Class code: HBRJD-UA9103001

Instructor Details
Kateřina Čapková
katerina.capkova@nyu.edu
Office hour: before class (or by arrangement)

Class Details
Modern Jewish History in Europe -- SPRING 2015
Tue, 1:30-4:20
Location to be confirmed.

Prerequisites
None

Class Description
"One hundred and fifty years ago all Jews had three things in common: every Jew prayed in Hebrew, he submitted to God’s commandments and awaited the coming of the Messiah. Today, Jews have only one thing in common — every Jew asks what it means to be a Jew." These are words of David Ben Gurion after the Second World War. Even though Ben Gurion simplified the Jewish experience during the 19th and 20th centuries, his quote expresses well some of the enormous dynamics of Jewish history in this period. What are the reasons for such radical changes? Were there differences between the development in Western, Central and Eastern Europe? How did the changes affect Jewish religious, cultural, linguistic and political identity? How can the knowledge of history help us to understand recent Jewish politics and religious disputes? These questions build the core of this course.

We will combine lectures and discussions, we will however also visit an exhibition, use film documentary and analyze interviews.

Desired Outcomes
General overview of modern Jewish history in Europe with special focus on Central and Eastern Europe
Critical analyzes of primary and secondary historical sources

Assessment Components
Participation is a vital component in determining your final grade. You are required to complete each session’s reading assignment and to come to class with ideas, insights, and/or questions for the group. The success of the class depends upon everyone arriving prepared, remaining open to other’s ideas, and offering arguments based upon a thorough understanding of the assignments and lectures. During semester you can collect 100 points which correspond with the percentage of your success.

Presentation: max. 20 points
Leading discussion in two sessions: max. 20 points
midterm test: max. 20 points
essay based on at least three interviews: max. 10 points
active participation in discussion over the reading: max. 30 points

In detail:
Presentation: max. 20 points
The topic of a presentation can be either chosen from the list of recommended topics or it can be a topic of your choice. The aim of the presentation is to show the ability to find sources for the topic, to master the necessary knowledge of the material and to transmit the knowledge in a clear and comprehensive way to classmates.
Duration of the presentation: 20 – 30 minutes

5 points for a draft shown to professor in advance (at least a week before)
- draft should include the suggested structure of the presentation, sources collected and read for the topic, ideas for the best transmission of the topic to the colleagues
- you can either meet professor or send her your draft by email

5 points for the handout and material distributed to students

10 for the presentation – student can use Power Point presentation, maps, photos, short videos, interpretation of crucial text (an example of up to 3 pages can be distributed and analysed in class)

**Leading discussion in three sessions: max. 20 points (10 points x 2)**

(You will be expected to read the text carefully, find any necessary additional information for understanding the text and for putting it into the context. Please, contact me if you need any help. You will receive 5 points for a well structured and clear handout with the main arguments of the text and with questions and 5 point for successful leadership of the discussion. Duration of your introductory summary of the text should not exceed 20 minutes.)

**midterm test: max. 20 points**

(Three topics will be given out of which two will be chosen by the student to write a page about each. A list of topics, which could appear in the test, will be distributed to students two weeks in advance. 10 points for each question (5 for the main arguments, 3 for the clear structure of the text, 2 for clear formulation, wording, spelling of names and concrete dates)

**essay based on at least three interviews (after visiting the MALACH centre): max. 10 points**

(approx. 1000 words)

**active participation in discussion over the reading: max. 30 points**

(3 points for each class with reading assignments)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade conversion</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A=94-100</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-=90-93</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+=87-89</td>
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<tr>
<td>B=84-86</td>
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<td>B-=80-83</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+=77-79</td>
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<tr>
<td>C=74-76</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-=70-73</td>
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<tr>
<td>D+=67-69</td>
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<tr>
<td>D=65-66</td>
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<td>F=below 65</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attendance Policy</th>
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<tr>
<td>Absences only for medical reasons and for religious observance will be excused. To obtain an excused absence, you are obliged to supply either a doctor’s note or corroboration of your illness by a member of the housing staff (either an RA or a Building Manager). To be excused for religious observance, you must contact the instructor and the Associate Director via e-mail one week in advance of the holiday. Your absence is excused for the holiday only and does not include days of travel associated with the holiday. Unexcused absences will be penalized with a two percent deduction from your final course grade for every week of classes missed.</td>
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Late submission of the essay will cause reduction of points – each day a point.

According to the Liberal Studies Program Student Handbook, plagiarism is defined as follows:

Plagiarism is presenting someone else’s work as though it were one’s own. More specifically plagiarism is to present as one’s own a sequence of words quoted without quotation marks from another writer, a paraphrased passage from another writer’s work; facts or ideas gathered, organized and reported by someone else, orally and/or in writing. Since plagiarism is a matter of fact, not of the student’s intention, it is crucial that acknowledgment of the sources be accurate and complete. Even where there is no conscious intention to deceive, the failure to make appropriate acknowledgment constitutes plagiarism.

The College of Arts and Science’s Academic Handbook defines plagiarism similarly and also specifies the following:

“presenting an oral report drawn without attribution from other sources (oral or written), writing a paragraph which, despite being in different words, expresses someone else’s idea without a reference to the source of the idea, or submitting essentially the same paper in two different courses (unless both teachers have given their permission in advance).

Receiving help on a take-home examination or quiz is also cheating – and so is giving that help – unless expressly permitted by the teacher (as in collaborative projects). While all this looks like a lot to remember, all you need to do is give credit where it is due, take credit only for original ideas, and ask your teacher or advisor when in doubt.”

“Penalties for plagiarism range from failure for a paper, failure for the course or dismissal from the university.” (Liberal Studies Program Student Handbook)

Required Text(s)

see the reader, a copy can be borrowed in the library

Supplemental Text(s) (not required to purchase as copies are in NYU-P Library)

There are two copies of the book Heda Margolius-Kovaly, Under a Cruel Star. A Life in Prague, 1941-1968 (Holmes and Meier 1997) in the library which we will discuss in the first week of May. You can either plan to read the book in advance, or buy the book. It is really worth of having it in your personal collection.

For additional information about people, terms, events discussed in the course, please see:

http://www.yivoencyclopedia.org/
http://www.bjeindy.org/resources/library/access-to-encyclopedia-judaica/
http://www.britannica.com/
http://www.ushmm.org/
http://www.yadvashem.org/

Additional Equipment

none

Session 1
Tuesday, Feb 3
Introduction to the course

Jewish Life in the Pre-modern Age

Session 2
Tuesday, Feb 10

Jewish Migration

Session 3
Tuesday, Feb 17

Emancipation in Western and Central Europe

Haskalah

Session 4

East European Jewry – Jewish experience in Poland and Russia
Tuesday, Feb 24
- David Assaf, Hasidism. Historical Overview
  http://www.yivoencyclopedia.org/article.aspx/Hasidism/Historical_Overview
- Joseph Dan, Hasidism. Teachings and Literature
  http://www.yivoencyclopedia.org/article.aspx/Hasidism/Teachings_and_Literature
- Louis Jacobs, Hasidism. Everyday Life,
  http://www.yivoencyclopedia.org/article.aspx/Hasidism/Everyday_Life

Session 5
Tuesday, March 3
Religious movements – Reform, Conservative, Orthodox, Ultra-Orthodoxy

Session 6
Tuesday, March 10
Jewish Nationalism
The Jew in the Modern World (Bilu – X/1, Herzl – X/2, Mizrachi – X/7, Ahad Haam – X/5, Borochov – X/12, Balfour declaration, Jabotinsky – X/28) bund

Session 7
Tuesday, March 17
The Rise of Modern Antisemitism

Session 8
Tuesday, March 24
Nazism and Holocaust

Session 9
Tuesday, March 31
Mid-term test
Film The long way home

Spring Break
April 6-10

Session 10
Tuesday, April 14
The post-war reality

Session 11
Tuesday, April 21
Visit of the Centre of Visual History MALACH, Malostranské náměstí 25
- Branch of USC Shoah Foundation Institute for Visual History and Education, University of South California
- Each student will choose a topic in advance (e.g. Jewish survivors of Gulag, Jews in the Red Army) and will have to analyze three interviews connected to this topic. Essay of approx. 1000 words is due to May 6.

Session 12
Tuesday, April 28
Polish – Jewish relations
Session 13
Tuesday, May 5

York 2006, 245-261 (+ 293)

**Jews under Communism, Slánský Affair**

There are two copies of this book in the library.

Session 14
Tuesday, May 12 (last day of classes)

**Jews in post-Communist societies**


Each student will choose a post-Communist country (except of Russia) and prepare a 10 minutes talk about the recent situation of the Jewish community in this country based on at least 3 articles from newspapers/internet.

Session 15
Tuesday, May 19

Final exam

**Classroom Etiquette**

**Required Co-curricular Activities**

**Suggested Co-curricular Activities**

Colloquia on Modern Jewish History organized by Jewish Museum in Prague and the Institute of Contemporary History, for more info see www.jewishhistory.cz

I will arrange individual meetings with each of you to discuss your results.