



The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

The Russia-Ukraine War: History & European Jewry - 13243

Last update 27-08-2023

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

Responsible Department: History of Jewish People & Contemporary Jewry

Academic year: 0

Semester: 1st Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Jonathan Dekel-Chen

Coordinator Email: jonathan.dekel-chen@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: Wednesdays, 9:00 - 10:15

Teaching Staff:

Prof Jonathan Dekel-Chen

Course/Module description:

This is an introductory course for students who seek an understanding of the current Russia-Ukraine War.

We will study the continuity and changes in the ideologies and policies of Russia's regimes vis-a-vis Ukraine as it transitioned from an imperial autocracy to a revolutionary socialist state in 1917 and then, as of 1991, to Russia under President Putin.

All of these will be examined in connection to the fate of Jewish communities in the region.

Course/Module aims:

The goal of this course will be acquisition and greater understanding of the Russia-Ukraine, as well as an improvement of analytical skills when dealing with scholarly materials.

The course will also allow the students to explore the relationship between historical events and collective memory in the public and political arenas in Eastern Europe.

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

Compare and contrast the representations of historical events in scholarship versus collective memory.

Evaluate long-term trends in scholarship and the reasons for its changes.

Think critically about connections between historical events and the general development of historical interpretations of those events.

Construct original written analyses using a multi-disciplinary approach.

Integrate materials from the assigned readings and research materials, together with material collected in class, to support the original analyses.

Make students familiar with the dilemmas faced historically and today by Jewish communities in the Region.

Attendance requirements(%):

100

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Lecture

Course/Module Content:

Lesson 1: Why Should Israelis Care about the Russia-Ukraine War?

Lesson 2: East European Jews in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth and Following the Annexation of Poland.

Lesson 3: The "Jewish Question" in the Russian Empire between Repression and Progress, 1804-1917

Lesson 4: Revolutions, Wars, Sovereignty and Bloodlands, 1918-1922

Lesson 5: National Autonomy and a Hard-Handed Soviet Regime, 1922-1941

Lesson 6: Russia-Ukraine Relations during World War II

Lesson 7: History, Narratives and the Mobilization of Memory, 1941-1991

Lesson 8: The Fall of the USSR and the Rise of Successor States

Lesson 9: Independent Ukraine and the Jewish Community in Post-Soviet Times from "Euromaidan" until the Annexation of Crimea

Lesson 10: The Road to Russia's Invasion of Ukraine

Lesson 11: War and Dilemmas for Jewish Communities

Lesson 12: Russia, Ukraine and their Jewish Communities: What Happens Now?

Required Reading:

יהודית קליק, "היחסים בין הכנסייה הקתולית ליהודים בממלכת פולין-ליטא, "קיום ושבר, כרך א' (תשנ"ז): 193 - 208.

Shaul Stampfer, "What Actually Happened to the Jews of Ukraine in 1648?" Jewish

History 17, no. 2 (2003): 207-227.

Benjamin Nathans, "The Other Modern Jewish Politics: Integration and Modernity in Fin-de-Siecle Russia," in: *The Emergence of Modern Jewish Politics: Bundism and Zionism in Eastern Europe*, edited by Zvi Gitelman, pp. 20-34 (Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2003).

יהודה סלוצקי, "בעיית האחריות לפרעות אוקראינה," *העבר ו"ז" (תש"ל): 4 - 27.*

Christopher Gilley, "Beyond Petliura: The Ukrainian National Movement and the 1919 Pogroms," *East European Jewish Affairs* 47, no. 1 (2017): 45-61.

Andrea Graziosi, "The Uses of Hunger: Stalin's Solution of the Peasant and National Questions in Soviet Ukraine, 1932-1933." In: *Famines in European History: The Last Great European Famines Reconsidered*. Edited by Declan Curran, Lubomyr Luciuk and Andrew G. Newby, pp. 223-260. New York, Routledge, 2015.

Ivan Katchanovski, "The OUN, the UPA, and the Nazi Genocide in Ukraine," *Collaboration in Eastern Europe During the Second World War and the Holocaust* (2019): 177-203.

יורי רדצ'נקו, "ה-OUN, שיתוף הפעולה והשואה כפי שהדבר משתקף בביוגרפיות של לאומנים אוקראינים," *יד ושם מ"ז, כרך ב' (תש"ף): 39 - 73.*

Myroslav Shkandrij, "Breaking Taboos: The Holodomor and the Holocaust in Ukrainian-Jewish Relations," *Polin: Studies in Polish Jewry* 26 (2014): 259-273.

Grzegorz Rossolinski, "Ukrainian Nationalists and the Jews during the Holocaust in the Eyes of Anticommunist, Soviet, German, Polish and Ukrainian Historians: Transnational History and National Interpretations," *Moreshet: Journal for the Study of the Holocaust and Antisemitism* 19 (2022): 341-371.

בטסי גיויץ', "אופייה החדש של האנטישמיות ברוסיה ובאוקראינה אחרי התפרקות ברית-המועצות," *כיוונים חדשים* 9 (2003): 175 - 189.

Jonathan Dekel-Chen, "Crimea 2008: A Lesson about Uses and Misuses of History," *East European Jewish Affairs* 39, no. 1 (April 2009): 101-105.

Alona Bidenko, "Politics and Holocaust Remembrance: The Pursuit of Ukrainian National Identity," *The Holocaust in South-Eastern Europe* (2021): 203-227.

Damian Strycharz, "Dominant Narratives, External Shocks, and the Russian

Annexation of Crimea," Problems of Post-Communism 69, no. 2 (2022): 133-144.

Mark Tolts, "Post-Soviet Jewish Demographic Dynamics: An Analysis of Recent Data." In: Jewish Population and Identity: Concept and Reality: in Honor of Sidney Goldstein. Edited by Sergio DellaPergola and Uzi Rebhun, pp. 213-229. Cham, Switz.: Springer, 2018.

Additional Reading Material:

Grading Scheme:

Essay / Project / Final Assignment / Home Exam / Referat 70 %
Active Participation / Team Assignment 30 %

Additional information: