

Graduate Seminar (Winter 2026): Hannah Arendt's Jewish Writings (RELIGST 777: Topics in Philosophy and Jewish Thought)

Instructor: Professor Dana Hollander

We will study some of Arendt's key writings on the linked themes of being-Jewish and antisemitism. These writings comprise her reflections, beginning in the 1930s, on the 18th–20th-century dynamics of Jewish “emancipation” and “assimilation”; the catastrophic end of those processes with the Nazi rise to power in 1933; the continued significance of antisemitism after 1945; and on Zionism.



Scheduled Meeting Time: Thursdays, 2:30–4:30 p.m.
(flexible to suit needs of participants)**

No prerequisites, open to students from any program or disciplinary background.

**To allow for maximal flexibility, especially as I expect a couple of students to join us from York University, this seminar will be offered on a hybrid basis: To help us get to know each other, we will have a couple of in-person meetings at McMaster and possibly a meeting at York, but can hold most of the meetings on Zoom. I am open to student circumstances and preferences in this regard.

Seminar Format: Collaborative, text-based discussions on the primary readings. Students prepare one presentation, and write one Final Paper. For the Final Paper in this seminar, methodical engagement with our readings can serve as a pathway for grappling with contemporary debates on antisemitism, racism, and related topics; and/or with historical-cultural phenomena that factor into Arendt's deliberations in the works we will study, or that factor into contemporary engagements with Arendt's works.

Please email me with any queries: danahol@mcmaster.ca !

Dana Hollander is Associate Professor at the Department of Religious Studies at McMaster University. Her research areas are modern Jewish thought, 20th-century French and German philosophy, and German-Jewish studies. She is the author of *Ethics Out of Law: Hermann Cohen on the “Neighbor”* (University of Toronto Press, 2021) and *Exemplarity and Chosenness. Rosenzweig and Derrida on the Nation of Philosophy* (Stanford University Press, 2008) and the translator of Jacob Taubes, *The Political Theology of Paul* (Stanford University Press, 2004). Website: danahollander.ca .