

Purdue University – Jewish Studies Program  
Noon Lecture and Discussion Series

## **Daniel Morris**

Professor of English, Purdue University

### **“In Praise of Secular Jewish American Lyric Commentary: Why Bob Dylan and Louise Glück are 21<sup>st</sup> Century Nobel Laureates”**

Seven decades after what Benjamin Schreier calls, “the dominant event of Jewish American literary history,” which is the “‘breakthrough’ – the irruption in the 1950s of Jewish American writers like Bernard Malamud, Philip Roth, Saul Bellow, and Grace Paley into the heart of American cultural scene,” two Jewish American lyricists have received the Nobel Prize for Literature in a span of four years: Bob Dylan (born Robert Allen Zimmerman in Duluth, Minnesota in 1941) in 2016 and Louise Glück (born in New York City in 1943 and raised on Long Island) in 2020. By considering Jewish identity as a consensual relationship to the recollection of a prophetic strain of socio-political history (Dylan) and personal history (Glück) through revisionary relations to literature, myth, and religious texts, we may consider the two Nobel Laureates creative readings of classical texts as a type of commentary expressing their secular Jewish sensibilities. For Dylan and Glück, Jewishness is a way of thinking about revisioning texts. The literary inheritance is not considered sacred and so becomes available to variation through the author’s willingness to talk back to it.

**Wednesday, February 23, 2022 @ 7:00 pm**

**Zoom Meeting: <https://purdue->**

**[edu.zoom.us/j/94283593257?pwd=T2FSRTNvNWJDWTRROVVQQUEySTVKQT09](https://purdue-edu.zoom.us/j/94283593257?pwd=T2FSRTNvNWJDWTRROVVQQUEySTVKQT09)**

**ID: 942 8359 3257    Passcode: 717184**

*Jewish Studies Program events are free and open to the public. Students, faculty, staff, and members of the community are cordially invited to attend. [jewishstudies@purdue.edu](mailto:jewishstudies@purdue.edu)*



School of Interdisciplinary Studies

