Syllabus

MUSIC JUDAISM AND MODERNITY - 23965

Last update 18-01-2014

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 2nd degree (Master)

Responsible Department: Musicology

Academic year: 2

Semester: 1st Semester

Teaching Languages: English

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Prof. Edwin Seroussi

Coordinator Email: seroussi@mscc.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: Monday 11:30-12:30

Teaching Staff:
  Prof Ruth HaCohen
  Prof Edwin Seroussi
Course/Module description:
Modernity posed unprecedented challenges to Jews, forcing them into redefining the boundaries of what it means to be Jewish both in the realm of religious and political ideas as well as in the practice of everyday life. Music making, performance and consumption are fields of expressive culture in which such challenges are articulated and negotiated in the most vivid form. This seminar will address a selection of musicians, works, and performance places that exemplify diverse musical reactions to modernity throughout the wide diasporic Jewish experience, in Europe as well as in the Mediterranean and the Middle East.

Course/Module aims:
To analyze the following questions: how does music mediates the confrontation between modern Jews and their non-Jewish fellow citizens and how it complicates established binaries such as sacred/secular; folk/popular/art music; Sephardic/Ashkenazi; Eretz Israeli/diaspora; Hebrew/Jewish languages; authentic/constructed traditions, etc; to examine diverse musical cohabitations of Jews and non-Jews; the creation of new performative spaces such as the Jewish cabaret in Berlin, Budapest, and Vienna; the effects of European colonialism on non-Western Jewish musical cultures with focus on Algeria; to appraise the crisis of modernity – the Holocaust and its aftermath.

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:
Ability to analyze how music mediates the confrontation between modern Jews and their non-Jewish fellow citizens; to criticize binaries such as sacred/secular; folk/popular/art music; Sephardic/Ashkenazi; Eretz Israeli/diaspora; Hebrew/Jewish languages; authentic/constructed traditions; to examine the creation of new performative spaces such as the Jewish cabaret in Berlin, Budapest, and Vienna; the effects of European colonialism on non-Western Jewish musical cultures with focus on Algeria; to appraise how music illuminates the crisis of modernity – the Holocaust and its aftermath.

Attendance requirements(%):
85

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Interactive analyses and discussions of selected readings, musical works and films.

Course/Module Content:
Introduction
The Moment of Modernity

Nusach vs. new cantorial music vs. hassidic music

A Modern Musical Encounter in Colonial Algeria

Jewish Music between Modernity and Modernism

Kol nidre in and between worlds

Allegories of Modernity
After Modernity

Kabbalat Shabbat in Modern Israel
The Jewish in Contemporary Israeli Music

Open discussion: What can one learn from music about modern Jews and Judaism in modernity?

Required Reading:
1. Introduction and General Literature on Jews and the Arts


http://www.marxists.org/reference/subject/philosophy/works/ge/benjamin.htm


2. The Moment of Modernity


Listening:


3. Nusach / new cantorial music / hassidic music / secular music

Mazor, Yaakov, Min ha-niggun ha-hassidi 'el ha-zemer ha-yisra'eli, Katedra 115 (2005), 95-128.

http://www.piyut.org.il/articles/910.html


4. Algeria


Listening:

Edmond Yafil – Chant andalous 1910
Tushya Sikka
Reinette l’Orainesse – Nhabek Nhabek

5. Algeria


Listening:

Lili Boniche – Alger, Alger
Salim Halali – Andaloussia
Salim Halali – Meyn Yiddishe Mamme
Enrico Macias and Cheb Chaled – L’orientale

6. Jewish Music between Modernity and Modernism


Films:

The Jazz Singer
Der blaue Engel

7. Kol nidre in an between worlds


Idelsohn, Abraham Zvi. The Kol Nidre Tune, Hebrew Union College Annual 8, pp. 493-509.


Music:
Schoenberg, Arnold. Kol Nidre (1938)
Golden Age Hazzanim

Films:
Overture to Glory (1940)
Kol Nidrey (1939)

8. Kabbalat Shabbat in Modern Israel


9. Allegories of Modernity


Listening:


Films:
Der Purimshpiler (1937)
The Forgotten Village (1941)

10. After Modernity


Films:
Jud S.
A Foreign Affair (1947)
Nuit et brouillard (1955)

1. The Jewish in Contemporary Israeli Music


2. Final Discussion

Focus on Contemporary Europe


Additional Reading Material:

Course/Module evaluation:
End of year written/oral examination 0 %
Presentation 0 %
Participation in Tutorials 10 %
Project work 70 %
Assignments 20 %
Reports 0 %
Research project 0 %
Quizzes 0 %
Other 0 %

Additional information: