Syllabus

The City and Jewish History in Eastern Europe in the Twentieth Century:
Modernity, Migration, and Catastrophe

Summer School 2013
Center for Urban History of East Central Europe

Our main focus in this class will consist in Jewish experiences with cities in the twentieth century. Geographically, our center of attention will be Central and Eastern Europe (with our main – but not exclusive – emphasis on territories that, at one point or the other, came under Soviet rule); chronologically, we will concentrate (unevenly) on the period between the end of the First World War and the end of the Soviet Union. In particular, the Holocaust and the Second World War were events of central and terrible importance for this period and area. Accordingly, we will pay special attention to them.

At the same time, we will also include some readings and discussions to put these experiences, places, and times into further contexts. Thus, for instance, we will also read and discuss work which reaches beyond Eastern and Central Europe to highlight the crucial issue of intercontinental migration and works which consider non-Jewish experiences as well as the post-Soviet period.

Our time is restricted and our reading volume will not allow us to aim at addressing exhaustively periods, spaces, and questions or the literatures dedicated to them. Thus, the class does not aim at even or complete coverage of all relevant topics or narratives or issues. But we will make an effort to develop a strong and sophisticated sense of a sample of key issues.

The class will feature lecture elements as well as discussion (in Ukrainian and English). Participants will also be asked to prepare informal in-class presentations (in Ukrainian and/or English).
Introduction: A Matrix of Empires, Nations, Borderlands, and Migration:

22/7 Monday  

23/7 Tuesday  
Yuri Slezkin, *The Jewish Century* (Princeton University Press, 2004), Introduction, Chapters 1 and 4 (pp. 1-39 and 204-286)

24/7 Wednesday  
Rebecca Kobrin, *Jewish Bialystok and its Diaspora* (Indiana University Press: 2010), Introduction and Chapter 1, pp. 1-68

Interwar

25/7 Thursday  

Yehuda Bauer, *The Death of the Shtetl* (Yale University Press 2009), Chapters 1 “Background” and 2 “The Thirties,”

26/7 Friday  
Elissa Bemporad, *Becoming Soviet Jews: The Bolshevik Experiment in Minsk* (Indiana University Press, 2013), Chapters 2, 3, and 4 pp. 31-111

29/7 Monday  

30/7 Tuesday  

The Second World War and the Holocaust

31/7 Wednesday  
Karel Berkhoff, Harvest of Despair: Life and Death in Ukraine under Nazi Rule, Chapter “Conditions in the Cities” and “Famine in Kiev”

1/8 Thursday  
Tarik Cyril Amar, “Okupacyjna codzienność we Lwowie (Lwiw, Lemberg, Lwow) w czasie II wojny światowej: przemoc i jej spowszednienie,” in Przemoc i dzień powszedni w okupowanej Polsce, redakcja naukowa: Tomasz Chinciński (Wydawnictwo Oskar, Muzeum II Wojny Światowej, 2011)

2/8 Friday  

5/8 Monday  

6/8 Tuesday  

Postwars

7/8 Wednesday  
Michael Meng, Shattered Spaces: Encountering Jewish Ruins in Postwar Germany and Poland (2011), Introduction and Chapters 1, 2, and 3

8/8 Thursday  
Kobrin, Jewish Bialystok, Chapters 4 “Rewriting the Jewish Diaspora: Images of Bialystok in the Transnational Bialystok Jewish Press” and 5 “Shifting Centers, Conflicting Philanthropists: Rebuilding, Resettling, and Remembering Jewish Bialystok in the Post-Holocaust Era, pp. 176-243
9/8 Friday

Tarik Cyril Amar, “A Disturbed Silence: Discourse on the Holocaust in the Soviet West as an Anti-Site of Memory”

Tarik Cyril Amar, “Інакша, але подібна, чи подібна, але інакша? Публічна пам’ять продругу Світову війну у пострадянському Львові”