

**General Education Course Information Sheet**  
*Please submit this sheet for each proposed course*

*Department & Course Number*      Slavic Languages/Jewish Studies M98T  
*Course Title*      Crisis and War: the Jewish Experience in the Soviet 'Promised Land'

1 Check the recommended GE foundation area(s) and subgroups(s) for this course

**Foundations of the Arts and Humanities**

- Literary and Cultural Analysis \_\_\_\_\_
- Philosophic and Linguistic Analysis \_\_\_\_\_
- Visual and Performance Arts Analysis and Practice \_\_\_\_\_

**Foundations of Society and Culture**

- Historical Analysis \_\_\_\_\_ X
- Social Analysis \_\_\_\_\_

**Foundations of Scientific Inquiry**

- Physical Science \_\_\_\_\_  
*With Laboratory or Demonstration Component must be 5 units (or more)* \_\_\_\_\_
- Life Science \_\_\_\_\_  
*With Laboratory or Demonstration Component must be 5 units (or more)* \_\_\_\_\_

2. Briefly describe the rationale for assignment to foundation area(s) and subgroup(s) chosen.

The course fulfills both the Social Analysis and the Literary and Cultural Analysis prerequisites. The course provides the basic means to explore and appreciate cultural diversity through literature, film, art, and song. The course, likewise, focuses on a particular historical and social experience. That experience forces us to ask questions pertinent not only to the field of history and social sciences, but also to further investigate our current role(s) in the multifaceted and multicultural world.

3. List faculty member(s) and teaching fellow who will serve as instructor (give academic rank):  
Naya Lekht, teaching fellow and David MacFadyen, faculty mentor

4. Indicate what quarter you plan to teach this course:

2011-2011      Winter   X        Spring \_\_\_\_\_

5. GE Course units        5  

6. Please present concise arguments for the GE principles applicable to this course.

- General Knowledge      

The course introduces students not only to historical facts, but more importantly, to current working models of minority cultures as well as several leading methodologies in history, literature, and anthropology.
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- Integrative Learning Students will analyze and synthesize different disciplinary and theoretical perspectives in order to better explore central questions/problems in the field(s).
  
- Ethical Implications
  
- Cultural Diversity Issues such as race, identity politics, ethnicity, and religion will be contextualized throughout the course. Throughout the course, students will re-visit these categories in order to pose questions relevant to their own personal stories and/or fields.
  
- Critical Thinking
  
- Rhetorical Effectiveness
  
- Problem-solving
  
- Library & Information Literacy

**(A) STUDENT CONTACT PER WEEK**

1. Seminar:	3	(hours)
<b>(A) TOTAL student contact per week</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>(HOURS)</b>

**(B) OUT-OF-CLASS HOURS PER WEEK (if not applicable write N/A)**

1. General Review & Preparation:	<u>3</u>	(hours)
2. Reading	<u>4</u>	(hours)
3. Group Projects:	_____	(hours)
4. Preparation for Quizzes & Exams:	_____	(hours)
5. Information Literacy Exercises:	_____	(hours)
6. Written Assignments:	<u>2</u>	(hours)
7. Research Activity:	<u>3</u>	(hours)

<b>(B) TOTAL Out-of-class time per week</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>(HOURS)</b>
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**GRAND TOTAL (A) + (B) must equal 15 hours/week**                            15



Seminar  
Naya Lekht  
Slavic Languages/Jewish Studies M98T

## Crisis and War: The Jewish Experience in the Soviet 'Promised Land'

### Class description:

What does it mean to be a nation without a territory or a centralized language? What does it mean to be a minority living in a majority country? How does one define their identity—collective and individual—in a political system that tries to eradicate your ancestral history? What role does language play in that antagonism and violence? Such are the fundamental questions raised by the Jewish experience in the Soviet Union – questions that have equal relevance for other peoples around the world today. Students will explore major themes in literature, art, song, and film produced by Jewish Soviet figures in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The seminar's interdisciplinary approach is made to be accessible for students from literature, history, politics, social sciences, and the arts. The seminar is designed to broaden the topic by analyzing the various underpinnings that impel binary oppositions about minority cultures: particularism vs. universalism, tradition vs. revolution, and national identity vs. Marxism. We will likewise consider what it means to be a minority culture within a majority culture and if such a framework helps further an adaptable model for minority culture(s).

### Grading:

A+ 100%	B+ 87-89%	C+ 77-79%
A 95-99%	B 83-86%	C 73-76%
A- 90-94%	B- 80-82%	C- 70-72%

### Grading Breakdown:

Participation 15%  
Reading/Writing Weekly Response Journal 10%  
Individual Student Presentation 15%  
Book Review (week 6) 5%  
1-page Final Paper Proposal (week 3) 5%  
Final Paper (First Draft week 5) 15%  
Final Paper (Final draft) 35%

### **Week 1: Introduction**

- major questions in the field
- terminology
- theoretical framework

-history of the Jews in the Pale of Settlement

Background Reading:

Yuri Slezkine, Introduction and “Mercury Sandals: The Jews and Other Nomads” in *The Jewish Century*

Gilles Deleuze and Felix Guattari, *Toward a Minority Literature* (pp. 16-28)

Zvi Gitelman, “Thinking about Being Jewish in Russia and Ukraine”

**Week 2: Out of the Pale**

Primary Sources:

I.L. Peretz, “Bonshe Shvayg” (“Bonshe, the Silent”), “Three Gifts”

Sholem Aleichem, “On a Count of a Hat,”

Mendele Mokher Sforim, “The Mare”

S.Y. Agnon, “The Lady and the Peddler”

Isaac Babel, “At Grandmother’s”; Odessa”

Secondary Sources:

Yuri Slezkine, “Babel’s First Love: The Jews and the Russian Revolution” and “Hold’s Choice: the Jews and Three Promised Lands” in *The Jewish Century*

Zvi Gitelman, “Creativity versus Repression, The Jews in Russia,” in *A Century of Ambivalence: the Jews of Russian and the Soviet Union*

For further reading:

Benjamin Nathans, *Beyond the Pale: the Russian-Jewish Encounter with Late Imperial Russia* (introduction and chapter 1: pp. 1-44)

Dan Miron, “The Literary Image of the Shtetl” in *The Image of the Shtetl*

**Week 3: The Revolutionary Impulse: 1905 and Jewish Involvement in the Revolution**

Primary Sources:

Ilya Ehrenburg, “To the Jewish Nation”

Ilya Selvinsky, “Bar Kokhba”

Eduard Bagritsky, “Origin,” “February”

Isaac Babel, *Red Cavalry*, “The Story of my Dovecot”

Secondary Sources:

Jonathan Frankel, “Crisis as a Factor in Modern Jewish Politics,” “Jewish Politics and the Russian Revolution of 1905” in *Crisis, Revolution, and Russian Jews*,

Kenneth Moss, “Making Jewish Culture Bolshevik” in *Jewish Renaissance in the Russian Revolution*

For further Reading:

Barry Trachtenberg, "The Jewish Revolution of 1905" in *The Revolutionary Roots of Modern Yiddish*  
Benjamin Harshav, *Language in the Time of Revolution*

## **Week 4: War and Destruction: Jewish reactions to crisis**

### Primary Sources:

Simon Frug, "Have Pity!" (poem)  
Moyshe-Leyb Halperin, "Night" (poem)  
Perets Markish, "The Mound" (poem)  
Khayim Nachman Bialik, "In the City of Slaughter" (poem)  
Lamed Shapiro. *The Cross and other Jewish Stories* (collection of short stories)

### Secondary Sources:

Lamentations  
David Roskies, "The Rape of the Shtetl" and "The Self Under Siege"  
David Roskies, "The Jewish Search for a Usable Past" in *The Jewish Search for a Usable Past*  
S. Ansky's, *The enemy at his pleasure: a journey through the Jewish pale of Settlement during World War I*: "Appeal to Collect Materials about the World War" and "The Destruction of Galicia" (excerpts from Ansky's journal)

## **Week 5: 'Forever Flowing:' Yiddish literature and NEP**

### Primary Sources:

Moshe Kulbak, *Zelmenyaner*  
Dovid Bergelson, "Joseph Schur"  
David Hofshateyn, "Springtime," "City"  
Leyb Kvitko, "In a Red Storm"  
Istik Kharik, "Shtetl," "Pass on, You Sad Grandfathers," "In Your Little House"  
Itzik Fefer, "In the Dark Corner," "I have never wandered"

### Secondary Sources:

Zvi Gitelman, "Reaching for Utopia: Building Socialism and a New Jewish Culture" in *A Century of Ambivalence*  
Irving Howe and Eliezer Greenberg, *Ashes out of Hope: Fiction by Soviet-Yiddish Writers* (introduction)

### For further Reading:

Mikhail Krutikov, "Crisis of Revolution" in *Yiddish Fiction and the Crisis of Modernity*  
David Shneer, "Engineers of Jewish Souls: Soviet Yiddish Writers Envisioning the Jewish Past, Present, and Future" in *Yiddish and the Creation of Soviet Jewish Culture*.

## **Week 6: High Stalinism and Jewish Literature**

Primary Sources:

Dovid Bergelson, "Three Centers" (an essay)

Der Nister, *The Family Mashber* (part I)

Ilya Ilf and Evgeny Petrov, "The Prodigal Son Returns Home" from *The Little Golden Calf*

Secondary Sources:

Arkady Vaksburg, *Stalin Against the Jews* (pp. 3-102)

Anna Shternshis, "Soviet in Form, National in Content: Russian Jewish Popular Culture" in *Soviet and Kosher: Jewish Popular Culture in the Soviet Union*

For further Reading:

Katerina Clark, "High Stalinist Culture" in *The Soviet Novel*

Sheila Fitzpatrick, Introduction and "The Magic Tablecloth" in *Everyday Stalinism*

## **Week 7: The Second World War (1939-1943)**

Primary Sources:

Vasily Grossman, *Life and Fate* (part I)

Ilya Ehrenburg, "To the Jews," "Jews"

Itsik Fefer, "I am a Jew"

Selvinsky, selection of poems

Satunovsky, selection of poems

Secondary Sources:

Zvi Gitelman, "Politics and the Historiography of the Holocaust in the Soviet Union" in *Bitter Legacy: Confronting the Holocaust in the USSR*

"A Proposal to Organize a Jewish Rally in Moscow (August 16, 1941)," (Document 7) from the JAFC Archives

"Appeal to World Jewry (August 24, 1941)," (Document 8) from the JAFC Archives

For further Reading:

Hans-Heirich Nolte, "Destruction and Resistance: The Jewish Shtetl of Slonim, 1941-44" in *The People's War: Responses to World War II in the Soviet Union*

Shimon Redlich, "The Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee Revisited" (pp. 21-73) in *War, Holocaust, and Stalinism*

Vasily Grossman, "In the Town of Berdichev"

## **Week 8: The Second World War (1943-1946)**

Primary Sources:

Vasily Grossman, *Life and Fate* (continue part I), "The Old Teacher," "The Old Man," "The Hell of Treblinka"

Lev Ozerov, "Babi Yar"

Ilya Ehrenburg, "Rachels, Hayims, and Leahs wander," "Babi Yar," "The Triumph of Man," "To this ghetto people will not come"  
Itsik Fefer, "Shadows of the Warsaw Ghetto" (excerpt), "My Father"  
Margarita Aliger, "To a Jewish Girl"  
Der Nister, "Hate"  
Perets Markish, "The Jewish Warrior"

Secondary Sources:

Shmuel Spector, "The Holocaust of Ukrainian Jews" in *Bitter Legacy: Confronting the Holocaust in the USSR*

Ilya Ehrenburg and Vasily Grossman, *The Complete Black Book of Russian Jewry* (excerpts from testimonials)

For further Reading:

Mordechai Altshuler, "Anti-Semitism in Ukraine toward the End of World War II" in *Bitter Legacy: Confronting the Holocaust in the USSR*

Shimon Redlich, "The Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee Revisited" (pp. 73-109) in *War, Holocaust, and Stalinism*

## **Week 9: The Postwar Years and the Rise of anti-Semitism**

Primary Sources:

Perets Markish, "Babi-Yar"

Vasily Grossman, "Four Days"

Boris Slutsky, "These Abram, Isaak, and Yakov..." "Oh, but we Jews had all the luck..." "Prodigal Son" "Puny Jewish Children"

Aleksandra Brushtein, *The Road Leads to the Edge* (excerpts from a memoir)

Naum Korzhavin, "Of the world of shtetls..."

Secondary Sources:

Joshua Rubenstein, "Night of the Murdered Poets" in *Stalin's Secret Pogrom*

Louis Rappaport, "An Actor's Tragedy: The Murder of Mikhoels," "Assassins in White Coats: The Plot Revealed," "The Jews Brace for Exile: Stalin Prepares His Final Solution" in *Stalin's War Against the Jews: The Doctor's Plot and the Soviet Solution*

For further Reading:

Shimon Redlich, "Toward the End" and "Arrests, Interrogations, Executions" in *War, Holocaust, and Stalinism*

"A Letter to Stalin concerning the Establishment of a Jewish Republic in Crimea" (Document 64)

## **Week 10: Rethinking Minority Literature in post-Stalinist Russia**

Primary Sources:



Efraim Sevela, "The Yiddish-Speaking Parrot"  
Leonid Tsypkin, *Summer in Baden-Baden* (novella)  
Felix Rosener, *A Certain Finkelmayer* (novella)

Secondary Sources:

Zvi Gitelman, "The Black Years and the Gray, 1948-1967" in *A Century of Ambivalence*  
Harriet Murav, "Violating the Canon: Reading Der Nister with Vasilii Grossman"  
Chana Kronfeld, "Beyond Deleuze and Guattari: Hebrew and Yiddish Modernism in the Age of Privileged Difference."

For further Reading:

David Roskies, "The Burden of Memory" in *Against the Apocalypse: Responses to Catastrophe in Modern Jewish Culture*  
Arkady Vaksburg, "Top Secret" in *Stalin Against the Jews*  
Vasily Grossman, "Living Space," "The Road"



## New Course Proposal

### Slavic M98T

### Crisis and War: Jewish Experience in Soviet Promised Land

**Course Number** Slavic M98T

**Multiple Listed With** Jewish Studies M98T

**Title** Crisis and War: Jewish Experience in Soviet Promised Land

**Short Title**

**Units** Fixed: 5

**Grading Basis** Letter grade only

**Instructional Format** Seminar - 3 hours per week

**TIE Code** SEMT - Seminar (Topical) [T]

**GE Requirement** Yes

**Major or Minor Requirement** No

**Requisites** Satisfaction of entry-level Writing requirement. Freshmen and sophomores preferred.

**Course Description** (Same as Jewish Studies M98T.) Seminar, three hours. Enforced requisite: satisfaction of Entry-Level Writing requirement. Freshmen/sophomores preferred. Moments of crisis in modern Jewish Soviet experience tracked through literature (both prose and poetry) produced by Jewish writers living in Soviet Union. How Jews expressed themselves, both aesthetically and politically, in constantly shifting Soviet climate that at once gathered Jews from Pale of Settlement into budding Soviet State and then discarded them in moments of acute anti-Semitism. Letter grading.

**Justification** Part of the series of seminars offered through the Collegium of University Teaching Fellows.

**Syllabus** File [Slavic Lang. 98T syllabus.doc](#) was previously uploaded. You may view the file by clicking on the file name.

**Supplemental Information** Professor David MacFadyen is the faculty mentor for this seminar.

**Grading Structure**

- Participation 15%
- Reading/Writing Weekly Response Journal 10%
- Individual Student Presentation 15%
- Book Review (week 6) 5%
- 1-page Final Paper Proposal (week 3) 5%
- Final Paper (First Draft week 5) 15%
- Final Paper (Final draft) 35%

**Effective Date** Winter 2012

**Discontinue Date** Summer 1 2012

<b><u>Instructor</u></b>	Name	Title
	Naya Lekht	Teaching Fellow

**Quarters Taught**  Fall  Winter  Spring  Summer

**Department** Slavic Languages & Literatures

[Contact](#) Name **CATHERINE GENTILE** E-mail **cgentile@oid.ucla.edu**  
[Routing Help](#)

## ROUTING STATUS

**Role:** Registrar's Office

**Status:** Processing Completed

**Role:** Registrar's Publications Office - Hennig, Leann Jean (lhennig@registrar.ucla.edu) - 56704

**Status:** Added to SRS on 7/28/2011 12:12:06 PM

**Changes:** Title, Description

**Comments:** Edited course description into official version; corrected title.

**Role:** Registrar's Scheduling Office - Thomson, Douglas N (dthomson@registrar.ucla.edu) - 51441

**Status:** Added to SRS on 7/20/2011 5:37:19 PM

**Changes:** No Changes Made

**Comments:** No Comments

**Role:** FEC School Coordinator - Soh, Michael Young (msoh@college.ucla.edu) - 65282

**Status:** Returned for Additional Info on 7/12/2011 12:04:39 PM

**Changes:** No Changes Made

**Comments:** Routing to Registrar's Office

**Role:** FEC Chair or Designee - McClendon, Muriel C (mcclendo@history.ucla.edu) - 53918

**Status:** Approved on 7/11/2011 6:12:38 PM

**Changes:** No Changes Made

**Comments:** No Comments

**Role:** L&S FEC Coordinator - Soh, Michael Young (msoh@college.ucla.edu) - 65282

**Status:** Returned for Additional Info on 6/27/2011 3:26:07 PM

**Changes:** No Changes Made

**Comments:** Routing to Vice Chair Muriel McClendon for FEC approval

**Role:** CUTF Coordinator - Gentile, Catherine (cgentile@oid.ucla.edu) - 68998

**Status:** Approved on 6/21/2011 10:08:42 AM

**Changes:** No Changes Made

**Comments:** on behalf of Professor Kathleen Komar, chair, Collegium of University Teaching Fellows

**Role:** Initiator/Submitter - Gentile, Catherine (cgentile@oid.ucla.edu) - 68998

**Status:** Submitted on 6/21/2011 10:07:24 AM

**Comments:** Initiated a New Course Proposal

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