

THE LIFE AND TIMES OF RABBI JOSEPH KRAUSKOPF
Freshman Honors Seminar
Fall 2015
Delaware Valley University

CLASS INFORMATION

Class Time: Monday, 4:30-5:30
Office Hours: Monday, 5:30-5:15 or by appointment
Loc: LSB 101

Instructor:

Dr. Lance J. Sussman
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https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lance_J._Sussman

COURSE OVERVIEW

This honors seminar, “The Life and Times of Rabbi Joseph Krauskopf,” will not only examine the life and career of the founder of Delaware Valley University, but will explore many of the great issues of American and World History during the last quarter of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century. Among them are American Religious Modernism and Fundamentalism including the debate over religion and science, mass immigration, urbanization, progressivism and progressive education, American agricultural history, nationalism and issues of war and peace related to the Spanish-American War and World War I.

Special consideration will be given to Dr. Krauskopf’s interest in the work of Leo Tolstoy and the founding of the National Farm School.

No prerequisites.

REQUIRED READINGS

*Blood, William W. *Apostle of Reason: A Biography of Joseph Krauskopf* (1973)
(PLEASE BRING THIS BOOK TO EVERY CLASS)

Primary Selections by J. Krauskopf, provided by instructor or online

Secondary Articles (online, see “Course Outline and Topics” below)

OPTIONAL READINGS

Edwards, Rebecca; Henretta, James A.; Self, Robert O. *America's History, Volume 2: Since 1865* (Bedford/St. Martins, 7th edition, 2011/5) = Optional US textbook

Feldstein, Joshua A. *Evolution of a Unique Institution: Delaware Valley College of Science and Agriculture* (2000)

[80] "Analects" of J. Krauskopf in W. Blood, *Apostle of Reason*, pp. 183-202

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS & GRADING

50% Class Preparation and Participation

30% Student Journal , online or hardcopy: record your thoughts, reactions and questions from reading assignments and class discussions, visual material encouraged. 300 word weekly min/no max. Writing may be in form of notes.

20% Culminating Project: either a Power Point on some aspect of J. Krauskopf's life or career, 10 slide minimum including title slide and "sources slide" or short paper, 5+ pages and bibliography, no maximum.

CHRONOLOGY

For a comprehensive chronology of the life of J. Krauskopf (1858-1923), see W. Blood, *Apostle of Reason*, pp. 233-245

COURSE OUTLINE AND TOPICS

8.24 Introduction to Course & visit Krauskopf Library (Museum)

Blood, all pages (unnumbered) to page 4.

Online Required Readings: Short Biographies of J. Krauskopf (DelVal website, pick 2):

<http://www.delval.edu/library/archives/krauskopf.htm>

<http://www.delval.edu/offices-services/presidents-office/former-presidents/joseph-krauskopf>

<http://www.delval.edu/news/delval-trustee-sussman-lectures-on-founder-krauskopf#.Va3SXrqpq5Q>

- 8.31 Early Years, Immigration and Education & meet with Peter Kupersmith, DVU Librarian
 Blood, 7-20, 57-61
 Optional US textbook, Chaps 15 & 16
 Secondary Optional Reading: City of Fall River History and Resources
<http://www.usgennet.org/usa/ma/county/bristol/fallriver/fallriver.htm>
- 9.7. **No Class.** Labor Day
- 9.14. **No Class.** Rosh Ha-Shana (Jewish New Year, 5776)
- 9.21 Religious Modernism and Reform Judaism
 Blood, 23-49, 125-128, 135-139, 144-161, 176-179
 Optional secondary reading: Beifield, Martin P, “The Americanization of Reform Judaism” in *When Philadelphia Was the Capital of Jewish America (1993)*, M. Friedman, ed, pp. 156-172
 Optional secondary reading: Steve Fox and Lance Sussman, “Rabbinic Road Out of a Wilderness” <http://rjmag.org/Articles/index.cfm?id=2807>
- 9.28 Anti-semitism and Jewish-Christian Relations
 [*Sukkot, Jewish Harvest Festival*]
 Blood, 115-122, 172-175
 Secondary Optional Reading: Jonathan D. Sarna, “Jewish-Christian Hostility in the US...”
<http://www.brandeis.edu/hornstein/sarna/christianjewishrelations/Archive/JewishCrhistianHostilityintheUnitedStates.pdf>
- 10.5 Evolution and Science
 [*Simchat Torah, completion of annual cycle of reading the Torah/Five Books of Moses*]
 Optional Secondary Source: <http://www.iep.utm.edu/evolutio/>
- 10.12. Mass Immigration and Urbanization. Guest Speaker: Prof. Craig Stutman
 Blood, 50-54, 140-144, 162-164
 Optional US textbook, Chaps 17, 18, 18
- 10.19. **No Class.** Fall Break
- 10.26. Tolstoy

Blood, 65-77

Primary Required Reading: J. Krauskopf's "My (1894) Visit to Tolstoy" (1911)
<http://www.gutenberg.org/files/49203/49203-h/49203-h.htm>

11.2. Progressivism and Progressive Education

Blood, 129-134

Optional US textbook, Chap 20

11.9. American Agriculture

Required secondary source on Krauskopf: Sutherland, John, "Rabbi Joseph Krauskopf of Philadelphia: The Urban Reformer Returns to the Land," *American Jewish Historical Quarterly* 67(1978), pp. 342-362

Optional secondary source on American Agricultural History: "Agriculture" in online Encyclopedia of American Studies (Johns Hopkins University):
<http://eas-ref.press.jhu.edu/view?aid=245&from=search&query=agriculture&link=search%3Freturn%3D1%26query%3Dagriculture%26section%3Ddocument%26doctype%3Dall>

Resource in American Agricultural History:
<http://chla.library.cornell.edu/c/chla/about.html>

11.16. Farm School

Blood, 81-103

Optional Secondary reading:

Feldstein, Joshua A. *Evolution of a Unique Institution: Delaware Valley College of Science and Agriculture* (2000), pp. 8-42

[or Allman, Herbert D. *A Unique Institution: The Story of the National Farm School* (1935), pp. 3-53]

11.23. Nationalism and Zionism

Blood, 165-172

Optional Primary Reading: J. Krauskopf's talks on his trip to the Holy Land, pp. 83-202
https://kenesethisrael.org/sites/default/files/uploaded_documents/sunday_discourses_-_series_xxx_1916-1917_-_rabbi_krauskopf.pdf

Required Secondary Source: Beifield, Martin P, "Joseph Krauskopf and Zionism: Partners in Change," *American Jewish History* 75(1985), pp. 48-60

11.30. War and Peace, 205-218

Blood, 107-111, 205-218

Optional US textbook, Chap 21

Optional Primary Reading: Rabbi A. Feldman, "Eulogy for JK"

<http://www.bjpa.org/Publications/downloadFile.cfm?FileID=17565>

12.7 Student presentations of Power Points or Research Paper

ACADEMIC HONESTY

"It requires courage, moral courage, the highest kind of courage to be honest: fairly, frankly, fully honest. If you are honest, there lives not a [person] on earth who can humiliate you. If you have honor, though very little else besides, you have more wealth, more glory, more power, than all the hypocrites combined." J. Krauskopf (Nov. 21, 1897)