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

7th Summer School
July 11 – August 5, 2016

PROF. KAROLINA SZYMANIAK

SYLLABUS

“(DE/RE)CONSTRUCTIONS OF MODERN JEWISH SPACES IN EASTERN EUROPE AND THEIR POST-HOLOCAUST REPRESENTATIONS. A SHORT INTRODUCTION”

LVIV 2016
“(De/Re)Constructions of Modern Jewish Spaces in Eastern Europe and their post-Holocaust Representations. A Short Introduction”

Short description: the course offers a short introduction to some of the key concepts and literary and cultural practices that shaped the representations of modern Jewish spaces in Eastern Europe as well as their contemporary reconstructions and exhibitions. While focusing on (Jewish) Poland and Yiddish culture, this course introduces critical tools for understanding and interpreting modern (Jewish) constructions and experiences of space and place.

About the instructor: Karolina Szymaniak is Assistant Professor at the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw, Poland, where she heads the Yiddish Culture Unit (currently on sabbatical) and at the Wroclaw University (Jewish Studies Department). She is a researcher, editor, translator from Yiddish and English, and language instructor with a PhD in literary and cultural studies. Her research interests range across modern Jewish literatures and cultures, Polish-Jewish literary and cultural relations, politics of memory, theories of modernism and of the avant-garde, women's literature and translation studies.

In addition to having taught Yiddish throughout Poland and Europe, she has served as a consultant for the POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews, the Museum of Modern Art (Lodz) and other cultural and academic institutions. She is the author and editor of three books, including a monography of Debora Vogel’s aesthetics. Her recent edition of Rachel Auerbach's ghetto writings received the „Polityka” Historical Prize for the best edition of historical sources in 2015.

Schedule (unless indicated otherwise, please complete the readings before each class)

Class 1 Making Space Jewish: Between Storytelling and Tourism

B. Mann, *Makom*, in, B. Mann, Space and Place in Jewish Studies, p. 17-25

Class 2 Shtetl – Constructions and Deconstructions
Lecture (30 min.) + seminar

J. Shandler, Introduction (p.1-6), Talk of the Town, p. 7, 22-49
S. Kassow, Shtetl, YIVO Encyclopedia (on-line)
S. Ash, Shtetl (fragments in the reader), I.M. Weissenberg, Shtetl (fragments in the reader)

Optional:
D. Miron, The Literary Image of the Shtetl (in the reader)

Class 3 Modern Urban Space – Apocalypse, Alienation, Affection
Lecture (30 min.) + seminar

B. Mann, City, in Mann, Space and Place in Jewish Studies, p. 17-25
I. Rabon, The Street (fragments in the reader)
P. Markish, The Heap (fragments in the reader)
M. Kulbak, Disner Childe Harolde (fragments in the reader)

Optional:
Georg Simmel, Metropolis and the Mental Life (in the reader)

Class 4 Cafes and Shopping Widows – gender, body and the spectacles of capitalism


Class 5 Reconstructions - representing and exhibiting Jewish places and spaces after the Holocaust

Materials provided by the instructor to be analyzed during the class
Fragments of Joanna Dylewska’s film Po-lin. Okruchy pamięci
A Serious Man – opening scene
photo album: R. Vishniak, A Vanished World (also available in the Center library prior to the class for consultation)
POLIN Museum – Shtetl and the Jewish Street Galleries
Chmielnik Shtetl Museum

Optional: