

RUT 3930 (0308) Russian and East Central European Jews, T 9–11 (Dr. Kujundzic) [3] This course is cross-listed with JST 0000 (06H7). 0000000. Taught entirely in English. No prerequisites or knowledge of Russian required. **(Counts toward a Russian major or minor.)**

REL 4936

JST 4936

Walker Hall 211

Office Hours Th. 1-2pm, and TBA

Fascinating literature, art and films have been produced by the Jews living in Russia and the territories of East and Central Europe. The course will discuss these works, sometimes written in Yiddish but deeply steeped in Russian Tradition (*Tevye the Dairman* by Sholem Alechem) and watch the films based on them (*Fiddler on the Roof*). Paintings by Marc Chagall will be discussed, as well as philosophy by Lev Shestov, writings by Ilya Ehrenburg, Lydia Ginsburg, Osip Mandelstham or Yosef Brodsky, or the chess player Garry Kasparov and his recent politics. Films by Serguei Eisenstein and Dziga Vertov (Kaufman) will be screened and discussed as well as the politics of Lev Trotsky or Boris Nemtsov. Other figures from East and Central Europe may include the works of Franz Kafka, Paul Celan, or Danilo Kish. The class will be held in the form of a seminar with active student participation, presentations and class discussions. The discussions and presentation will form 50% of the grade, attendance 20% and one final paper 30%. No final exam. All readings in English. The exact reading will be provided for each class by the instructor over a listserve. **The goals: the students will be introduced to the cultural, political and historical conditions of Russian Jews, their life and tradition, and learn to assess and think critically about the major works of literature, film, works of art, politics and philosophy written by the Jews of Russia, the Soviet Union and the post-Soviet period and emigration to Israel.**

Week one

Fiddler on the Roof. The Tevye Stories. Sholem Aleichem. Screen *Sholem Aleichem, Laughing in Darkness* (Excerpts)

Week two

Emmanuel Levinas: *Is it Righteous to Be?* (Excerpts)
Tevye the Milkman (*Library of Yiddish Classics Edition*) by Sholem Aleichem (excerpts); *Fiddler on the Roof*.
Yiddish; *First Student Group Presentation*

Week three

The Protocols of Wise Men of Zion (Excerpts) and Anti-Semitism
Yiddish; *Gitelman*

Week four

The Soviet Revolution, Cinema, Politics and Art;
Gitelman; Russian-Jewish Artists, selection
(Lev Davidovich Bronstein) Trotsky (selected essays)
Danilo Kish, *Tomb for Boris Davidovich* (excerpts)
Walter Benjamin, *Moscow Diaries* (selection)
Eisenstein, *October*; Dziga Vertov, *Man With the Movie Camera*

Week five

The Soviet Revolution, Cinema, Politics and Art;
Babel, *Benia Krik*. Film and reading
Gitelman

Week six

Gitelman; Babel, Presentations
Russian-Jewish Artists, selection

Week seven

Michal Katz, Russian-Jewish Emigration Class.
Gitelman

Week eight

Gitelman; Refusenik

SPRING BREAK

Week nine

Gitelman; Russian Jews in Art; Mandelstam

Week ten Olga Gershenzon, *Phantom Holocaust* (selection); Jeremy Hicks, **First Films of the Holocaust: Soviet Cinema and the Genocide of the Jews, 1938-1946** ; **Screen** *Profesor Mamlock; The Unvanquished* (excerpts)

Week eleven

Lara Vapnyar; *There Are Jews in My House; The Concert*

Week Twelve

Everything is Illuminated; Gitelman, Selection. Voinovich

Week thirteen

Gitelman. *Russian Jews and Emigration to Israel*; Nadezhda Mandelstam, *Hope Against Hope*;

Week fourteen

Voices From the Booth and the Russian Jews in Israel

Week fifteen *Friends From France, Final Paper Due* PRESENTED IN CLASS EACH STUDENT 10-15 Minute

Scholarship

excerpts will be made available by

1. Avrutin, Eugene. *Jews and the Imperial State: Identification Politics in Tsarist Russia*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2010.
2. Dubnow, Simon. *History of the Jews in Russia and Poland: From the Earliest Times Until the Present Day*. Philadelphia: The Jewish Publication Society of America, 1916- 1920.
3. Frankel, Jonathan; Zipperstein, Steven, eds. *Assimilation and Community. The Jews in Nineteenth-Century Europe*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1992.
4. Freeze, ChaeRan. *Jewish Marriage and Divorce in Imperial Russia*. Hanover: University Press of New England for Brandeis University Press, 2002.
5. Gitelman, Zvi. *Century of Ambivalence*. Bloomington: Indiana UP, 2001.
6. Haberer, Erich. *Jews and Revolution in Nineteenth-Century Russia*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1995.
7. Lederhendler, Eli. *The Road to Modern Jewish Politics: Political Tradition and Political Reconstruction in the Jewish Community of Tsarist Russia*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1989.
8. Litvak, Olga. *Conscription and the Search for Modern Russian Jewry*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2006.
9. Nathans, Benjamin. *Beyond the Pale: the Jewish Encounter With Late Imperial Russia*. Berkeley; Los Angeles: University of California Press, 2002.
10. Petrovsky-Shtern, Yohanan. *Jews in the Russian Army, 1827-1917: Drafted Into Modernity*. Cambridge; New York: Cambridge University Press, 2009.
11. Stanislawski, Michael. *Tsar Nicholas I and the Jews: the Transformation of Jewish Society in Russia, 1825-1855*. Philadelphia: Jewish Publication Society of America, 1983.
11. Stein, Sarah. *Making Jews Modern: the Yiddish and Ladino Press in the Russian and Ottoman Empires*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2004.
- 21 Zipperstein, Steven. *The Jews of Odessa: a Cultural History, 1794-1881*. Stanford, Calif.: Stanford University Press, 1985.

Films: "Fiddler on the Roof," and "Jewish Luck" (1925) for pre-revolutionary Russia, "Return of Nathan Becker" (1932) - for Soviet transformation, "Commissar" (1966) - for Russian Civil War, and "Everything is Illuminated" (2005) - for the

Holocaust and contemporary post-Soviet issues, *Voices from the Booth*-Russian Jews in Israel, *Friends From France*--Russian Jews After Communism.