

Class: M W 4:15-7:30
Office: W 3-4, and by appointment

Maeera Shreiber
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Jews and Other Others

This course will explore the relations between Jews and others--including the African American community and the queer community--in the interest of learning more about how racial, ethnic, and sexual difference work to shape that complex concept known as "Americanness." We will read short stories, one novel, one play, and watch a few great films--as we ask:

- *How has Jewish American writing and culture changed during the past century?
- *How do these representations of Jewish Americans challenge or deepen your understanding of American literature?
- *How does this work change your ideas about religion, race and ethnicity?

Texts:

Tony Kushner, Angels in America (Parts I and II) (PDF)

Henry Roth, Call it Sleep

*Essays or readings on Moodle

Requirements:

This is primarily a discussion-based class. Therefore, your participation is paramount. The readings are rich and ambitious. Allow yourself plenty of time to read (and perhaps to reread).

Attendance is required--especially since this is such a short course!

In addition to reading, there will be a fair amount of writing:

--Weekly short responses to the readings (DUE EVERY SUNDAY EVENING BY 10 pm; send to my email: m.shreiber@utah.edu)

--A final paper (length to be discussed)

Schedule (tentative)

Week 1

5/6 Introduction

Cheng, "The Inauthentic Jew" (*)

Watch "Tribe" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PGVxToFPafw>

Emma Lazarus poems and essay (*)

Stuart Hall, "Cultural Identity and Diaspora":

<http://sites.middlebury.edu/nydiasporaworkshop/files/2011/04/D-OA-HallStuart-CulturalIdentityandDiaspora.pdf>

5/8 No Class (Yom Hazikaron)

Week 2

5/13 **Writing #1 Due.**

David Biale, "The Melting Pot" (*)

Henry Roth, Call it Sleep (Books I and II)

5/15 Roth, Call it Sleep (Books II and III)

Hana Wirth-Nesher, "Christ, it's a Kid" (*)

Week 3

5/20 **Writing #2 Due**

The Jewish-Christian Borderderzone:

Grace Paley, "The Loudest Voice": (*)

<file:///C:/Users/u0151875/Desktop/Loudest-Voice-Grace-Paley.pdf>;

<https://beta.prx.org/stories/194010> (audio version, New Yorker)

"T'was the Night Before Hannukah" (*)

Excerpt from Philip Roth's Operation Shylock (*)

Karl Shapiro, "Crucifix in the File Cabinet." "Teasing the Nuns," "Christmas Eve: Australia" (*)

Nathan Englander "Reb Kringle" (*)

Leonard Cohen. "Hallelujah" (*)

<https://forward.com/schmooze/354094/watch-amazing-yiddish-rendition-of-leonard-cohens-hallelujah/>

5/22 Black/Jewish Encounters:

The Jazz Singer (1927 film, available on Amazon and iTunes)

Fires in The Mirror (YouTube):

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLg5zSPvbwPT7GCfZ27ca-xvTEj-5srg6i>

Cornel West, "Foreword" (*)

David Remnick, "Crown Heights" (*)

Gregory Jay, "Other People's Holocausts" (*)

Thomas, "Suffering" (*)

Week 4

5/27 **Writing #3 Due**

Queer/Jewish Encounters:

Angels in America, Part I

Jakobson, "Queers Are Like Jews" (*)

Freedman, "Angels, Monsters, and Jews" (*)

5/29 Angels, Part II--and Beyond...a Glance at "Transparent"

Moss, "The Woman Thing"(*)