

Twentieth Century American Jewish Women Writers

Engl (12799) / JS 546 (13450) / WGS 546 (14497)

Class meetings: T/TH 9:35-10:50, Hum 126

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Office hours: T 11-12; TH 2-3pm

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Course Description: This course surveys texts associated with American Jewish women writing in the Modern Period by focusing on the effects and influences of gender, ethnicity, race, historical experience, religion, class, and cultural practice. Understanding America to be a broad signifier for regions and countries beyond the United States, we will work with an expanded notion of Jewish American identity that insists on the necessity of other languages besides English as the vehicles for expressing Jewish women's experiences. With that multilingual end in mind, we will then examine how the need for Jewish tradition intersects with how Jewish women have reimagined the religion to include previously excluded female experiences. Although this course emphasizes novels primarily, we will also analyze poetry, essays, and plays, when such works enhance the themes of the course.

You should also remember that Jewish Studies observes all major Jewish holidays, Rosh ha-Shanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot, and Simchat Torah; therefore, if my classes and office hours coincide with the Jewish calendar, they will be cancelled. I will not answer emails during this time.

JS 546 fulfills a requirement for GE Segment III, "Jewish Experience" cluster, Category A/Culture, Philosophy, and Religion. **WGS/JS/Engl 546** fulfills a requirement for the "Gender and Culture: Identities, Images, Interactions," cluster, Category A.

Prerequisites: English 214 or an approved equivalent is a prerequisite for this course.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Survey key texts associated with Jewish women writing primarily in the U.S.
2. Understand the historical conditions that have prompted much of Jewish women's writing generally.
3. Map the development of significant themes in Jewish women's fiction in modernity.
4. Examine the influence of Jewish cultural and religious experience on specific writers.
5. Trace the evolution of Jewish Woman as a category in specific writers.

Required Texts (available in the Bookstore)

Krauss. *History of Love*.
 Ozick. *Puttermesser Papers*.
 Aridjes. *Book of Clouds*.
 Michaels. *Fugitive Pieces*.
 Schine. *Three Weismanns of Westport*.

Recommended Texts and Software: *Iannotate* software program for tablets, ipads; Diana Hacker's *A Writer's Reference*.

Assignments for Undergraduate Credit*:

Assignment	Length	%	Due Date
Short quizzes or papers**	1-3 pgs	15	all semester (unannounced and must complete 90% for credit)
1 paper	5-7 pages	15	
1 Annotated Bib or Grad Prospectus	2-3 pages	10	
Exams (best 3/4)	n/a	60	

*Graduate students can take the course for graduate credit, but they should consult with me as well as their DGS during office hours and in advance of the midterm. Graduate students will complete all undergraduate assignments with the exception of the annotated bib, and the final exam. In place of these assignments, graduate students will write one 15-20 page paper, with a research component to the paper, and a proposal.

**Students adding class late will have to accept that they will not be able to make up quizzes; however, short papers will be accepted under certain conditions.

Last Words about Grading:

As a rule, I do not accept late papers or give make-up quizzes and exams. If you miss a quiz or written assignment, you'll have to take it as a loss. I won't waver from this policy except for extreme circumstances. I expect you to participate actively in this course. Assignments can be turned in any time during the day on which the syllabus states they are due; moreover, they can come as email attachments or hard copies. However, if you do email a writing response, I will not be able to comment on it. If you're having difficulties with any of the assignments, come to see me asap. Don't debate about it; come to my office hours.

I wish to make this course as accessible as possible to students with disabilities or medical conditions that may affect any aspect of course assignments or participation. You are invited to communicate with me at the beginning of the course or at your discretion about any accommodations that will improve your experience of or access to the course. Since the [Disability Programs and Resource Center \(DPRC\)](#) provides the appropriate documentation warranted by the University, you should also contact them at 338-2472 (Voice/TDD).

The University and the College of the Humanities has specific guidelines for students

caught plagiarizing someone else's work. Consequently, faculty have specific guidelines for instances of plagiarism. Therefore, any student who uses the words or ideas of another person, be it author, critic, or another student, without attributing those ideas according to MLA standards, will receive a No Credit for that paper and will not be allowed to revise it; a student who turns in a paper that is substantially or completely written by someone else will receive No Credit for the course. In either case the student will be reported to the SFSU Student Discipline Officer, who may take further action. Students should also consult not only with the teacher about improper attribution, but also the published [guidelines](#) of the University.

Changes in the schedule occur periodically over the semester. Therefore, get into the habit of checking your registered iLearn email address weekly. I will use that address to communicate with you about schedule changes individually and as a class. Failure to check that address does not excuse you from being responsible for any and all assignments and/or their modifications that may come via iLearn.

Tentative Schedule:

Date	Lecture	Readings and Assignments (HW is for the next class)
8/27	Antecedents of Modern American Jewish Women's Writing/Letters, Journals, Judaism	HW: "The Lie" (available through ilearn)
8/29	Mapping Jewish Women's Writing through Judaism, Education, Immigration. Antin discussion.	HW: Yeziarska, Dropkin, Margolin (all one set of readings in ilearn)
9/03	Mapping Jewish Women's Writing through Immigration. Yezierka, Dropkin, Margolin.	HW: Krauss, <i>History of Love</i> .1-74
9/05	Rosh ha-Shanah	Class Cancelled.
9/10	Mapping Jewish Women's Writing through the Holocaust. <i>History of Love</i> .	HW: Krauss, 75-109
9/12	<i>History of Love</i> .	HW: Krauss, 110-191
9/17	<i>History of Love</i> .	HW: Krauss, 192-end.
9/19	Sukkot	Class cancelled.
9/24	Krauss finishes.	
9/26	Shimini Atzeret.	Class cancelled.

10/01	Exam 1. Bring Zeus Scantron, #2 pencil.	HW: <i>Fugitive Pieces</i> , pp. 5-31
10/03	Class cancelled.	Class cancelled.
10/08	<i>Fugitive Pieces</i>	<i>Fugitive Pieces</i> , pp. 31-86
10/10	<i>Fugitive Pieces</i>	<i>Fugitive Pieces</i> , pp. 89-121. Guide to Editorial Marks.
10/15	<i>Fugitive Pieces</i>	<i>Fugitive Pieces</i> , pp. 125-195
10/17	<i>Fugitive Pieces</i>	<i>Fugitive Pieces</i> , pp. 201-end.
10/22	<i>Fugitive Pieces</i> ends.	
10/24	Exam 2.	
10/29	<i>Three Weismanns.</i>	
10/31	<i>Three Weismanns.</i>	
11/05	<i>Three Weismanns.</i>	Resources for Annotated Bibliographies.
11/07	<i>Three Weismanns.</i>	Full instructions are part of the downloadable Assignment . Paper topics are with the assignment. Look at the paper topics before attempting to complete ab. Graduate proposals are due 11/27.
11/12	Exam 3. Bring Zeus Scantron, #2 pencil.	HW: <i>Puttermesser Papers</i> .
11/14	Mapping Jewish Women's Writing through Alienation. Annotated Bib due.	
11/19	<i>Puttermesser Papers.</i>	
11/21	<i>Puttermesser Papers.</i> Graduate Research Projects due.	Classes cancelled.
11/26	Thanksgiving Recess	<i>Book of Clouds</i> pgs. 1-50 app.
11/28	Thanksgiving Recess	<i>Book of Clouds</i> , 50- 70 app. Resources for Graduate Proposals: Florida ; Kansas (on prospectus writing).
12/03	<i>Book of Clouds</i>	<i>Book of Clouds</i> , 70-190
12/05	<i>Book of Clouds</i>	190-end. Study Guide for the exam.
12/10	<i>Book of Clouds</i>	
12/12	Reviewing themes of the course.	

Finals	Exam 4. Bring Zeus Scantron and #2 pencil.	
	All final papers due 12/13 at noon.	Grades posted online in first week of January.