Modernism and Pogroms: Arts and Culture in East Central Europe, 19th-21st centuries

In our mini-course we will explore cultural interaction between Jews and non-Jews (Ukrainians, Poles, Russians) in the borderlands of the Habsburg and Romanov empires. This is interaction that may have been conscious or unconscious, and may have involved encounter, appropriation, negotiation, exchange and destruction.

This course has three goals. First, you will understand the complexity of writing about cultural production and reception to look at the political, social, and economic structures surrounding the arts. Second, you will gain a body of knowledge about the cultural production of the Jewish and Ukrainian (and Polish and Russian) communities in the multi-ethnic region of East Central Europe. You will both gain familiarity with the major scholars working on these questions, as well as a basic level of knowledge of the arts in this region. Third, from this you will understand how national categories do not work for cultural analysis. Great art came from this region, such as art that is mentioned in books on "Ukrainian" art or "Jewish" art or "Russian art." This was a region that was also home to the modern understanding of the pogrom, and to mass and local violence against Jews (and Poles, Ukrainians, and Russians). We will try to look at the modernism and pogroms together and try to articulate how the multiplicity of ethnicity shapes cultural production in this region.

I will give short lectures to start each meeting. These will include music, videos, and visual material. These lectures will cover the topics listed under "Lecture" in the syllabus, which will give you the background to discuss the analysis presented in the readings. We will then move on to discussing the texts. You MUST complete the reading for each class or we will have nothing to talk about and it will be difficult for all of us. Talking about texts is one of the great pleasures of pursuing the humanities, so please come prepared.

Nine, 90-minute classes

CLASS 1. 22 July 2-3.30: Tools for Studying and Discussing Culture:

Reading:
*Philipp Ther, "The Transnational Paradigm of Historiography and its Potential for Ukrainian History," in Grigory Kasianov and Philip Ther, Ukraine: A Landscape of Transnational History (2009), 81-114.
Lecture: The Cultural World of the Imperial Shtetl

Alexander Granach, *There Goes a Man* (film clips)
Hassidism and Ukrainian Culture
Шолом-Алейхем, "On Account of a Hat": "high" and "low" goyish

For more: (Я маю ці статті, якщо Ви хочете, то спитайте будь ласка і перешлю!)

CLASS 2. 23 July 2-3.30: Professionalization and Nationalization in Empires

Reading:
* Seth L. Wolitz, "Forging a Hero for the Jewish Stage: Goldfadn's *Bar Kokhba*," *Shofar* 20/3 (Spring 2002), 53-65.

Lecture: The Cultural World of the Late Imperial City: Lemberg and Kyiv

Шолом-Алейхем, Касриловке, Ехупец
Чириков, *Евреи и погромы 1905 года*
Teatr korupev: Садовський, Заньковецька, Кропивницький, Саксаганський
The Gimpel Theater in Lemberg
Руська Бесіда
Esther Rokhl Kaminska and the Yiddish Art Theater
Klezmer and Klezmorim

For more:
Ezra Mendelssohn, *Painting a People: Maurycy Gottlieb and Jewish Art* (Hanover, 2002).
Jeffrey Veidlinger, *Jewish Public Culture in the Late Russian Empire* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2009)

Hugo Lane, "The Ukrainian Theater and the Polish Opera: Cultural Hegemony and National Culture," in Harvard Ukrainian Studies 24 (Lviv: A City in the Crosscurrents of Culture, 2000), 149-170.

**CLASS 3. 24 July 2-3.30:** War and Modernism

Reading:


Lecture: 19 Prorizna and Multiple Modernisms

Kultur-Lige and the Jewish Culturalists
Лесь Курбас і Молодий театр
Juliusz Osterwa and Stanisława Wysocka
Chagall and the Yiddish Theater

For more:

**CLASS 4. 25 July 2-3.30:** New Nations.


For more:
*Олена Боньковська, Львівський театр товариство "Українська Бесіда" (Львів Літопис).

**Lecture: Minority Culture in Interwar Poland**

An-Sky, The Dybbuk (film clips)
Artur Gold, Jerzy Peterburski, Henryk Wars, Marian Hemar
"Ostatnia niedziela" and "Утомлённое солнцем"

**CLASS 5. 26 July 2-3.30.** New Empire: Soviet Nationality Policy and Cultural Exchange

Reading:
*Anna Shternshis, Soviet and Kosher: Jewish Popular Culture in the Soviet Union (Bloomington, IN, 2006), 106-142.

**Lecture:**

For more:
*David Shneer, Yiddish and the Creation of Soviet Jewish Culture (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2004).

**CLASS 6. 3.45-5.15.** Urban Culture in the Interwar Period: Tango in Yiddish?

No reading. Lecture and Discussion.

Movies: Yiddish Film in the Soviet Union and Interwar Poland
Tango in Yiddish and Ukrainian
Bohdan Weselovsky
Renata Bogdanska, Iryna Jarosiewicz, Irena Anders
Only in Lviv, Tyylko we Lwowie, Ждём Вас во Львове, Тільки у Львові
Moshe Beregovski and Klezmer

Films: Єврейське щастя, Беня Крик, Yidl mit a Fidl
CLASS 7. 29 July 2-3.30. War and Cold War

Reading:

**Lecture: Art in the Theater of War**
Frontline Culture  
DP Camps  
Theater in the Ghetto  
Tashkent  

For more:  
[http://holocaustmusic.ort.org/music/](http://holocaustmusic.ort.org/music/)  
*Естер Маркиш, Столь долгое возвращение* (Тель-Авив, 1989).

CLASS 8. 30 July 3.45-5.15. Big Historiographies / Narratives

To Read:  

No lecture today, only discussion of these key works

For more:  

CLASS 9. 1 August 11.20-12.50. Encounter, Exchange, Appropriation after Communism

Reading:  
*Serhy Yekelchyk, "What is Ukrainian about Ukraine's Pop Culture?: The Strange Case of Verka Serduchka," *Canadian-American Slavic Studies 2010 44/1-2, 2-17.*
For More:
*Adriana Helbig, "On Stage Everyone Loves a Black: Afro-Ukrainian Folk Fusion, Migration, and Racial Identity in Ukraine" *Current Musicology* 91/1 (Spring 2011), 7-24.

**Lecture: New Possibilities**

*Lisova pisnia* at Les Kurbas Theater in Lviv
*Tevye-Molochnyk* in Kyiv, Warsaw, and the World
Tadeusz Slobodzianek, *Nasza Klasa*
Natalia Vorozhbit, *The Grain Store*
Mariana Sadovska, Odessa Underground songs

http://www.jewishmuseum.org.pl/pl/cms/-uwaga-dzialania-w-pamieci/