

RUT 3930 (0308) Russian and East Central European Jews, T 9-11 (Dr. Kujundzic) [3] This course is cross-listed with JST 0000 (06H7). 00000000. 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. 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 and provided by the instructor electronically. **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, Jan. 10

Dragan Kujundzic: *Cinemuse: Selfie With Sokurov and Aleksander*

Sokurov: *Francoфонia*

Tuesday, January 10, 2017, 4 p.m.-7:30p.m, at the Harn Museum

Auditorium

Film screenings and discussion of the work of Russian filmmaker Alexander Sokurov, including an interview and Sokurov's *Francoфонia*. Discussion with Professor Dragan Kujundzic, UF.

Week two, Jan. 17

Russian Jews in France of WW2. Continuing the discussion of Sokurov's *Francoфонia*.

Emmanuel Levinas: *Is it Righteous to Be?* (Excerpts)

Tevye the Milkman (Library of Yiddish Classics Edition) by Sholem

Alechem (excerpts); *Fiddler on the Roof*.

Yiddish

Week three, Jan. 27

Fiddler on the Roof, Sholem Aleichem, Conclusion.
Report on Dan Miron's essay; Franz Kafka, *Metamorphosis*
Screen *Sholem Aleichem, Laughing in Darkness* (Excerpts)
The Protocols of Wise Men of Zion (Excerpts) and Anti-Semitism
Yiddish

Week four, Jan. 31

The Soviet Revolution, Cinema, Politics and Art;
(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, Feb. 7

Masha Gessen, *Where the Jews Aren't: The Sad and Absurd Story of Birobidzhan, Russia's Jewish Autonomous Region* (Selection)
Yiddish; Queering Russian Jews: *Soviet Moscow's Yiddish-Gay Dictionary*

**"The Mysterious Mr. Šlomović" a documentary film screening Sunday,
February 12,
2017 at 2pm at the Harn Museum Auditorium.**

Week six, Feb. 14 Gittleman (selection). Chagall.

Week seven, Feb. 21 *Isaac Babel* (selected stories); Lecture by Mark Leiderman

Week eight , Feb. 28 Olga Gershenzon, *Phantom Holocaust* (selection); Jeremy Hicks, ; **Screen** *Profesor Mamlock*; *The Unvanquished*

SPRING BREAK

March 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

Week nine March 14, Nika Adler, Michal Katz, Russian-Jewish Emigration Class meets in Judaica Suite or place TBA

Week ten March 21 Lara Vapnyar; *There Are Jews in My House*; *The Concert*

Week eleven March 28 *Refusnik* (film screening, discussion) Nadezhda Mandelstam, *Hope Against Hope*

Week Twelve, *Everything is Illuminated*; Gittelman, Selection.

Week thirteen April 4 Russian-Jewish Poetry (Mandelstam, Brodsky, Sapgir)
Gittelman, Selection

Week fourteen April 11: *Voices From the Booth* and the Russian Jews in Israel

Week fifteen April 18, Final Paper Due

Scholarship excerpts will be made available by instructor:

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. Gittelman, 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.
10. 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.
12. Zipperstein, Steven. *The Jews of Odessa: a Cultural History, 1794-1881*. Stanford, Calif.: Stanford University Press, 1985.

Films: "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.

