Jewish Literature of Latin America
University of Denver
ENGL 3732-1/ JUST 3703-2
M/W: 2-4pm

Instructor: Lydia Gil Keffer
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Office Hrs: 12-12:50pm M/W; Annex, Room 5, 2190 S. High St.

Course Description:
This course examines Jewish presence in Latin America from colonial times to the present. The primary focus will be on the literary production of Jewish writers in Spanish America, but will also include selections from Jewish-Brazilian and Jewish-Latino writers as well as a discussion of Jewish themes in non-Jewish Latin American literature. Topics to be discussed include assimilation vs. integration; the formation of Jewish and national identities and anti-Semitism in literature, film, and political discourse. Although the language of instruction is English, students with a good reading knowledge of Spanish and/or Portuguese are welcome to complete the readings in the original.

Course Requirements:
Attendance & Participation: 15%
Presentation on Critical Readings: 20%
Short Essays (4): 20%
Final Essay: 45%

Required Readings:

Glantz, Margo. The Family Tree. Serpent's Tail Publishing Ltd
September 1991


ISBN: 0-8263-3373-7

throughout the course—not a choice for the short essays!)

**WEEK 1:**
Monday, 3/24: Jewish Latin America; Jewish Literature; Hyphenated Identities.

Wednesday, 3/26: Zion in the Pampas. Film: Selections from *Legado*; selections from Alpersohn.

**WEEK 2: JEWISH LIFE IN THE PAMPAS**
Monday, 3/31  Gercuhnoff, *The Jewish Gauchos*

Wednesday, 4/2 Gercuhnoff, *The Jewish Gauchos*; Film: Selections from *The Yidishe Gauchos*

**WEEK 3: ASHKENAZI MEXICO**
Monday, 4/7 Glantz, *The Family Tree*

Wednesday, 4/9 Glantz, *The Family Tree*; Class visit: Bornstein

**WEEK 4: SEPHARDIC MEXICO**
Monday, 4/14 Nisán, *Like a Bride* (Selections); poetry

Wednesday, 4/16 Film: *Novia que te vea*

**WEEK 5: SHOAH**
Monday, 4/21 Ronsecof, *The Letters that Never Came*

Wednesday, 4/23 Ronsecof, *The Letters that Never Came*

*Proposals for the final essay are due today!*

**WEEK 6: REPRESSION, DISAPPEARANCE & PERSISTENCE**
Monday, 4/28  Agosín, Selections

Wednesday, 4/30 Timerman, Selections

**WEEK 7: THE MAGICAL AND THE FANTASTIC**
Monday, 5/5: Borges, Selections

Wednesday, 5/7: Scliar, Selections

**WEEK 8: SHOFAR AND QUENA**
Monday, 5/12 Goldemberg, *The Fragmented Life of Don Jacobo Lerner*

Wednesday, 5/14 Goldemberg, *The Fragmented Life of Don Jacobo Lerner*
WEEK 9: CUBA/ US
Monday, 5/19 CUBA; selections from Behar, Kozer, ; Film: Havana Nagila

Wednesday, 5/21 Latin American Jewish Writers in the US: a one-generation phenomenon?

WEEK 10:
Monday, 5/26 MEMORIAL DAY

Wednesday, 5/28 Presentations, Paper Due