

Fall 2019 Course Syllabus

Jewish Identities in the Americas

LAH 350 (29745)

JS 363 (38642)

Course carries a Global Cultures Flag

Meets: MWF 1:00-1:50 in RLP 0.108

Instructor

Naomi Lindstrom, Professor of Spanish and Portuguese

Office Hours: MWF 2:00-3:00 in BEN 4.144, or by appointment lindstrom@austin.utexas.edu

Required Texts: Readings posted in Canvas

Please consult Canvas for readings and prepare them in advance of class:

August 28 **First Day of Class – Introduction**

August 30 Historical Overview of Jewish Life in the Americas
Guidelines for preparing term paper proposal

September 2 **Labor Day**

September 4 What is Jewish Life and Identity?
Englander, “What We Talk About When We Talk About Anne Frank”
“What Is Jewish Literature?”

September 6 Brief Introduction to Jewish Observances and Customs

September 9 Jewish Languages; the literary revival of Ladino; Shua, “The Language”

September 11 Judaism and Christianity (guest speaker Dr. Robert H. Abzug, Professor
of History and American Studies)

September 13 Immigration

Muñiz-Huberman, “The Pirates' Cook”
Gerchunoff, excerpt from *The Jewish Gauchos*

September 16 Cahan, “A Providential Match”; Lazarus, “The New Colossus”

September 18 Cahan, “A Sweatshop Romance”
Alpersohn, “Of Pimps, Prostitutes, and Other Seducers”

- September 20 Shua, "Almost Like America" and "The Name Rimetka"
- September 23 Canadian Jewish Writers
Richler, "The Street"; A. M. Klein, poetry
- September 25 Popular Music of the Americas
Mariachi and Klezmer (short documentary)
Clips from *Tango: A History with Jews*
- September 27 Workshopping of Term Paper Proposals
- September 30 *Legado* (2004)
- October 2 Students present central concept of term paper: **strict 3 minute limit**
***** due date, proposal of topic for term paper*****
- October 4 Glantz, excerpts #1 and #3 from *The Family Tree*
- October 7 Popular Songwriters: Irving Berlin, George Gershwin
Performer: Al Jolson
- October 9 TBA
- October 11 Emergence of Second Generation North American Jewish Culture
Yeziarska, "The Fat of the Land" and "America and I"
- October 14 Scenes from *A Serious Man*
- October 16 Review for First Exam
- October 18 First Exam
- October 21 The Holocaust and its Impact (North)
Malamud, "The German Refugee"
- October 23 The Holocaust and its Impact (South)
Glantz, excerpt #2 from *The Family Tree*
Rawet, "The Prophet"
- October 25 Songwriters / Performers: Bob Dylan and Leonard Cohen
- October 28 Big Names in post-WWII U.S. Jewish Literature I
Bellow, "A Silver Dish"

- October 30 Talk by Laura Limonic in RLP 1.302D on Latino Jews in the U.S.
- November 1 Review for second examination
- November 4 Second Examination
- November 6 Big Names in post-WWII U.S. Jewish Literature II
Roth, “Eli the Fanatic”
- November 8 Ozick, “The Pagan Rabbi”
- November 11 Jews and Human Rights
Timerman, two excerpts from from *Prisoner without a Name, Cell without a Number*
- November 13 More recent Jewish American writers:
Shteyngart, excerpt from *Little Failure*
- November 15 Jewish life in small or far-flung communities:
Goodman, “The Succession”
Agosín, “Osorno”
- November 18 Inter-American Jewish Writers:
Behar, “Juban América”
- November 20 Dorfman, excerpt from his *Heading South, Looking North*
- November 22 Spitzer, two excerpts from *Hotel Bolivia*
- November 25 scenes from *Nora’s Will*
- November 27 **Thanksgiving Holiday**
- November 29 **Thanksgiving Holiday**
- December 2 Student Presentations of Term Papers
- December 4 Student Presentations of Term Papers
- December 6 Student Presentations of Term Papers
FINAL PAPER DUE, HARD COPY, BY 5PM
- December 9 Wrap-up session

Grading Criteria:

Proposal of topic for term paper: 15%

First examination: 22.5%

Second examination: 22.5%

Final version of term paper: 35%

Participation in class and pop quizzes: 5%

Attendance: Perfect attendance expected except in case of illness, emergency, or official university business. 1% of final grade in course will be deducted for each unexplained absence.

No final examination during finals week.

The following scale will be used to determine your final grade in the course:

93-100 = A	83-86.99 = B	73-76.99 = C	63-66.99 = D
90-92.99 = A-	80-82.99 = B-	70-72.99 = C-	60-62.99 = D-
87-89.99 = B+	77-79.99 = C+	67-69.99 = D+	0-59.99 = F

Though they will not be graded for grammar, examinations, quizzes, and papers must be written clearly enough to be understood. The final paper must be at least 2000 words (approx. 8-9 pages) in length, not counting the bibliography, and must cover a topic and readings that are not already covered in class sessions (see syllabus of readings, below). The paper must have to do with some aspect of Jewish culture in Latin America, the U.S., or Canada. It may (but not necessarily) be comparative in nature and cover more than one region. The paper topic must be cultural in nature, and not oriented toward technical or business subjects. You may write about literature, music, film, the visual arts, architecture, or any other form of cultural expression, including religion. The term paper must not be about one of the works included in the course syllabus, though it may be about a different work by the same author, director, composer, or artist.

Global Cultures, Accommodations, Religious Holidays, Emergencies, Scholastic Dishonesty

- This course carries a 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 work. Writing that appears to be the work of someone else (*e.g.* a friend, a Web or print source) 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/>. **We strictly abide by the UT Honor Code < <http://registrar.utexas.edu/catalogs/gi09-10/ch01/index.html>> on questions of scholastic dishonesty.**
- **Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, 471-6259 <http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/>.**

- **Students seeking assistance with writing may wish to contact The Undergraduate Writing Center <http://uwc.utexas.edu/handouts>.**
- **Medical assistance/ counseling services are available at <http://www.cmhc.utexas.edu/>.**
- If you miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, you will be given an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.
- 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 of each classroom and building you may occupy. Remember that the nearest exit door may not be the one you used when entering the building. Students requiring assistance in evacuation shall inform their instructor in writing during the first week of class. In the event of an evacuation, follow the instruction of faculty or class instructors. Do not re-enter a building unless given instructions by the following: Austin Fire Department, The University of Texas at Austin Police Department, or Fire Prevention Services office. Information regarding emergency evacuation routes and emergency procedures can be found at <http://www.utexas.edu/emergency>