Fall 2019 Course Syllabus

Jewish Identities in the Americas

LAH 350 (29745)
JS 363 (38642)
Course carries a Global Cultures Flag
Meets: MWF 1:00-1:50 in RLP 0.108
Instructor

Naomi Lindstrom, Professor of Spanish and Portuguese
Office Hours: MWF 2:00-3:00 in BEN 4.144, or by appointment lindstrom@austin.utexas.edu

Required Texts: Readings posted in Canvas
Please consult Canvas for readings and prepare them in advance of class:

August 28 First Day of Class – Introduction

August 30 Historical Overview of Jewish Life in the Americas
Guidelines for preparing term paper proposal

September 2 Labor Day

September 4 What is Jewish Life and Identity?
   Englander, “What We Talk About When We Talk About Anne Frank”
   “What Is Jewish Literature?”

September 6 Brief Introduction to Jewish Observances and Customs

September 9 Jewish Languages; the literary revival of Ladino; Shua, "The Language”

September 11 Judaism and Christianity (guest speaker Dr. Robert H. Abzug, Professor of History and American Studies)

September 13 Immigration
   Muñiz-Huberman, "The Pirates’ Cook"
   Gerchunoff, excerpt from The Jewish Gauchos


September 18 Cahan, “A Sweatshop Romance”
   Alpersohn, "Of Pimps, Prostitutes, and Other Seducers"
September 20  Shua, "Almost Like America" and "The Name Rimetka"

September 23  Canadian Jewish Writers
               Richler, “The Street”; A. M. Klein, poetry

September 25  Popular Music of the Americas
               Mariachi and Klezmer (short documentary)
               Clips from Tango: A History with Jews

September 27  Workshopping of Term Paper Proposals


October 2  Students present central concept of term paper: **strict 3 minute limit**

*** due date, proposal of topic for term paper***

October 4  Glantz, excerpts #1 and #3 from The Family Tree

October 7  Popular Songwriters: Irving Berlin, George Gershwin
               Performer: Al Jolson

October 9  TBA

October 11  Emergence of Second Generation North American Jewish Culture
             Yezierska, “The Fat of the Land” and “America and I”

October 14  Scenes from A Serious Man

October 16  Review for First Exam

October 18  First Exam

October 21  The Holocaust and its Impact (North)
            Malamud, “The German Refugee”

October 23  The Holocaust and its Impact (South)
            Glantz, excerpt #2 from The Family Tree
            Rawet, "The Prophet"

October 25  Songwriters / Performers: Bob Dylan and Leonard Cohen

October 28  Big Names in post-WWII U.S. Jewish Literature I
            Bellow, “A Silver Dish”
October 30   Talk by Laura Limonic in RLP 1.302D on Latino Jews in the U.S.
November 1   Review for second examination
November 4   Second Examination
November 6   Big Names in post-WWII U.S. Jewish Literature II
            Roth, “Eli the Fanatic”
November 8   Ozick, “The Pagan Rabbi”
November 11  Jews and Human Rights
            Timerman, two excerpts from Prisoner without a Name, Cell without a Number
November 13  More recent Jewish American writers:
            Shteyngart, excerpt from Little Failure
November 15  Jewish life in small or far-flung communities:
            Goodman, “The Succession”
            Agosín, “Osorno”
November 18  Inter-American Jewish Writers:
            Behar, “Juban América”
November 20  Dorfman, excerpt from his Heading South, Looking North
November 22  Spitzer, two excerpts from Hotel Bolivia
November 25  scenes from Nora’s Will
November 27  Thanksgiving Holiday
November 29  Thanksgiving Holiday
December 2   Student Presentations of Term Papers
December 4   Student Presentations of Term Papers
December 6   Student Presentations of Term Papers
            FINAL PAPER DUE, HARD COPY, BY 5PM
December 9   Wrap-up session
Grading Criteria:

Proposal of topic for term paper: 15%
First examination: 22.5%
Second examination: 22.5%
Final version of term paper: 35%
Participation in class and pop quizzes: 5%
Attendance: Perfect attendance expected except in case of illness, emergency, or official university business. 1% of final grade in course will be deducted for each unexplained absence.
No final examination during finals week.

The following scale will be used to determine your final grade in the course:

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<th>Score Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>93-100</td>
<td>A</td>
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<td>83-86.99</td>
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<td>73-76.99</td>
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<td>67-69.99</td>
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<td>0-59.99</td>
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Though they will not be graded for grammar, examinations, quizzes, and papers must be written clearly enough to be understood. The final paper must be at least 2000 words (approx. 8-9 pages) in length, not counting the bibliography, and must cover a topic and readings that are not already covered in class sessions (see syllabus of readings, below). The paper must have to do with some aspect of Jewish culture in Latin America, the U.S., or Canada. It may (but not necessarily) be comparative in nature and cover more than one region. The paper topic must be cultural in nature, and not oriented toward technical or business subjects. You may write about literature, music, film, the visual arts, architecture, or any other form of cultural expression, including religion. The term paper must not be about one of the works included in the course syllabus, though it may be about a different work by the same author, director, composer, or artist.

Global Cultures, Accommodations, Religious Holidays, Emergencies, Scholastic Dishonesty

- This course carries a Global Cultures flag. Global Cultures courses are designed to increase your familiarity with cultural groups outside the United States. You should therefore expect a substantial portion of your grade to come from assignments covering the practices, beliefs, and histories of at least one non-U.S. cultural group, past or present.

- Please note that all graded work done inside or outside of class must be your own work. Writing that appears to be the work of someone else (e.g. a friend, a Web or print source) and may entail severe penalties beyond just a zero on the particular assignment. Students who violate University rules on academic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the university. For more information, visit [http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/](http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/). **We strictly abide by the UT Honor Code** <http://registrar.utexas.edu/catalogs/gi09-10/ch01/index.html> on questions of scholastic dishonesty.

- Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, 471-6259 [http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssl/](http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/).
• Students seeking assistance with writing may wish to contact The Undergraduate Writing Center http://uwc.utexas.edu/handouts.

• Medical assistance/ counseling services are available at http://www.cmhc.utexas.edu/.

• If you miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, you will be given an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

• Occupants of buildings on The University of Texas at Austin campus are required to evacuate buildings when a fire alarm is activated. Alarm activation or announcement requires exiting and assembling outside. Familiarize yourself with all exit doors of each classroom and building you may occupy. Remember that the nearest exit door may not be the one you used when entering the building. Students requiring assistance in evacuation shall inform their instructor in writing during the first week of class. In the event of an evacuation, follow the instruction of faculty or class instructors. Do not re-enter a building unless given instructions by the following: Austin Fire Department, The University of Texas at Austin Police Department, or Fire Prevention Services office. Information regarding emergency evacuation routes and emergency procedures can be found at http://www.utexas.edu/emergency