

## *Course Syllabus*

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### **Course Information**

HUSL 7309.001      Jewish Literature      Th 7:00 – 9:45 pm  
Spring 2017

### **Professor Contact Information**

David Patterson      Office: JO 4.800  
Email: david.patterson@utdallas.edu      Office Hours: by appointment  
Phone: 972-883-2049

### **Course Description**

Beginning with the origins of the narrative tradition in Jewish cultures throughout history, this course goes on to examine the development of Jewish literary texts in modern times, with a particular emphasis on Yiddish and Hebrew literature. Because the focus of the course is the narrative tradition in Jewish literature, the readings consist of various forms of Jewish fiction, including Jewish folklore, as well as the oral tradition. The texts selected come from a variety of international literatures that include Jewish literature as part of their development. Also to be considered, then, is the interaction between Jewish literature and the non-Jewish cultures in which it develops. The purpose of the course is to impart to students an understanding of the Jewish literary tradition and how that tradition reflects Jewish history, Jewish teachings, and the tensions that shape both.

### **Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes**

The ultimate aim of the course is to arrive at a deeper understanding of the defining themes and aspects of Jewish literature over the centuries.

### **Required Texts**

David Patterson, *Greatest Jewish Stories*  
I. L. Peretz, *The I. L. Peretz Reader*  
Sholem Aleichem, *Tevye the Dairy Man and Motl the Cantor's Son*  
Lamed Shapiro, *The Cross and other Jewish Stories*  
Robert Alter, *Modern Hebrew Literature*  
Arthur Miller, *Focus*  
Isaac Bashevis Singer, *The Penitent*  
Ida Fink, *A Scrap of Time*  
Cynthia Ozick, *The Shawl*  
Elie Wiesel, *Twilight*

### **Assignments & Academic Calendar**

Jan 12: Introduction

Jan 19: David Patterson, *Greatest Jewish Stories*

Jan 26: David Patterson, *Greatest Jewish Stories*

Feb 2: I. L. Peretz, *The I. L. Peretz Reader*, pp. xiii – 138

Feb 9: I. L. Peretz, *The I. L. Peretz Reader*, pp. 138 – 262

Feb 16: Sholem Aleichem, *Tevye the Dairy Man and Motl the Cantor's Son* [**Just Tevye**]

Feb 23: Lamed Shapiro, *The Cross and other Jewish Stories*

Mar 2: Robert Alter, *Modern Hebrew Literature*

Mar 9: Robert Alter, *Modern Hebrew Literature*

Mar 23: Arthur Miller, *Focus* [**Proposal due**]

Mar 30: Isaac Bashevis Singer, *The Penitent*

Apr 6: Ida Fink, *A Scrap of Time*

Apr 13: Cynthia Ozick, *The Shawl*

Apr 20: Elie Wiesel, *Twilight*

Apr 27: Elie Wiesel, *Twilight* [**Paper due**]

### **Grading Policy**

With the approval of the instructor, students may write on any topic pertaining to Jewish literature and the questions addressed in the class. Students will be evaluated on the basis of (1) a 5 to 7-page proposal for an analytical term paper of at least 6000 words, (2) the analytical paper itself, and (3) class participation. The paper will account for 80% of the grade, the proposal 10%, and class participation 10%.

### **Course & Instructor Policies**

No work will be accepted late except under extenuating circumstances. Students are responsible for all information and all instructions given in class. Students are also responsible for all information sent to their UTD email accounts.

### **Technical Support**

If you experience any problems with your UTD account you may send an email to: [assist@utdallas.edu](mailto:assist@utdallas.edu) or call the UTD Computer Helpdesk at 972-883-2911.

### **Student Conduct & Discipline**

The University of Texas System and The University of Texas at Dallas have rules and regulations for the orderly and efficient conduct of their business. It is the responsibility of each student and each student organization to be knowledgeable about the rules and regulations which

govern student conduct and activities. General information on student conduct and discipline is contained in the UTD printed publication, *A to Z Guide*, which is provided to all registered students each academic year.

The University of Texas at Dallas administers student discipline within the procedures of recognized and established due process. Procedures are defined and described in the *Rules and Regulations, Series 50000, Board of Regents, The University of Texas System*, and in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities of the university's *Handbook of Operating Procedures*. Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations (SU 1.602, 972/883-6391) and online at <http://www.utdallas.edu/judicialaffairs/UTDJudicialAffairs-HOPV.html>

A student at the university neither loses the rights nor escapes the responsibilities of citizenship. He or she is expected to obey federal, state, and local laws as well as the Regents' Rules, university regulations, and administrative rules. Students are subject to discipline for violating the standards of conduct whether such conduct takes place on or off campus, or whether civil or criminal penalties are also imposed for such conduct.

### **Academic Integrity**

The faculty expects from its students a high level of responsibility and academic honesty. Because the value of an academic degree depends upon the absolute integrity of the work done by the student for that degree, it is imperative that a student demonstrate a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work.

Scholastic Dishonesty, any student who commits an act of scholastic dishonesty is subject to discipline. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.

Plagiarism, especially from the web, from portions of papers for other classes, and from any other source is unacceptable and will be dealt with under the university's policy on plagiarism (see general catalog for details). This course will use the resources of turnitin.com, which searches the web for possible plagiarism and is over 90% effective.

### **Withdrawal from Class**

The administration of this institution has set deadlines for withdrawal of any college-level courses. These dates and times are published in that semester's course catalog. Administration procedures must be followed. It is the student's responsibility to handle withdrawal requirements from any class. In other words, I cannot drop or withdraw any student. You must do the proper paperwork to ensure that you will not receive a final grade of "F" in a course if you choose not to attend the class once you are enrolled.

### **Student Grievance Procedures**

Procedures for student grievances are found in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities, of the university's *Handbook of Operating Procedures*.

**Incomplete Grade Policy**

As per university policy, incomplete grades will be granted only for work unavoidably missed at the semester's end and only if 70% of the course work has been completed. An incomplete grade must be resolved within eight (8) weeks from the first day of the subsequent long semester. If the required work to complete the course and to remove the incomplete grade is not submitted by the specified deadline, the incomplete grade is changed automatically to a grade of **F**.