

EBPEИ В РОССИИ И В COBETCKOM COЮЗЕ The Jews of Russia and the Soviet Union: Experience and Expression (Jewish Studies 2791F)

FALL 2020 Weekly Zoom Meetings Wednesdays 12:00-1:20

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Office Hours: By appointment on Zoom or phone

Prerequisites: None

Course Description

This course is an introductory survey of the history and cultural expression of the Jewish population of Russia and the Soviet Union. We will trace the events and processes that helped shape the Russian Jewish identity, including modernization, secularization, the advent of Soviet power, and the contradictions of Stalinism. We will also examine the culture and intellectual life that flourished in the context of this history. Our exploration will encompass Yiddish- and Russian-language literature, music, pictorial art, cinema, and popular culture. All readings will be in English and no previous knowledge of Russian history is required.

Learning Objectives

This course aims to help students to:

- Understand modern Jewish history in its Russian and European context
- Explore the interplay between historical change and cultural expression
- Examine the ways in which identity is constructed and articulated
- Analyze the aesthetic effects of works of literature, cinema, and pictorial art
- Identify potential research topics
- Amass and evaluate research sources
- Construct an argument and communicate it in writing

Course Method

In response to the Covid-19 pandemic this course will be taught online and will consist of synchronous meetings (when we gather on Zoom to discuss our readings) and asynchronous components such as recorded lectures and study guides. See below for more information.

Recorded Lectures

For each class you will be provided with a recorded lecture on OWL. Occasionally these will take the form of a Power Point presentation, but most often they will be mp3 files. These will frequently be accompanied by a study guide which will include visual aids such as maps and photographs. The lectures are meant to supplement and contextualize the reading assignment for each class.

Reading Assignments

Each day of class involves a reading assignment. Some readings will provide an overview of the subject we are covering, while others focus on a particular issue within the larger context. In Parts Two and Three of the course the readings are primarily the literary works we will be exploring.

OWL Forum Posts

Included in your class participation grade is the requirement to contribute *at least* twelve paragraph-length postings to our OWL discussion board – this works out to one per week, or every other class. The course is divided into three parts of roughly equal length, and you will be required to write at least four posts for each part, i.e. four by October 7, four more by November 16, and the last four by Dec. 7. Doing more than four in the first part does not get you out of having to write four for each of the next two parts, and so on, but it can't hurt when it comes to your grade.

Your posts should focus primarily on our readings. They may take the form of a comment, a question, or an idea you want to try out. I encourage you to read and respond to each other's posts – this is meant to be a discussion.

To receive full credit, you should post by 2 p.m. for Monday's class. On Wednesdays we will meet on Zoom at 12 p.m., and since I will use your posts to inform the day's discussion I ask that you post on Wednesday's material by 11 a.m.

"In Person" Classes on Zoom

On Wednesdays we will meet on Zoom to discuss the readings and answer questions about the material. Our meetings will begin at 12 p.m. and will run for about 80 minutes. Attendance is mandatory and your engagement will count towards your participation grade. You should join the meeting ready to participate fully, having already done the reading and listened to the recorded lecture.

If you live in a distant time zone or have some other insurmountable barrier to attending these meetings, you must let me know no later than the first week of class and arrange an alternate way to fulfill your participation requirement.

Required Resources

The works below are required for the course. You may order hard copies through the UWO Bookstore's website (bookstore.uwo.ca) and they will be sent directly to your address. A digital copy of *Tevye the Dairyman* is available directly from the publisher. I strongly recommend the hard copy, but if you prefer a digital copy you may contact me for ordering information.

- Sholem Aleichem, *Tevye the Dairyman and Motyl the Cantor's Son*, Penguin
- David Bergelson, *The End of Everything*, New Yiddish Library Series
- Isaac Babel, The Collected Stories of Isaac Babel, Norton

All other readings will be provided on our OWL site.

Assessment

Grades will be determined by the following assignments:

Preparation and participation: 20%
Written assignment #1: 20%
Written assignment #2 20%
Research paper: 25%
Final exam: 15%

Written Assignments

You will have a short writing assignment due after each of the first two parts of the course. (See schedule.) More information will be provided as the due dates approach.

Research Paper

One of the goals of this course is to assist you in conceiving and producing a research paper (3500 words). This assignment will proceed through several steps. The first step will be choosing a topic and producing a research statement and bibliography, followed by a rough draft, a discussion of your work, and a revised final draft which takes my feedback into consideration. Please see the schedule for the relevant dates. Grades will be based on the depth of your research and the clarity of your writing.

Final Exam

There will be a take-home exam during finals period. The date and time of the final exam will be announced by the university.

Missed or Late Work

Late assignments will not be accepted, and as a rule I do not grant extensions the night before an assignment is due. However, some flexibility is possible. Look over the syllabus and check it against your schedule. If you have a conflict, I am willing to work with you to set a new deadline, provided that you contact me **well in advance**. For more information on academic accommodations for medical and non-medical reasons please consult the appendix below.

COURSE SCHEDULE

PART ONE:		THE TURNING POINTS OF HISTORY
Wed.	9/9	Course Introduction.
Mon.	9/14	Prehistory. The Pale of Settlement. Shtetl life. Read: Ben-Cion Pinchuk, "The Shtetl: An Ethnic Town in the Russian Empire"
Wed.	9/16	From Repression to Reform to Repression. Read: Steven Marks, "Destroying the Agents of Modernity: Russian Antisemitism" (pp. 140-54) Read: Eugene Avrutin, "Pogroms in Russian History"
Mon.	9/21	The Revolution of 1917. The Bund and the Bolsheviks. Read: Zvi Gitelman, "Revolution and the Ambiguities of Liberation," A Century of Ambivalence
Wed.	9/23	New Soviet Man. Stalinism. The Terror. Read: Anna Shternshis, "Antireligious Propaganda and the Transformation of Jewish Institutions and Traditions," Soviet and Kosher: Jewish Popular Culture in the Soviet Union
Mon.	9/28	World War II and the Holocaust Read: Mordechai Altshuler, "The Unique Features of the Holocaust in the Soviet Union" Recommended: Anna Shternshis, "Between Life and Death: Why Some Soviet Jews Decided to Leave and Others to Stay in 1941"
Wed.	9/30	The "Black Years." The Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee. The Doctors' Plot. Read: K. Azadovskii & B. Egorov, "From Anti-Westernism to Anti-Semitism: Stalin and the Impact of the 'Anti-Cosmopolitan' Campaigns on Soviet Culture"
Mon.	10/5	The Thaw. Stagnation. Dissidence and Emigration. Read: Zvi Gitelman, "Soviet Jews, 1967-1987: To Reform, Conform, or Leave?"
Wed.	10/7	Perestroika and Glasnost. The Fall of the USSR. Contemporary Russia. Read: Larissa Remennick, "The Two Waves of Russian-Jewish Migration from the USSR/FSU to Israel: Dissidents of the 1970s and Pragmatics of the 1990s."
Fri.	10/9	FIRST WRITING ASSIGNMENT DUE BY 8 PM
PART TWO:		PREREVOLUTIONARY ART AND THOUGHT
Mon.	10/12	Thanksgiving
Wed.	10/14	Sholem Aleichem, <i>Tevye the Dairyman</i> Read: Kotonti, The Great Windfall, The Roof Falls In, Today's Children, Hodl, Chava
Mon.	10/19	Sholem Aleichem Read: Shprintze, Tevye Is Going to Eretz Yisroel, "Get Thee Gone," Vachalaklokos
Wed.	10/21	David Bergelson, <i>The End of Everything</i> Read: pp.1-80

Mon. 10/26	David Bergelson, The End of Everything Read: pp. 80-181		
Wed. 10/28	David Bergelson, <i>The End of Everything</i> Read: pp. 181-264		
Thu. 10/29	RESEARCH STATEMENT AND ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE BY 8 PM		
Mon. 11/2 Wed. 11/4	Reading Week Reading Week		
Mon. 11/9	Tradition and Innovation: The Music of Russia's Jews Listen and Read: To Be Announced		
Wed. 11/11	Simon Dubnow and Jewish Nationhood Read: The Doctrine of Jewish Nationalism, The Survival of the Jewish People		
Thu. 11/12	SECOND WRITING ASSIGNMENT DUE BY 8 PM		
Mon. 11/16	Russian Jewish Art		
PART THREE: SOVIET CULTURE			
Wed. 11/18	Jewish Life in Odessa Read: Alice Nakhimovsky, "Mikhail Zhvanetskii: The Last Russian-Jewish Joker"		
Mon. 11/23	Isaac Babel, "Autobiographical" Stories Read: At Grandmother's, The Story of My Dovecote, The Awakening, In the Basement		
Wed. 11/25	Isaac Babel, Odessa Stories Read: The King, How Things Were Done in Odessa		
Thu. 11/26	DRAFT OF RESEARCH PAPER DUE BY 8 PM		
Mon. 11/30	Isaac Babel, <i>Red Cavalry</i> Read: Crossing the River Zbrucz, A Letter, Gedali, My First Goose, The Rabbi		
Wed. 12/2	Isaac Babel, <i>Red Cavalry</i> Read: Dolgushov's Death, The Life of Matvey Rodionovych Pavlichenko, Salt, Afonka Bida, The Rabbi's Son		
Mon. 12/7	Soviet Yiddish Classic Cinema Watch: Alexander Granovsky's Jewish Luck		
Wed. 12/9	Revolutionary Politics and Revolutionary Cinema Watch: Sergei Eisenstein's Battleship Potemkin		
Thu. 12/10	FINAL RESEARCH PAPER DUE BY 8 PM		

FINAL EXAM TO BE SCHEDULED



Appendix to Course Outlines: Academic Policies & Regulations 2020 - 2021

Prerequisite and Antirequisite Information

Students are responsible for ensuring that they have successfully completed all course prerequisites and that they have not completed any course antirequisites. Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enrol in it without them, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. If you enrol in this course despite having already taken an antirequisite you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. Removals for these reasons may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites or for having already taken the antirequisites.

Conduct of Students in Classes, Lectures, and Seminars

Membership in the community of Huron University College and Western University implies acceptance by every student of the principle of respect for the rights, responsibilities, dignity and well-being of others and a readiness to support an environment conducive to the intellectual and personal growth of all who study, work and live within it. Upon registration, students assume the responsibilities that such registration entails. The academic and social privileges granted to each student are conditional upon the fulfillment of these responsibilities.

While in the physical classroom or online classroom, students are expected to behave in a manner that supports the learning environment of others. Students can avoid any unnecessary disruption of the class by arriving in sufficient time and ready for the start of the class, by remaining silent while the professor is speaking or another student has the floor, and by taking care of personal needs prior to the start of class. If a student is late, or knows that he/she will have to leave class early, be courteous: enter and leave quietly. Please see the Code of Student Conduct at:

www.huronuc.on.ca/sites/default/files/pdfs/Code%20of%20Student%20Conduct.pdf.

Technology

It is not appropriate to use technology (such as, but not limited to, laptops, cell phones) in the classroom for non-classroom activities. Such activity is disruptive and distracting to other students and to the instructor, and can inhibit learning. Students are expected to respect the classroom environment and to refrain from inappropriate use of technology and other electronic devices in class.

Adding / Dropping Courses

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your workload is not manageable, you should consult your Academic Advisor. If you are considering reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines. Please refer to the Huron website, https://huronatwestern.ca/academic-advising or review the list of official Sessional Dates on the Academic Calendar, available here: http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/SessionalDates.cfm.

You should consult with the course instructor and the Academic Advisor who can help you consider alternatives to dropping one or more courses. Note that dropping a course may affect OSAP and/or Scholarship/Bursary eligibility.

Class Cancellations

In the event of a cancellation of class, every effort will be made to post all relevant information on the OWL class site and on the Huron website at, https://huronatwestern.ca/about/accessibility.

Attendance Regulations for Examinations

A student is entitled to be examined in courses in which registration is maintained, subject to the following limitations:

- 1) A student may be debarred from writing the final examination for failure to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year.
- 2) Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course (after due warning has been given). On the recommendation of the Department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course. The Dean of the Faculty offering the course will communicate that decision to the Dean of the Faculty of registration.

Please see the policy on Attendance Regulations for Examinations here: https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic policies/exam/attendance.pdf.

Academic Student Support Services

For advice on course selections, degree requirements, and for assistance with requests for medical accommodation, students should email an Academic Advisor in Huron's Student Support Services at https://huronatwestern.ca/academic-advising.

Department Chairs, Program Directors and Coordinators are also able to answer questions about individual programs. Contact information can be found on the Huron website at: https://huronatwestern.ca/contact/contact-directory.

Copyright Regarding Course Material

Lectures and course materials, including PowerPoint presentations, tests, outlines, and similar materials are protected by copyright. Faculty members are the exclusive owner of copyright in those materials they create. Students may take notes and make copies for their own use. Students may not allow others to reproduce or distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly (whether or not a fee is charged) without the express written consent of a faculty member. Similarly, students own copyright in their own original papers and exam essays. If a faculty member is interested in posting a student's answers or papers on the course website he/she should ask for the student's written permission.

Statement on Academic Integrity

The International Centre for Academic Integrity defines academic integrity as "a commitment, even in the face of adversity, to five fundamental values: honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. From these values flow principles of behaviour that enable academic communities to translate ideals to action." (CAI Fundamental Values Project, 1999).

A <u>lack</u> of academic integrity is indicated by such behaviours as the following:

- Cheating on tests;
- Fraudulent submissions online;
- Plagiarism in papers submitted (including failure to cite and piecing together unattributed sources);

- Unauthorized resubmission of course work to a different course;
- Helping someone else cheat;
- Unauthorized collaboration:
- Fabrication of results or sources;
- Purchasing work and representing it as one's own.

Academic Integrity: Importance and Impact

Being at university means engaging with a variety of communities in the pursuit and sharing of knowledge and understanding in ways that are clear, respectful, efficient, and productive. University communities have established norms of academic integrity to ensure responsible, honest, and ethical behavior in the academic work of the university, which is best done when sources of ideas are properly and fully acknowledged and when responsibility for ideas is fully and accurately represented.

In the academic sphere, unacknowledged use of another's work or ideas is not only an offence against the community of scholars, it is also an obstacle to academic productivity. It may also be understood as fraud and may constitute an infringement of legal copyright.

A university is a place for fulfilling one's potential and challenging oneself, and this means rising to challenges rather than finding ways around them. The achievements in an individual's university studies can only be fairly evaluated quantitatively through true and honest representation of the actual learning done by the student. Equity in assessment for all students is ensured through fair representation of the efforts by each.

Acting with integrity at university constitutes a good set of practices for maintaining integrity in later life. Offences against academic integrity are therefore taken very seriously as part of the university's work in preparing students to serve, lead, and innovate in the world at large.

A university degree is a significant investment of an individual's, and the public's, time, energies, and resources in the future, and habits of academic integrity protect that investment by preserving the university's reputation and ensuring public confidence in higher education.

Students found guilty of plagiarism will suffer consequences ranging from a grade reduction, to failure in the course, to expulsion from the university. In addition, a formal letter documenting the offence will be filed in the Dean's Office, and this record of the offence will be retained in the Dean's Office for the duration of the student's academic career at Huron University College.

Statement on Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, as per the Academic Calendar: http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?PolicyCategoryID=1&Command=showCategory&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#SubHeading 189.

Turnitin.com

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (https://www.turnitin.com/).

Computer-Marked Tests/Exams

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

Clickers

Personal Response Systems ("clickers") may be used in some classes. If clickers are to be used in a class, it is the responsibility of the student to ensure that the device is activated and functional. Students must see their instructor if they have any concerns about whether the clicker is malfunctioning. Students must use only their own clicker. If clicker records are used to compute a portion of the course grade:

- the use of somebody else's clicker in class constitutes a scholastic offence
- the possession of a clicker belonging to another student will be interpreted as an attempt to commit a scholastic offence.

Academic Accommodation for Students With Disabilities

Students who require **special** accommodation for tests and/or other course components must make the appropriate arrangements with the Student Development Centre (SDC). Further details concerning policies and procedures may be found at: http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/.

Please review the full policy at,

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic%20Accommodation_disabilities.pdf.

Academic Consideration for Missed Work

Students who are seeking academic consideration for missed work during the semester may submit a self-reported absence form online provided that the absence is 48 hours or less and the other conditions specified in the Senate policy at

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic_Consideration_for_absences.pdf are met.

Students whose absences are expected to last longer than 48 hours, or where the other conditions detailed in the policy are not met (e.g., work is worth more than 30% of the final grade, the student has already used 2 self-reported absences, the absence is during the final exam period), may receive academic consideration by submitting a Student Medical Certificate (for illness) or other appropriate documentation (for compassionate grounds). The Student Medical Certificate is available online at https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf.

All students pursuing academic consideration, regardless of type, must contact their instructors no less than 24 hours following the end of the period of absence to clarify how they will be expected to fulfill the academic responsibilities missed during their absence. Students are reminded that they should consider carefully the implications of postponing tests or midterm exams or delaying submission of work, and are encouraged to make appropriate decisions based on their specific circumstances.

Students who have conditions for which academic accommodation is appropriate, such as disabilities or ongoing or chronic health conditions, should work with Accessible Education Services to determine appropriate forms of accommodation.

Requests for Academic Consideration Using the Self-Reported Absence Form

Students who experience an unexpected illness or injury or an extenuating circumstance (48 hours or less) that is sufficiently severe to temporarily render them unable to meet academic requirements (e.g., attending lectures or labs, writing tests or midterm exams, completing and submitting assignments,

participating in presentations) should self-declare using the online Self-Reported Absence portal. This option should be used in situations where the student expects to resume academic responsibilities within 48 hours or less.

Please note the following conditions that are in place for self-reporting of medical or extenuating circumstances:

- Students will be allowed a maximum of two self-reported absences between September and April and one self-reported absence between May and August;
- Any absences in excess of the number designated in clause a above, regardless of duration, will require students to present a <u>Student Medical Certificate (SMC)</u>, signed by a licensed medical or mental health practitioner, detailing the duration and severity of illness, or appropriate documentation supporting extenuating circumstances to the Academic Counselling unit in their Faculty of registration no later than two business days after the date specified for resuming responsibilities.
- Self-reported absences will not be allowed for scheduled final examinations; for midterm examinations scheduled during the December examination period; or for final lab examinations scheduled during the final week of term.
- Self-reporting may not be used for assessments (e.g. midterm exams, tests, reports, presentations, or essays) worth more than 30% of any given course.
- Students must be in touch with their instructors no later than 24 hours after the end of the period covered by the Self-Reported Absence form, to clarify how they will be expected to fulfil the academic expectations they may have missed during the absence.

Please review the full policy at,

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic policies/appeals/accommodation illness.pdf.

Policy on "Academic" Accommodation - Medical / Non-Medical Grounds

(a) <u>Medical Grounds</u> for assignments worth 10% or more of final grade: Go directly to Huron Support Services/ Academic Advising, or email <u>huronsss@uwo.ca</u>.

University Senate policy, which can be found at,

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf, requires that all student requests for accommodation on medical grounds for assignments worth 10% or more of the final grade be made directly to the academic advising office of the home faculty (for Huron students, the "home faculty" is Huron), with supporting documentation in the form (minimally) of the Senate-approved Student Medical Certificate found at:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf.

The documentation is submitted in confidence and will not be shown to instructors. The advisors will contact the instructor when the medical documentation is received, and will outline the severity and duration of the medical challenge as expressed on the Student Medical Certificate and in any other supporting documentation. The student will be informed that the instructor has been notified of the presence of medical documentation, and will be instructed to work as quickly as possible with the instructor on an agreement for accommodation.

The instructor will not normally deny accommodation where appropriate medical documentation is in place and where the duration it describes aligns with the due date(s) of assignment(s). Before denying a request for accommodation on medical grounds, the instructor will consult with the Dean. The instructor's decision is appealable to the Dean.

(b) Accommodation on <u>Medical Grounds</u> for assignments worth *less than 10%* of final grade: Consult Instructor Directly

When seeking accommodation on medical grounds for assignments worth less than 10% of the final course grade, the student should contact the instructor directly. The student need only share broad outlines of the medical situation. The instructor **may** require the student to submit documentation to the academic advisors, in which case she or he will advise the student and inform the academic advisors to expect documentation. The instructor may <u>not</u> collect medical documentation. The advisors will contact the instructor when the medical documentation is received, and will outline the severity and duration of the medical challenge as expressed on the Student Medical Certificate and in any other supporting documentation. The student will be informed that the instructor has been notified of the presence of medical documentation, and will be instructed to work as quickly as possible with the instructor on an agreement for accommodation.

The instructor will not normally deny accommodation where appropriate medical documentation is in place and where the duration it describes aligns with the due date(s) of assignment(s). Before denying a request for accommodation on medical grounds, the instructor will consult with the Dean. The instructor's decision is appealable to the Dean.

(c) Non-Medical Grounds: Consult Huron Support Services/ Academic Advising

Where the grounds for seeking accommodation are not medical (e.g. varsity sports, religious, compassionate, bereavement) the student should contact an academic advisor directly. All accommodation requests must include a completed <u>Accommodation Request Form</u>. Late penalties may apply at the discretion of the instructor.

Where a student seeks accommodation on non-medical grounds where confidentiality is a concern, the student should approach an academic advisor with any documentation available. The advisors will contact the instructor after the student's request is received, and will outline the severity and duration of the challenge without breaching confidence. The student will be informed that the instructor has been notified that significant circumstances are affecting or have affected the student's ability to complete work, and the student will be instructed to work as quickly as possible with the instructor on an agreement for accommodation. Before denying a request for accommodation where documentation has been submitted to an academic advisor, the instructor will consult with the Dean. The instructor's decision is appealable to the Dean.

Mental Health & Wellness Support at Huron and Western

University students may encounter setbacks from time to time that can impact academic performance. Huron offers a variety of services that are here to support your success and wellbeing. Please visit https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life-campus/student-services/wellness-safety for more information or contact staff directly:

Wellness Services: huronwellness@huron.uwo.ca Community Safety Office: safety@huron.uwo.ca

Chaplaincy: gthorne@huron.uwo.ca

Additional supports for Health and Wellness may be found and accessed at Western through, www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/.

Important Dates & Directory

For a current and up-to-date list of important dates and campus directories, please visit:

- Huron Important Dates: https://huronuc.ca/important-dates-and-deadlines
- Academic Calendar & Sessional Dates: http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/SessionalDates.cfm
- Huron Directory Faculty, Staff and Administration:
 https://huronuc.ca/index.php/contact/contact-directory
- Western Directory Faculty, Staff and Administration: https://www.uwo.ca/directory.html