This term will comprise six weeks devoted to studying primary sources in the field of East European Jewish history and culture, with the balance of the term devoted to workshopping research papers and presenting the results of that research in class. In each of weeks 2 through 7 we will explore a different genre (or genres) of primary source. At the same time, you will begin work on your research paper, bearing in mind that you will be required to have a draft of at least 1,500 words (including an analysis of at least one primary source) ready by Week 6 and a draft of about 2,500 words by Week 7. The final draft of the research paper must be uploaded to D2L by Mon., March 11 at 5:00 pm.

Many readings will be available on D2L. In addition, the following handbooks will be available at the Portland State Bookstore:


You must purchase these books as guides in your research and writing; we will refer to them in the second half of the course.

**Objectives:**

The course will help you learn to:
- Identify different genres of primary source within East European Jewish history and understand their characteristics and idiosyncrasies
- Locate primary sources for your own research using print and online resources
- Organize and express original ideas based on cogent analyses of primary sources, using an array of secondary sources as context and background
- Identify effective and readable prose, and critique narrative passages that are not well written in a helpful and constructive fashion
- Communicate research findings to others by means of a content-rich and accessible presentation

**Requirements:**

1. Attendance and participation. (10%)

2. Primary source analysis: For weeks 2-6, you will write an analytical evaluation of a primary source (750-1000 words), to be uploaded to D2L no later than 10 pm on the Sunday before class. I will drop your lowest grade. (6 x 5% = 30%)
3. **Peer critique:** a cogent, succinct critique of two types of submission:
   a. Analysis of a primary source central to your paper (1,000-1,500 words)
   b. Short paper draft (a sub-section of the research paper) of approx. 2,500 words

   You will upload the drafts to D2L six days before class (i.e. on Wednesday), and upload the ANONYMOUS critique (750-1000 words) by Sunday. Be sure to remove your name from the “Document Properties” field in Microsoft Word, or the analogous field in whatever software you use. Everyone will be expected to have read all the drafts and be prepared to discuss them by Tuesday. (5% x 2 =10%)

4. **Research paper:** 5,000-7,500 words (about 15-20 pp.). Chicago style only. (40%)

5. **Oral presentation:** you will summarize your research findings for the class. This should not be simply a reading of your paper, but an adaptation of your paper for the purposes of an oral presentation. You might think about using PowerPoint to display primary sources, photographs, or even a timeline (using the Timeline Builder available at the website of the Center for History and New Media: [http://chnm.gmu.edu/tools/timelines/](http://chnm.gmu.edu/tools/timelines/)). (10%)

Graduate students will be provided with a supplemental reading list but will participate in all other assessment exercises.
PART I: Primary sources

2  1/15  Research methods and techniques
Overview of course and requirements
Overview of primary sources in East European Jewish history
Introduction to Zotero database

Memoirs

Primary source analysis for today due JAN. 13

3  1/22  Yizkor books
Kugelmass and Boyarin, “Introduction,” in idem.
View “The Yizkor Book as a Window into a World Destroyed” on the library website (URL coming soon).

• Library session on Yizkor books

Primary source analysis for today due JAN. 20

4  1/29  Literary sources and the press
Short stories by Dovid Bergelson, Devora Baron, Isaak Babel, Julian Tuwim
Articles from the Jewish press
D. Roskies, “The Shtetl in Jewish Collective Memory,” in *The Jewish Search for
Archival sources and oral history

Selections from archival documents

Excerpt from Martha Howell and Walter Prevenier, *From Reliable Sources: An Introduction to Historical Methods* (Ithaca, 2001)

Photographs and film

• Presentation by Prof. David Horowitz on Radun
  Please view “Der dibek” (The Dybbuk) and/or “Grine felder” (Green Fields), either in my Yiddish Culture Through Film course (Mon. at 5:30pm in 325 CH – 2/4 for The Dybbuk, 2/11 for Green Fields) or on reserve.


Photographs by Alter Kacyzne at riowang.blogspot.com.

Photographs of Soviet Jews on Flickr.


Religious documents; folk culture and artifacts

• First hour of class to be led by Prof. Deena Aranoff of Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, on the following texts:
  • Rabbinical responsum (TBD)
  • Bernard D. Weinryb, “Responsa as a Source for History: Methodological Problems,” in *Essays Presented to Chief Rabbi Israel Brodie on the


Pashkevils (wall posters) and rabbinical correspondence


Sh. Zabludovitsh, “Customs, Symbols, and Ceremonies,” Kehilat Vengerov: sefer zikaron in Kugelmass and Boyarin, From a Ruined Garden, pp. 119-123.

Yiddish folksongs (texts on D2L; music to played in class from “Yiddish Folksongs from the Ruth Rubin Archive” (CD, 2007).


Yiddish curses.

James A. Matisoff, “Talk: Blessings, Curses, and Other Expressions” in YEJEE.

Selected artifacts from online collections

⇒ Primary source analysis for today due FEB. 17

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**PART II: Writing the research paper**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>2/26</td>
<td>Peer workshopping I: primary source analysis</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Upload paper draft I: primary source analysis (1,000-1,500 words) to D2L by WED. FEB. 20 at 10:00 pm</td>
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<td>Upload critique by SUN. FEB. 24 at 10:00 pm</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>3/5</td>
<td>Peer workshopping II: short drafts</td>
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<td>Upload paper draft II: short draft (~2,500 words) by WED. FEB. 27 at 10:00 pm</td>
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<td>Upload critique by SUN. MARCH 3 at 10:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>3/12</td>
<td>Presentations</td>
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<td>Research paper must be uploaded by MON. MARCH 11 at 5:00 pm</td>
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TBD Presentations and end-of-seminar celebration

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