Syllabus

Jews in East Europe, 1772-1991
(with a Focus on Ukrainian-Jewish Relations)

Summer School 2013
"Jewish History and Multiethnic Past: Discussions and Approaches to the Study of Society, Culture, and Heritage in East Central Europe"
July 14 - August 8, 2014
Center for Urban History, Lviv (Ukraine)

This course covers the period from the partitions of Poland through the Russian and Habsburg Empires, the Soviet Union and interwar Poland. Students will familiarize with the geopolitical results of Russia’s westward and Austria’s eastward expansions and will focus among other overarching themes on the shtetl, the unique East European Jewish habitat; on Hasidism, a Ukraine-born popular movement of religious enthusiasm; on the interaction between Zionists and Ukrainian nationalists in Galicia; on the development of Ukrainianization and Yiddishization (or Ukrainian and Jewish korenizatsiia) in the 1920s and the situation of Jews in Poland in the 1920s; on the Holocaust and its aftermath; on Ukrainians and Jews in the dissident movement; and on Jewish-Ukrainian artistic and literary avant-guard and on Jewish-Polish historical scholarship. This course teaches students critical skills such as contextualization and primary source analysis, which will enable them to look beyond the conflicting national narratives. The participants will explore various ways of integrating Jewish issues into general East European history and the history of East Europe, Ukraine in particular, into a larger European context.

This course combines multi-media power-point presentations, in-depth study of documents, and interactive class discussions. Students’ grades will be based on two 2-page long response papers.
(requirements for and samples of which will be made available separately), active participation in class discussions and a final in-class test in the form of 5 short essay-type responses.

Instructor:

YPS is the Crown Family Professor of Jewish Studies at History Department at Northwestern University (Chicago/Evanston) and the NU Center for Jewish and Israeli Studies. He is a winner of multiple grants and fellowships including NU Distinguished Teaching Award. He is a doctor honoris causa of the National University Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, a Fellow at the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute, and a honorary visiting professor at the Free Ukrainian University in Munich. He authored four books, including Jews in the Russian Army, 1827-1917: Drafted into Modernity (2008), The Anti-Imperial Choice (American Association of Ukrainian Studies Book Award, 2009), Lenin’s Jewish Question (2010) and The Golden Age Shtetl: a New History of Jewish Life in East Europe (2014). YPS taught at various universities in Israel, Poland, USA, Austria, and Ukraine, including Kyiv-Mohyla Academy and Harvard.

Readings:

All readings are students’ responsibility and will be available for free download from the course web-site two months before the course starts. Given the intensity of your class schedule, it is highly advisable to read all the assigned articles and book chapters before the course starts.

Requirements:

You can submit your brief proposals for response papers any time starting from July 15 through August 1, 2014. The structure and topic of your final paper must be vetted by the instructor, who is available on-line 24/6. Bracketing of your grade:

30% class participation
30% two response paper
40% final paper

Interactive discussions will be incorporated into lectures. The response papers should be based on one, maximum on two articles or book chapters. Your footnotes/endnotes/bibliographies should fit the standards of CMS-16 (Chicago Manual of Style, 16th edition). Please be advised that all submitted papers will be processed through the anti-plagiarism “Safe Assignment” electronic database. Papers should be submitted in electronic format (make sure it is .doc only) to the instructors email address by the time they are assigned (early submission is welcome).
Session One  
Monday, July 14, 2014  

**Polish Enlighteners and the Jews: an abrupt Reform**  
Readings:  
Polonsky, *Jews in Poland and Russia*, 2:  

Session Two  
Tuesday, July 15, 2014  

**Hasidism: a Judaic movement of religious revivalism**  
Readings:  
Assaf, Dan, “Hasidism,” in *The YIVO Encyclopedia of Jews in East Europe*, 659-672  
http://www.yivoencyclopedia.org/article.aspx/Hasidism/Historical_Overview  
http://www.yivoencyclopedia.org/article.aspx/Hasidism/Teachings_and_Literature  

Session Three  
Wednesday, July 16, 2014  

**Polish Partitions and the Rise of the Russian, Polish, and Austrian Jews**  
Readings:  
YPS, “Russia discovers its Shtetl,” in his *The Golden Age Shtetl*, 29-56*  

Session Four  
Thursday, July 17, 2014  

**Joseph II and Nicholas I reforming the Jews: a comparison**  
Readings:  
YPS, “Evrei i armii,” in *Istoriia evreiskogo naroda v Rossii*, 2: 66-85*  

Session Five  
Monday, July 21, 2014  

**The Rise of the Jewish Intelligentsia in Habsburg and Russian Empire**  
Readings:  
Klier, “Sion-Osnova Controversy,” in his *Imperial Russia’s Jewish Question*  

Session Six  
Tuesday, July 22, 2014  

**Liberalism in Crisis and the Making of the Jewish Diaspora Nationalism: Russian and Habsburg Empires**  
Readings:  
Shanes, YPS, “An unlikely alliance,” 483-505*  

Session Seven  
Wednesday, July 23, 2014  

**Jewish Migrations, 1870s-1920s**  
Readings:  
Lederhendler, *Jewish Immigrants and American Capitalism*, 1-37*  

Session Eight  
Thursday, July 24, 2014
Jews Proletarians in the Russian Revolutions
Readings: Mendelsohn, *Class Struggle in the Pale*, 82-103*

*First response paper due* Thursday, July 24, 2014

Session Nine Monday, July 28, 2014

The Beilis Case and the Russian Antisemitism
Readings: Loewe, “Anti-Semitism at the Close of the Czarist Era,” in *Hostages of Modernization*, 1188-1207*
Rogger, “The Beilis Case,” in *Hostages of Modernization*, 1257-1273*

Session Ten Tuesday, July 29, 2014

Jews and Ukrainians in the Revolutionary Years
Readings: Abramson, *Prayer for the Government*, 109-140*

Session Eleven Wednesday, July 30, 2014

Jews and Ukrainians under NEP and National Communism vs. Jews in Polish Galicia
Readings: Dekel-Chen, “Farming the Red Land,” 96-130*

Session Twelve Thursday, July 31, 2014

The Holocaust and its Impact on the post-War Ukraine
Readings: Lowy, Brandon, *The Shoah in the Ukraine*,
Movie: “Damskii portnoi”

*Second response paper due* Thursday, July 31, 2014

Session Thirteen Monday, August 4, 2014

Rootless Cosmopolitans: Communism and Racism
YPS, “Klei dla pozvonkov,” in his *Evreiskii vopros Leninu*, 157-204*

Session Fourteen Tuesday, August 5, 2014

Life and Fate of Vassili Grossman
Readings: Grossman, *Vse techet*, 184-219*
Movie: “Komissar”
Session Fifteen  
Wednesday, August 6, 2014  

**Ukrainian and Jewish Dissent and the Rise of the National-Democratic Consciousness**  
Secondary sources:  
YPS, “Jews in Ukrainian Thought: Between the 1940s and the 1990s,” 231-270*  

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Session Sixteen  
Thursday, August 7, 2014  

**Jewish Cultural Revival--the End of Homo Sovieticus?**  
Readings:  

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**FINAL IN-CLASS TEST:**  
August 7, 2014  
**GRADES DUE:**  
August 7, 2014 (3PM)  

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**Selected secondary sources for JEWS IN EAST EUROPE, 1772-1990**  
Frankl, Jonathan, *Prophecy and Politics*  
Nathans, Benjamin. Beyond the Pale: the Jewish encounter with Late Imperial Russia (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2002).
Rudnytsky, Ivan L. Essays in Modern Ukrainian History (Edmonton: Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, 1987).

YPS’s selected publications on Jews in Ukraine:

BOOKS


ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS


“Jews in Ukrainian Thought: Between the 1940s and the 1990s,” The Ukrainian Quarterly vol. LX, nos. 3-4 (Fall-Winter 2004): 231-270.


