

Beyond Borders
Wednesday 6-8:50pm
University Hall 319

Professor: Rebekah Klein-Pejšováemail: rkleinpe@purdue.edu

Office: University Hall 110

Office hours: Tuesday 1-3pm, or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This reading seminar is designed to explore new perspectives on the development of Jewish, East Central European, European, and Global History through significant recent contributions to the scholarship that move beyond traditional patterns of inquiry. The readings underscore the potential of the transnational approach for the study of connections and interactions across geographic, political, social, cultural, and religious borders. The transnational approach is particularly well-suited to the study of diaspora and borderland populations, populations in movement, as well as to populations in regions of variable political frontiers. This class is intended to challenge participants to step back and take a fresh look at their own research interests, questions and frameworks, to expand their individual historian's toolbox, and to aid in preparation for preliminary exams.

REQUIREMENTS

This reading seminar, above all else, is about the close engagement of course participants with the material through writing and discussion based on active reading of the texts. Course participants must come to the seminar table ready for meaningful discussion. This means that all course participants are required to:

- Write a 2-page response to each session's reading assignment, including your thoughts, questions, and comments, submitted by 3pm Tuesday on Blackboard assignments. Please note that the application will not accept submissions after the deadline.
- Write on 5 books of your choosing, selecting from the readings for weeks 3-14 (the readings for week 8, combined, count as a book for this purpose) in a 5-7 page book review, due in hard copy in class on the day for which the reading is assigned. Submit the list of 5 books you will review with your reading response for week 2.
- Lead discussion at the class meetings for which you have prepared book reviews.

GRADING

Grades for the course will be evaluated as follows:

Discussion	25%
Reading Responses	25%
Book Reviews	50%

Books are available for purchase at University and Folletts bookstores, as well as through internet vendors. Readings marked with an asterisk (*) will be available electronically on Blackboard.

COURSE SCHEDULE

1. **1/12:** Introductory session

Beyond Traditional Paradigms of Inquiry

2. **1/19:**
 - "AHR Conversation: On Transnational History," *American Historical Review*, December 2006, pp. 1441-1464*
 - Joel S. Migdal, ed., *Boundaries and belonging : states and societies in the struggle to shape identities and local practices* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004), read introduction, pp.3-23*
 - Mark von Hagen, "Empires, Borderlands, Diasporas: Eurasia as Anti-Paradigm in the Post-Soviet Era," *American Historical Review*, April 2004, pp. 445-468*
 - "Searching for Common Grounds: National Identity and Intercultural Research in an East-Central European context," introduction to *Nation-Building and Contested Identities: Romanian and Hungarian Case Studies* (Budapest: Regio Books, and Iași: Editura Polirom, 2001), pp. 9-18.

Reworking Parameters of Space and Time

3. **1/26:** Charles King, *The Black Sea: A History* (Oxford UP, 2006)
4. **2/2:** Mark Mazower, *Salonica: City of Ghosts. Christians, Muslims, and Jews, 1430-1950* (New York: Vintage Books, 2004)

Early Modern Networks: Jews and Crypto-Jews in the Atlantic World System

5. **2/9:** Richard L Kagan; Philip D Morgan, eds., *Atlantic diasporas : Jews, conversos, and crypto-Jews in the age of mercantilism, 1500-1800* (Baltimore : Johns Hopkins University Press, 2009)

Global Commerce, Colonial Economies, and Luxury Goods

6. **2/16:** Sarah Abrevaya Stein, *Plumes : ostrich feathers, Jews, and a lost world of global commerce* (New Haven : Yale University Press, 2008)

Revisiting 19th century Jewish Religious Reform and Conflict

7. **2/23:** Michael Stanislawski, *A Murder in Lemberg: Politics, Religion, and Violence in Modern Jewish History* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2007)

Transnational Jewish Identities after the Revolutionary Year 1848

8. **3/2:**
 - Michael L. Miller and Scott Ury, "Cosmopolitanism: The End of Jewishness?" *European Review of History—Revue europe'enne d'histoire*, Vol. 17, No. 3, June 2010, pp. 337–359*
 - Michael L. Miller, "From liberal nationalism to cosmopolitan patriotism: Simon Deutsch and the 1848ers in exile," *European Review of History—Revue europe'enne d'histoire*, Vol. 17, No. 3, June 2010, pp. 379-393*
 - Michael Stanislawski, *Zionism and the Fin de Siècle* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2001) chapter 1, "Cosmopolitanism, Zionism, and Assimilation. The Case of Theodore Herzl," pp. 1-18*

Mobility, Modernity, and the Jewish Predicament

9. **3/9:** Yuri Slezkine, *The Jewish Century* (Princeton and Oxford: Princeton University Press, 2004)

10. **3/14-3/19:** SPRING BREAK

World War One

11. **3/23:** Peter Gatrell, *A Whole Empire Walking: Refugees in Russia During World War I* (Bloomington and Indianapolis: Indiana University Press, 1999)

Reimagining the Jewish Diaspora: Dispersion from Our Eastern European Home

12. **3/30:** Rebecca Kobrin, *Jewish Bialystok and Its Diaspora* (Bloomington and Indianapolis: Indiana University Press, 2010)

Lived Marxism

13. **4/6:** Marci Shore, *Caviar and Ashes : a Warsaw generation's life and death in Marxism, 1918-1968* (New Haven : Yale University Press, 2006)

European Jews, Postwar

14. **4/13:** Atina Grossmann, *Jews, Germans, and Allies: Close Encounters in Occupied Germany* (Princeton: Princeton UP, 2007)

Networks of Postwar and Postcommunist Jewish Identity

15. **4/20:** Alena Heitlinger, *In the Shadows of the Holocaust and Communism: Czech and Slovak Jews Since 1945* (New Brunswick, NJ and London: Transaction Publishers, 2006)

16. **4/27:** Concluding discussion