited to share that thanks to Dr. Herr and the Collaborative's advocacy efforts, Governor Gavin Newsom has recently signed Senate Bill 1277 into law, which will fund Holocaust and genocide education through 2029.

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## Understanding Gaza: A Queer Feminist Lens

Monday, Nov. 18 | 4:30–6 p.m. | McLaren 251

The Swig JSSJ Program is co-sponsoring **this talk** hosted by the Department of Politics and the Middle East Studies Program. Professor Sa'ed Atshan, a Palestinian from the West Bank who now chairs the Peace & Conflict Studies Department at Swarthmore College, will give a much-anticipated public lecture at USF addressing numerous intersectional issues. This event is free and open to the public.

Your generous support of the Swig Program in Jewish Studies and Social Justice will help us engage students in both theoretical and practical approaches of social justice and activism rooted in the Jewish traditions.

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# CHANGE THE WORLD FROM HERE



University of San Francisco | Swig Program in Jewish Studies and Social Justice  
2130 Fulton St | San Francisco, CA 94117 US

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