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

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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. This method 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, due in hard copy in class on the day for which the reading is assigned.

• Write on 5 books of your choosing, 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

Beyond Traditional Paradigms of Inquiry
   • 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*

2. 1/20: Martin Luther King Day – no class

Reworking Parameters of Space and Time


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

   Global Commerce, Colonial Economies, and Luxury Goods

   Reimagining the Jewish Diaspora: Gender & Dispersion


10. Spring Break

   Frontiers of War

13. **4/7**: Timothy Snyder, *Bloodlands: Europe Between Hitler and Stalin* (Basic Books, 2010) [will reschedule this class session due to the Passover holiday]

Frontiers of Displacement


Human Rights


16. **4/28**: Concluding discussion