



Center for Urban History
of East Central Europe

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

7th Summer School
July 11 – August 5, 2016

PROF. JOSHUA SHANES

SYLLABUS

**“JEWISH CULTURE AND SOCIETY IN EAST CENTRAL EUROPE: 1772-
PRESENT”**

LVIV 2016

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Culture, Cities, Milieus”

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Jewish Culture and Society in East Central Europe: 1772-present

Instructor: Joshua Shanes, College of Charleston

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Course Description:

In 1939, on the eve of the Holocaust, east European Jewry constituted the most important and culturally influential Jewish community in the world. As a result of half a century of mass migration, up to 90% of world Jewry either lived in Eastern Europe or were children of immigrants from there. Jews were particularly prominent in East European cities. In Galicia, for example, Jews constituted a plurality or majority of nearly every major city. (L’viv was an exception, where they made up “only” a quarter of the population.) This course will survey the modern history of this once vital community – social, economic, political, religious and cultural – from the Polish partitions until today.

About the Professor:

Joshua Shanes received his B.A. from the University of Illinois in 1993, his Ph.D. in History from the University of Wisconsin in 2002, and spent time in between studying in Israel. Professor Shanes's research interests focus on Central and East European Jewry in the 19th and 20th centuries, specifically turn-of-the-century Galicia and the rise of Zionism as a counter-movement to the traditional Jewish establishment.

Schedule (readings should be completed BEFORE arriving in class each day)

Class 1 Polish Partitions and the Birth of Austrian and "Russian" Jewry

Israel Bartal, *Jews of Eastern Europe 1772-1881*, pages 70-81

Yivo encyclopedia: (1) Russia: Russian Empire, (2) Pale of Settlement, (3) estate system, (4) kahal, (5) trade: partitions to World War I, (6) shtetl

Class 2 Hasidism: From Esoteric Circle to Mass movement

Israel Bartal, *Jews of Eastern Europe 1772-1881*, pages 47-57

Yivo encyclopedia: (1) Hasidism: “Historical Overview” and “Everyday life”

Class 3 Jewish Enlightenment (Haskalah) in Eastern Europe

Israel Bartal, *Jews of Eastern Europe 1772-1881*, pages 90-111

Yivo encyclopedia: (1) Haskalah, (2) relations between Jews and non-Jews: Integration and Assimilation

Class 4 Emancipation and Antisemitism: Austrian and Russian Jewry in the Late 19th Century

Bartal, *Jews of Eastern Europe 1772-1881*, 124-56

Class 5 Modern Jewish Politics: Nationalism, Socialism, Assimilationism and Orthodoxy

Yivo encyclopedia: (1) parties and ideologies (first half, until interwar period), (2) hibat tsiyon, (3) Zionism and Zionist parties, (4) po'ale tsiyon, (5) folkists, (6) Bund, (7) agudas yisroel, (8) daas toyre, (9) assimilation

Class 6 World War I, Revolution and Civil War

Zvi Gitelman, *A Century of Ambivalence*, 49-87

Yivo encyclopedia: (1) world war I, (2) Russian Revolution of 1905, (3) Russian Revolution of 1917

Class 7 Interwar Poland and Soviet Union

Ezra Mendelsohn, “Interwar Poland: good for the Jews or bad for the Jews?” in *The Jews in Poland*, 130-9

Yivo encyclopedia: (1) parties and ideologies (second half), (2) sport, (3) beys yankev, (4) tarbut, (5) tsysho, (6) youth movements

Zvi Gitelman, *A Century of Ambivalence*, pages 88-114

Class 8 The Holocaust in Eastern Europe

Yivo encyclopedia: (1) Holocaust: An Overview, (2) ghettos, (3) einsatzgruppen, (4) killing centers

Class 9 Post-War Jewry and Popular Memory

Yivo encyclopedia: (1) Poland since 1939, (2) Russia: Russian Federation

Abraham Joshua Heschel, "The Eastern European Era in Jewish History," 1-21