

Fall 2010 Course Syllabus: Latin American Jewish Writers

SPN 352 (Unique 46655) JS 363 (Unique 39955) LAS 370S (Unique 40200)

Taught in Spanish. Meets in: MEZ 1.102, MWF 11:00-11:50

Instructor: Prof. Naomi Lindstrom

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Required Texts:

Should be at University Co-op. In addition, there is a course packet. You must purchase the packet because it contains required readings. It is at Jenn's Copy & Binding, 2200 Guadalupe Street, Austin 78705, tel. 473 8669, fax 476 6505, or jenns@io.com.

Timerman, Preso sin nombre, celda sin número

Gerchunoff, Los gauchos judíos

Shúa, El libro de los recuerdos

Freilich, Cláper (University Co-op will have bound photocopies of this novel)

Steimberg, Músicos y relojeros

Grading Criteria: proposal for term paper, 14%, due Mon., 27 Sept.
midterm examination, 27.5%, Mon. 18 Oct.
final version of term paper, 22.5%, due Fri., 3 Dec.
quizzes 6%; date of quizzes announced in class
final examination 30%, Wed., Dec. 8, 9:00a-10:00n

Attendance Policy: Attendance is a requirement. Four cuts permitted; subsequent unexcused absences result in 1% grade reduction each. An excused absence is an absence satisfactorily explained by a note.

The purpose of this course is to acquaint students with some of the outstanding Jewish writers from Latin America, with special emphasis on those who portray in their work the situation of the Jewish communities of their respective cities and countries. The readings will include works by both Ashkenazic and Sephardic writers and from a range of Spanish-speaking Latin American countries, along with one Brazilian author and several who represent U.S. Latino Jewish writing in English. Another topic will be the Jewish themes that appear prominently in some of the writings of a non-Jewish author, the renowned Jorge Luis Borges.

One of the requirements of the class is to write a term paper of at least 1700 words (approximately 6-7 pages in normal-size type) on a topic not covered in the syllabus. Each student will need to analyze literary works that are not in the course readings, although other writings by the same author may appear in the syllabus. Any student with a reading knowledge of Portuguese is welcome to write his or her term paper on a Brazilian Jewish writer. The alternative to writing a literary analysis for the term paper is to research and write a paper on a Latin American Jewish creative figure working in some other medium, such as a painter or film director. Please note that the term paper must be on a cultural topic and not on non-cultural themes, such as Jewish education or problems in estimating the population of Jewish communities in Latin America. Your topic must be approved by the instructor for you to receive credit for this assignment,

Any student who requires accommodation because of a disability may request it. He or she may be asked to present a note from the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities specifying the accommodations needed. Students in this course are expected not to disrupt the normal progress of the class. Any student who persists in being disruptive will first receive a warning letter from the instructor. If the problem persists, it will be reported to the Dean of Students.

The course syllabus indicates what you should have read ahead of time to prepare for that day's class.

August

25 general introduction to course

27 historical background to Jacobo Timerman's story; begin reading
Preso sin nombre, celda sin número

30 Timerman, Preso sin nombre

September

1 Timerman, Preso sin nombre

3 historical background on Jewish immigration to Argentina and
Alberto Gerchunoff; Gerchunoff, Los gauchos judíos

6 Labor Day, University closed

8 Gerchunoff, Los gauchos judíos

10 Gerchunoff, Los gauchos judíos (no attendance taken owing to holiday)

13 Carlos M. Grünberg, "Un esposo" from Cuentos judíos (in packet)
Mordejai Alperson, "El coronel Goldsmid" from Colonia Mauricio (in packet)

- 15 Margo Glantz, excerpt from Las genealogías (in packet)
- 17 Glantz, second excerpt (in packet)
- 20 Background on Ana María Shua; Shua, El libro de los recuerdos
- 22 Shua, El libro de los recuerdos
- 24 Shua, El libro de los recuerdos, information on term paper proposal
- 27 Victor Perera, “Guatemala I,” from The Cross and the Pear Tree (in packet) DUE DATE for term paper proposal
- 29 Perera, “Guatemala II” (in packet)
- October
- 1 Leo Spitzer, “Rootless Nostalgia” (in packet)
- 4 Marjorie Agosín, “Osorio,” “My Husband,” both excerpts from A Cross and a Star: Memoirs of a Jewish Girl in Chile (in packet)
- 6 special activity in class: documentary “Havana Nagila”
- 8 special activity in class: scenes from “Adio Kerida”
- 11 Jacobo Fijman, “Canto del cisne” (in packet)
Edna Aizenberg, “How a Samovar Helped Me Theorize Latin American Jewish Writing” (in packet)
- 13 Teresa Porzecanski, “Rojl Eisips” (in packet)
José Luis Nájenson, “Una parábola neojasídica” (in packet)
- 15 review for midterm examination
- 18 midterm examination in regular classroom
- 20 special activity in class: scenes from “Legado”
- 22 Introduction to Isaac Goldemberg; poems by Goldemberg (in packet)
- 25 Moacyr Scliar, “El ejército de un solo hombre” (in packet)
- 27 Glusberg, “Mate amargo”; Marcos Aguinis, “Profeta en Nieve” (in packet)

29 Freilich, Cláper

November

1 Freilich, Cláper

3 Freilich, Cláper

5 Jorge Luis Borges, “Emma Zunz,” “El Golem” (in packet)

8 Borges, “La muerte y la brújula” (in packet)
Introduction to Alicia Steimberg

10 Steimberg, Músicos y relojeros

12 Steimberg, Músicos y relojeros

15 Steimberg, Músicos y relojeros

17 Ruth Behar, “Juban American” (in packet)

19 Ilan Stavans, “Lost in Translation” (in packet)

22 Isaac Chocrón, excerpt from Rómpase en caso de incendio (in packet)
More on final version of term paper

22 special activity in class: scenes from “O ano em que meus pais saíram de férias”

24 question and answer session

26 day after Thanksgiving, University closed

29 Ariel Dorfman, “The Discovery of Life and Language” (in packet)

December

1 Ricardo Feierstein, “Judíos latinoamericanos: una nueva forma del mestizaje” (in packet)

3 last class day; term paper due; review for final examination

FINAL EXAMINATION

*** WED., DEC. 8, 9:00a.-12:00n ***