

LATIN AMERICAN JEWISH CULTURE

HUM 513/FLA 598/ENG 598 - FALL 2000

David William Foster, LL440A-LL442C / 480-965-3752
 david.foster@asu.edu / Office hours: Daily 8a.m.-3p.m.



“Los judíos latinoamericanos son indios que saludan diciendo ¡Shalom!” -Alicia Steimberg [Latin American Jews are Indians who greet you by saying Shalom!]

Objectives. To provide a panoramic introduction to the nature and scope of Latin American Jewish cultural production in Latin America. Emphasis will be given to essay, narrative, theater, and film. Although Latin American Jewry is particularly well represented in Buenos Aires, attention will also be paid to communities in Mexico City, São Paulo, Santiago de Chile, and Havana. Topics to be discussed will include: patterns of Jewish immigration to Latin America; Luso-Hispanic Jewry and German and East European immigration; Catholicism vs. Judaism; “Gaucha” Jews and urban settlements; ghetto life, pogroms, assimilation, and social ascendancy; Yiddishkeit; Yiddish vis-à-vis Spanish and Portuguese; Jews and other subaltern



(women, Native Americans, lesbians); Latin American identities and U.S. Jews; the Nazi Holocaust and Latin American neofascist holocausts; Latin American Jews and liberation movements.

Readings. Judith Laikin Elkin, *The Jews of Latin America*; rev. ed.; Ritas Gardiol, *The Silver Candelabra and Other Stories: A Century of Jewish Argentine Literature*; Ilán Stavans, *Tropical Synagogues: Short Stories by Latin-American Jewish Writers*; Ariel Dorfman, *Heading South, Looking North: A Bilingual Journey*; Marjorie Agosín, *Always from Somewhere Else: A Memoir of my Chilean Jewish Father*; Isaac Chocrón, *Plays*; Nora Glickman [forthcoming book on Jewish prostitutes in Buenos Aires]; Clarice Lispector, *Family Ties*; Isaac Goldemberg, *The Fragmented Life of Don Jacobo Lerner*; Alberto Gerchunoff, *The Jewish Gauchos of the Pampas*; Moacyr Scliar, *The Collected Stories*; Margo Glantz, *The Family Tree: An Illustrated Novel*; Ana María Shua, *The Book of Memories*. Various films.



Student Responsibilities. Regular class attendance and active participation in class meetings. Doctoral students will prepare a 20-25-page research paper; Masters students, a 15-20-page paper; undergraduates, a review essay. See separate detailed instructions. There will be no final exam.

