

## HIST 349: Reading Guide – Christians and Jews

1. How do the Jewish sources explain and rationalize the violence against Jews?
2. How are the Jews turned into “others” in the Christian sources? How effective is this “othering”?
3. One recent scholar has categorized many of the claims made by Christians against Jews as “chimerical.” That is “propositions that attribute with certitude to an outgroup and all its members characteristics that have never been empirically observed.” (Gavin Langmuir, *Toward a Definition of anti-Semitism*, p. 328) Would you agree with this assessment? Where there other reasons for the divide between Christians and Jews?
4. For what purposes are accusations of ritual murder used among the Christians? How do these accusations help to frame the everyday interactions between Christians and Jews?
5. How did Jewish wealth and economic activities contribute to the targeting of Jews by commoners, governmental officials, and the Church?
6. Based on the sources we read, what rights did Jews have in canon and secular law? How do these laws help us to understand Christian-Jewish relations and the role of the Church and government in limiting/inciting anti-Jewish violence?
7. What kind of life were Jews supposed to live in Christian society?
8. How did Jews offer resistance to the hegemony of Christian society? How did they seek to maintain independence and remain isolated from the dominant Christians?