

Fall 2018 Course Syllabus: Jewish Voices from Latin America

SPN 355 (Unique 45745) LAS 370S (Unique 39867)

Taught in Spanish. Meets in: MEZ 1.216 T Th 12:30-2:00

Instructor: Prof. Naomi Lindstrom

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Office Hours: T Th 2:30-4:00, BEN 4.144 or by appointment

Teaching Assistant: Dinorah Cossío

Required Texts:

The texts below should be available through the University Co-op. Additional readings are available on the Canvas site for this course.

Timerman, *Preso sin nombre, celda sin número*

Gerchunoff, *Los gauchos judíos*

Shúa, *El libro de los recuerdos*

Grading Criteria: proposal for term paper, 14%,
first examination, 25%
final version of term paper, 30%
quizzes 6%; date of quizzes to be announced in class
second examination 25%

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, filmmakers, and other artists from Latin America, with special emphasis on those who portray in their work the Jewish communities. The readings will include works by both Ashkenazi 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 1650 words (approximately 6-6.5 pages). Any student with a reading knowledge of Portuguese is welcome to write his or her term paper on a Brazilian Jewish writer. You will first submit a proposal of about 250 words, then at the end of the semester the complete paper (see syllabus for due dates). The paper should be on a Latin American Jewish creative figure working in literature or in another artistic medium, such as painting or film. *Term papers should not be about the same works that are in the course syllabus, though they may be about other works by the same author, director, or artist.* Your topic must be approved by the instructor. You will receive rubrics for the proposal and for the final paper; *please read the rubrics carefully.*

This course carries the Global Cultures flag. Global Cultures courses are designed to increase your familiarity with cultural groups outside the United States. You should therefore expect a substantial portion of your grade to come from assignments covering the practices, beliefs, and histories of at least one non-U.S. cultural group, past or present.

Please note that all graded work done inside or outside of class must be your own. Writing that appears to be the work of someone else (e.g. a friend more proficient in Spanish, a Web or print source) or that appears to have been written in English and then translated by an online translation program will not be accepted, and may entail severe penalties beyond just a zero on the particular assignment. Students who violate University rules on academic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the university. For more information, visit <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/>.

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.

Occupants of buildings on the University of Texas at Austin campus are required to evacuate buildings when a fire alarm is activated. Alarm activation or announcement requires exiting and assembling outside. Familiarize yourself with all exit doors. Remember that the nearest exit door may not be the one that you used when entering the building. Students requiring assistance in evacuating shall inform their instructor in writing during the first week of class. In the event of an evacuation, follow the instructions of faculty or class instructors. Do not re-enter a building unless given instructions by the UT Police Department or Fire Prevention Services. See other emergency information at www.utexas.edu/safety/preparedness/.

The course syllabus indicates what you should have read ahead of time to prepare for that day's class. When "special media activity" appears, that means that clips from a video or other media source will be used in class that day and you do not need to prepare in advance for the session.

August

30 general introduction to course

September

- 4 historical background to Jacobo Timerman's story; begin reading
Preso sin nombre, celda sin número
- 6 Timerman, *Preso sin nombre*; information on term paper proposal
- 11 film in class (students observing Rosh Hashanah this day
may view the film at another time)
- 13 historical background on Jewish immigration to Argentina and
Alberto Gerchunoff; Gerchunoff, excerpts from *Los gauchos judíos*
- 18 Gerchunoff, excerpts from *Los gauchos judíos*, excerpts from film
- 20 Carlos M. Grünberg, stories from *Cuentos judíos* (Canvas)
Mordejai Alperson, episodes from *Colonia Mauricio* (Canvas)
- 25 Workshopping of term paper proposal. You will receive instructions in class for
this exercise, which allows you to obtain peer feedback on your proposal before
submitting it on the 27
- 27 Jewish humor. Glusberg, "Mate amargo" (Canvas); Moacyr Scliar, "El ejército de un
solo hombre" (Canvas) **TURN IN TERM PAPER PROPOSAL**

October

- 2 Margo Glantz, excerpt from *Las genealogías* (Canvas)
- 4 Glantz, second excerpt (Canvas) due date, term paper proposal
- 9 review for first examination
- 11 first examination in regular classroom
- 16 background on Jewish languages; Moscona, "Sirkula (poema en ladino y español)"
(Canvas); folk songs in Yiddish and Ladino
- 18 excerpts from Moscona, *Tela de sevoya* (Canvas); Jorge Drexler, "Milonga del moro
judío" (lyrics on Canvas)
- 23 Marjorie Agosín, "Osorio," "My Husband," both excerpts from *A Cross and a Star:
Memoirs of a Jewish Girl in Chile* (Canvas)

25 Alicia Steimberg, excerpts from *Músicos y relojeros* (Canvas)

30 Jorge Luis Borges, “Emma Zunz,” “El Golem” (Canvas)

November

1 Jewish visual artists from Latin America: Lasar Segall, Mirta Kupferminc, Marcelo Brodsky. Graphic novel. (Instructors will show images in class.)

6 Leo Spitzer, “Rootless Nostalgia” (Canvas); Marcos Aguinis, “Profeta en Nieve” (Canvas)

8 Ana María Shua, excerpts from *El libro de los recuerdos*

13 Ana María Shua, excerpts from *El libro de los recuerdos*

15 Ana María Shua in person; talk in RLP (CLA) 2.402.

Last day to submit a draft of the term paper for detailed feedback (optional).

You will still be able to bring your paper in for briefer consultation later.

20 showing of scenes from film in class

22 Thanksgiving Day

27 students give brief summaries of their term papers

29 students give brief summaries of their term papers

December

4 review for second examination; due date, term paper

6 last class day; second examination