

Beyond Borders
Monday 6-8:50pm
University Hall 319

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Office hours: Monday 11am-1pm, or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This reading seminar is designed to explore new perspectives on the development of Jewish, East Central European, European, and Global History through significant recent contributions to the scholarship that move beyond traditional patterns of inquiry. The readings underscore the potential of the transnational approach for the study of connections and interactions across geographic, political, social, cultural, and religious borders. This method is particularly well-suited to the study of diaspora and borderland populations, populations in movement, as well as to populations in regions of variable political frontiers. This class is intended to challenge participants to step back and take a fresh look at their own research interests, questions and frameworks, to expand their individual historian's toolbox, and to aid in preparation for preliminary exams.

REQUIREMENTS

This reading seminar, above all else, is about the close engagement of course participants with the material through writing and discussion based on active reading of the texts. Course participants must come to the seminar table ready for meaningful discussion. This means that all course participants are required to:

- Write a 2-page response to each session's reading assignment, including your thoughts, questions, and comments, due in hard copy in class on the day for which the reading is assigned.
- Write on 5 books of your choosing, in a 5-7 page book review, due in hard copy in class on the day for which the reading is assigned. Submit the list of 5 books you will review with your reading response for week 2.
- Lead discussion at the class meetings for which you have prepared book reviews.

GRADING

Grades for the course will be evaluated as follows:

Discussion	25%
Reading Responses	25%
Book Reviews	50%

Books are available for purchase at University and Folletts bookstores, as well as through internet vendors. Readings marked with an asterisk (*) will be available electronically on Blackboard.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Beyond Traditional Paradigms of Inquiry

1. **1/13:** • "AHR Conversation: On Transnational History," *American Historical Review*, December 2006, pp. 1441-1464*
 - Joel S. Migdal, ed., *Boundaries and belonging: states and societies in the struggle to shape identities and local practices* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004), read introduction, pp.3-23*
 - Mark von Hagen, "Empires, Borderlands, Diasporas: Eurasia as Anti-Paradigm in the Post-Soviet Era," *American Historical Review*, April 2004, pp. 445-468*
2. **1/20:** Martin Luther King Day – no class

Reworking Parameters of Space and Time

3. **1/27:** Marci Shore, *The Taste of Ashes: The Afterlife of Totalitarianism in Eastern Europe* (Crown, 2013)
4. **2/3:** Charles King, *The Black Sea: A History* (Oxford UP, 2006)
5. **2/10:** Mark Mazower, *Salonica: City of Ghosts. Christians, Muslims, and Jews, 1430-1950* (New York: Vintage Books, 2004)

Early Modern Networks: Jews and Crypto-Jews in the Atlantic World System

6. **2/17:** Richard L Kagan; Philip D Morgan, eds., *Atlantic diasporas: Jews, conversos, and crypto-Jews in the age of mercantilism, 1500-1800* (Baltimore : Johns Hopkins University Press, 2009)

Global Commerce, Colonial Economies, and Luxury Goods

7. **2/24:** Sarah Abrevaya Stein, *Plumes: ostrich feathers, Jews, and a lost world of global commerce* (New Haven : Yale University Press, 2008)

Reimagining the Jewish Diaspora: Gender & Dispersion

8. **3/3:** Paula Hyman, *Gender and Assimilation in Modern Jewish History* (University of Washington Press, 1995)
9. **3/10:** Rebecca Kobrin, *Jewish Bialystok and Its Diaspora* (Bloomington and Indianapolis: Indiana University Press, 2010)

10. Spring BreakFrontiers of War

11. **3/24:** Alon Rachamimov, *POWs and the Great War: Captivity on the Eastern Front* (Berg, 2002)
12. **3/31:** Holly Case, *Between States: The Transylvanian Question and the European Idea during World War II* (Stanford, 2009)

13. **4/7:** Timothy Snyder, *Bloodlands: Europe Between Hitler and Stalin* (Basic Books, 2010) [will reschedule this class session due to the Passover holiday]

Frontiers of Displacement

14. **4/14:** Daniel Cohen, *In War's Wake: Europe's Displaced Persons in the Postwar Order* (Oxford, 2012)

Human Rights

15. **4/21:** Samuel Moyn, *The Last Utopia: Human Rights in History* (Belknap, 2010)

16. **4/28:** Concluding discussion