Jewish History, Common Past and Heritage: Culture, Cities, Milieus

7th Summer School
July 11 – August 5, 2016

SYLLABUS

PROF. CHRISTOPH MICK

“URBAN SOCIETY AND ETHNIC COMMUNITIES: LWOW 1918 - 1945”
Urban society and ethnic communities: Lwow 1918 - 1945

When the well-known German author Alfred Döblin visited Lviv in 1924 he wrote: “Lviv is a lively, medium-sized, western, modern town; its streets are peaceful and bustling with life. But suddenly something strange confronts me. This city lies in the arms of two enemies, each of whom wants to dominate it. Subterranean enmity and violence are fermenting in the background”. Döblin, the son of assimilated German Jews from Stettin, also commented on the undercurrent of anti-Semitism and voiced his fears, especially for the many poor Jews living in the city. (Alfred Döblin, ReisenachPolen).

The Austrian-Jewish writer Joseph Roth, born in nearby Brody, visited Lviv in the same year. He wrote of the peaceful coexistence persisting between the different groups and called Lviv the city of “blurred boundaries”. The course will focus on both aspects of Lviv. It will start with a seminar which will take a look at the views from outside. How did visitors see Lviv and its multiethnic population before and after the First World War? The second session will focus on the Polish-Ukrainian war of 1918/19 within the broader context of the wars and revolutions between 1914 and 1921. In the third session we will be asking whether the war really ended all possibility of achieving a compromise between Poles and Ukrainians and did away with the tolerance between different ethnic and religious groups. Every-day life in inter-war Lviv was not an endless succession of acts of ethnic violence, it was also a time of manifold positive contacts between Poles, Ukrainians and Jews. The fourth session will look at the diversity within the Jewish community and examine the place of Jews in the urban society of Lviv. In the final session we will be analysing the Soviet and German occupation policies and their impact on ethnic relations in the city.

1. Travels to ‘Half-Asia’: Galicia as an exotic tourist destination
Seminar with introduction
   - Excerpts from travel guides and travelogues

2. The Polish-Ukrainian War and the Battle for Lviv, 1918/19
45 minute lecture followed by a seminar


3. Mass violence and peaceful coexistence
45 minute lecture followed by a seminar

- Anna Veronika Wendland, “Neighbours as Betrayers: Nationalization, Remembrance Policy, and the Urban Public Sphere in L’viv,” in *Galicia: A Multicultured Land*, ed. by Christopher Hann and Paul Robert Magocsi (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2005), 139-159
- Excerpts from memoirs
- Yiddish film on life in Lviv from 1939:
  http://www.lvivcenter.org/en/uvd/record/?vd_movieid=1241

4. Jewish life in Lviv
Seminar with introduction

- Waclaw Wierzbieniec, “The Process of Jewish Emancipation and Assimilation in the Multiethnic City of Lviv during the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries,” in *Lviv*, 223-250
- Excerpts from memoirs and testimonies

5. War, occupation and ethnic violence: L’viv, 1939-1945
Lecture with discussion

- German newsreel on the German troops entering Lviv:
  http://www.lvivcenter.org/en/uvd/record/?vd_movieid=1241

General reading


Diaries and memoirs

- Lala Fishman and Steven Weingartner, *Lala’s Story: A Memoir of the Holocaust* (Evanston,
• Karolina Lankorońska, *Those who Trespass against Us: One Woman’s War against the Nazis* (London: Pimlico, 2005)
• Leon Weliczker Wells, *The Janowska Road* (London: Jonathan Cape, 1966)