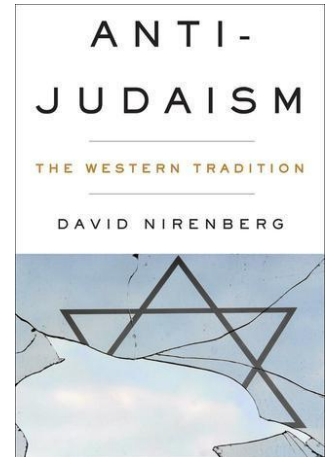


March 6th / 29th Iyar 2024

Attn: U of Oregon Trustees, Faculty, President Scholz & Sergeant-at-arms,

Please equip yourself with the moral and intellectual arguments to defend yourself from the false accusations and respond to the blood-libels presented by hecklers who have disrupted your ceremonies, in participation with Palestinian “global intifada”, in attempts to extort the university community into anti-Israel boycotts. It is necessary furthermore to begin inquiry and critical thinking into the theories of supersession and replacement theology found in christian dominionism, militant Islam, and communism, which underlie the prejudicial anti-Israel bias. This bias is found also in Enlightenment rationalism via Kant, Hegel, Marx and many other foundational thinkers who translated christian anti-Jewish eschatologies into the dialectics of “critical reason” and “historical materialism”, and has been latent and systemic in university culture long before the current war against Israel was launched, or even before Israel became a state. Professor David Nirenberg’s 2013 book “Anti-Judaism: The Western Tradition” analyzes this phenomenon, and could be assigned for summer reading to your faculty, administrative officers, and graduate teaching fellows.



In responding to the “global intifada” and campus occupations of the last year, the History and Political science departments could read Chapter 9 “Israel at the foundation of Christian Politics: 1545-1677”, and chapter 11 “The Revolutionary Perfection of the World: 1789-?” Philosophy and Social sciences departments could read Chapter 10 “Enlightenment revolts against Judaism: 1670-1789”, Chapter 12 “Philosophical Struggles with Judaism, from Kant to Heine”, and Chapter 13 “Modernity Thinks with Judaism”. The Religion department should consider chapters 3 “The Early Church: Making Sense of the world in Jewish terms”, chapter 4 “To Every Prophet an Adversary: Jewish Enmity in Islam”.

A cross-disciplinary graduate symposium or could be held next fall, a course taught to honors college and motivated undergraduates in the spring, and a regular class taught thereafter. Selections could also be incorporated into existing classes, including but not limited to those now being development with the specific intent to malign Israel and train future generations in Palestinian liberation, as was demanded by the campus occupiers with the Graduate teaching fellows union in solidarity, who have successfully extorted the university into this curriculum reform. The State of Israel should not be above criticism, but neither should the popular war rallies against Israel be used to prevent other critical thinking, as appears to have been the case. Therefore we should demand this curriculum reform, or demand better teachers.

Anti-Jewish ideologies do not harm only Jews and their institutions: the scapegoating prevents critical thinking about other seductive but potentially or actually oppressive systems, such as White or pan-Arab nationalism in addition to those already mentioned. Cultural appropriation and hermeneutic perversions of Hebrew prophecies and bible texts are often used to flatter simple people into alternate religious or political cults, and used to indoctrinate people into prejudiced ignorance.

Is Oregon the promised land, and are WASPs the chosen people, as the theory of “manifest destiny” claimed? We hope that the University will not capitulate and succumb to these efforts to minimize moral responsibility for Oregon’s own history of settler colonialism by unfairly projecting the historical guilt of imperial christianity onto Jews returning to their homeland from exile. Rather it should teach the logic, rhetoric, and analysis that will provide its students with the “liberal art” of living intellectual, rational, and therefore free and liberated lives in gaining truth.

The University of Oregon Iron Front & The [RoseCityIronFront.org](https://RoseCityIronFront.org)