

Jewish Literature of Latin America

University of Denver
ENGL 3732-1/ JUST 3703-2
M/W: 2-4pm

Instructor: Lydia Gil Keff

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Office Hrs: 12-12:50pm M/W; Annex, Room 5, 2190 S. High St.

Course Description:

This course examines Jewish presence in Latin America from colonial times to the present. The primary focus will be on the literary production of Jewish writers in Spanish America, but will also include selections from Jewish-Brazilian and Jewish-Latino writers as well as a discussion of Jewish themes in non-Jewish Latin American literature. Topics to be discussed include assimilation vs. integration; the formation of Jewish and national identities and anti-Semitism in literature, film, and political discourse. Although the language of instruction is English, students with a good reading knowledge of Spanish and/or Portuguese are welcome to complete the readings in the original.

Course Requirements:

Attendance & Participation:	15%
Presentation on Critical Readings:	20%
Short Essays (4):	20%
Final Essay:	45%

Required Readings:

Aizenberg, Edna. Paricide on the Pampa? A New Study and Translation of. Alberto Gerchunoff's "Los gauchos judíos".

Publisher: Masterworks of Modern Literature Publications, July 2003

ISBN-13: 9780945179207

Glantz, Margo. The Family Tree. Serpent's Tail Publishing Ltd

September 1991

ISBN-13: 9781852421823

Goldemberg, Isaac. The Fragmented Life of Don Jacobo Lerner. Albuquerque: U New Mexico P, 1999.

ISBN-13: 9780826320742

Rosencof, Mauricio. The Letters that Never Came. Albuquerque: U New Mexico P, 2004.

ISBN: 0-8263-3373-7

Sadow, Stephen, Ed. King David's Harp: Autobiographical Essays by Jewish Latin American Writers. Albuquerque: U New Mexico P, 1999. (Selections will be assigned

throughout the course—not a choice for the short essays!)

WEEK 1:

Monday, 3/24: Jewish Latin America; Jewish Literature; Hyphenated Identities.

Wednesday, 3/26: Zion in the Pampas. Film: Selections from Legado; selections from Alpersohn.

WEEK 2: JEWISH LIFE IN THE PAMPAS

Monday, 3/31 Gercuhnoff, The Jewish Gauchos

Wednesday, 4/2 Gercuhnoff, The Jewish Gauchos; Film: Selections from The Yidishe Gauchos

WEEK 3: ASHKENAZI MEXICO

Monday, 4/7 Glantz, The Family Tree

Wednesday, 4/9 Glantz, The Family Tree; Class visit: Bornstein

WEEK 4: SEPHARDIC MEXICO

Monday, 4/14 Nisán, Like a Bride (Selections); poetry

Wednesday, 4/16 Film: Novia que te vea

WEEK 5: SHOAH

Monday, 4/21 Ronsecof, The Letters that Never Came

Wednesday, 4/23 Ronsecof, The Letters that Never Came
Proposals for the final essay are due today!

WEEK 6: REPRESSION, DISAPPEARANCE & PERSISTENCE

Monday, 4/28 Agosín, Selections

Wednesday, 4/30 Timerman, Selections

WEEK 7: THE MAGICAL AND THE FANTASTIC

Monday, 5/5: Borges, Selections

Wednesday, 5/7: Scliar, Selections

WEEK 8: SHOFAR AND QUENA

Monday, 5/12 Goldemberg, The Fragmented Life of Don Jacobo Lerner

Wednesday, 5/14 Goldemberg, The Fragmented Life of Don Jacobo Lerner

WEEK 9: CUBA/ US

Monday, 5/19 CUBA; selections from Behar, Kozer, ; Film: Havana Nagila

Wednesday, 5/21 Latin American Jewish Writers in the US: a one-generation phenomenon?

WEEK 10:

Monday, 5/26 MEMORIAL DAY

Wednesday, 5/28 Presentations, *Paper Due*