The Jewish Heritage of Polish Galicia

Course tutor(s)

Prof. Jonathan Webber

Description

This is an introductory course. Its main purpose is to present students with the opportunity to assess alternative ways of approaching and describing the realities and representations of the post-Holocaust legacy of the Jewish presence in Poland—through an appreciation of Jewish religious and cultural achievements over many centuries, through an understanding of the Holocaust as it unfolded in the region, and through an examination of contemporary memory processes at work, by both Jews and non-Jews. The focus will be on the area of former Galicia in southern Poland, and the course will include three study visits—to three local synagogues, two local Jewish museums, and to one local Jewish cemetery.

Number of ECTS points

9 ECTS

Prerequisites (if applicable)

None

Course communication

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Notices and announcements

Via USOS

Assessment

[to qualify for assessment, attendance at the classes is obligatory]

- (1) End-of-course student seminar in session 8 (valued at 30% of the assessment): presentations by students on a relevant topic of their choice of approx. 10 minutes, depending on the number of students in the course. Marks will be based on content (structure, knowledge and understanding of the chosen topic), evidence of research, quality of argument, style (communication), and participation in the end-of-course seminar discussion. Prior confirmation with the course tutor of a student's intention to make a presentation, together with a provisional topic, will be required by session 6 of the course.
- (2) Essay, prepared at home (valued at 70% of the assessment): "Imagine that you are the curator of a small new photographic exhibition in a local school in southern Poland on the subject of the contemporary Jewish heritage in Poland (not necessarily the Jewish heritage of the actual locality). Choose four present-day (not historical) photos taken at different Polish Jewish heritage sites of your choice—they may be photos that have already been published (for example, in *Rediscovering Traces of Memory* or in the press) or they may be photos of your own or of a friend. You may include Holocaust sites if you wish, but if so they should not be more than two out of your four photos. You should write (a) captions (minimum 200 words,

maximum 250 words each) for each of these photos; and (b) an essay of 3,000 words briefly introducing your choice of photos but concentrating on explaining your thinking and philosophy underlying the texts of your four captions (with reference to relevant literature as appropriate), and in particular explaining alternative ideas for caption texts that you have considered but rejected. Bibliographic references should be provided for all factual material cited in your essay. Please note that a 'present-day' photo means a photo taken at any time since 1989; proposals of historical photos (defined for this purpose as pre-war photos) will not be considered for assessment."

STRUCTURE OF THE COURSE

No.	Title of the session	Format
1	'Introduction: Who are the Jews? A very	Lecture + Seminar
	brief introduction to Jewish religion and	
	culture relevant to the study of Jewish	
	heritage'	
2	Study visit to three synagogues in Kazimierz:	Lecture + Seminar
	the Rema in Szeroka Street, and the Kupa	
	and the Tempel in Miodowa Street.	
3	'Displaying Jewish religion and culture in a	Lecture + Seminar
	museum context in present-day Poland:	
	What should be shown, and what kind of	
	descriptions should be provided?'	
4	Study visit to two Jewish museums in	Lecture + Seminar
	Kazimierz: the Old Synagogue Museum and	
	the Galicia Jewish Museum.	
5	'Rediscovering the traces of memory of the	Lecture + Seminar
	Jewish heritage of Polish Galicia'	
6	'How is the Jewish Past being Remembered	Lecture + Seminar
	in Poland? Comparing memorialization	
	before and after 1989'	
7	Study visit to the Miodowa Street cemetery	Lecture + Seminar
	in Kazimierz	
8	Student seminar and discussion	Seminar