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Office hours: Wednesdays, Fridays 1-2 PM, and by appointment

Course Description
The course will examine the role of art, as a means of politics and a tool of social transformation, in the post World War I European societies. We will focus on the phenomena responsible for fundamental changes in the public sphere, such mass culture and elite culture, national culture and class culture. The cases of the Russian avant garde art, Jewish (both Yiddish and Hebrew) national theater, the Soviet sponsored proletarian culture will be the principal course material.

We will explore our subject through a variety of primary historical texts and historical scholarship. Each class will be a combination of lecture and discussion. Discussion will draw heavily on the assigned readings, mainly on primary sources. Grading in the course is based on written assignments and on class work (i.e., discussion) that demonstrates critical thinking.

Essential Text

Supplementary Texts
4. Additional readings will be announced and posted by instructor during the semester as needed.

Primary Sources
Movies

Show dates will be announced in class prior to the showing. Film guides with a background information and class assignments on video materials will be distributed as well.

1. October (1927).
3. Chapaev (1934).
5. Dybbuk (1937).

Please note, that all readings, including foundational text by Golomstock, and other assignments, will be available as PDF files through the course web site at e-Learning.

Course Requirements and Grading

1. Four Quizes: will be given every three- to four-weeks period, and will test your knowledge (such as facts, names, dates) of class material (mainly lectures and readings). Each quiz is 5% of the final grade, 20% total.

2. Two Reaction Papers (3-4 pages): one question pertaining to the current theme will be posted weekly. Students are expected to pick up any of those questions, and answer them by integrating readings into their essays. First paper is due at the end of Week VII (February 21). Second paper is due at the end of Week XIV (April 18). Each paper is 10% of the final grade, 20% total.

3. Two film reviews (3-4 pages): an essay answering questions from the movie guides, relating movies to other materials discussed in class. 10% of the final grade. First review is due at the end of Week VII (February 21). Second review is due at the end of Week XIV (April 18). Each review is 10% of the final grade, 20% total.

4. Final Exam: The exam will be an essay drawing on topics discussed in class. 20% of the final grade.

5. Attendance and Participation: You are expected to participate in in-class discussions. This presumes that you DO the reading, COME to class, and PARTICIPATE intelligently and soundly in the discussion. 20% of the final grade.
CLASS SCHEDULE

Weeks I-II
January 6, 8, 10, 13, 15, 17

Introduction: Revolution, politics, and art in the twentieth century. Why and how shall we study them?
   Readings: Golomstock ix-xv.

Background: Imperial Russia and Russian revolution
   Readings: Freeze 267-306.

Background: Russian Jews and Russian revolution
   Readings: Kappeler 353-377.

   Movie: October.

Weeks III-VI
January 22, 24, 27, 29, 31, February 3, 5, 7, 10, 12, 14

Modernism and Totalitarianism

Between Modernism and Total Realism
   Readings: Golomstock 29-80.

   Movies: Bed and Sofa.
           Chapaev.

   Quiz 1: January 27.

Weeks VII-VIII
February 17, 19, 21, 24, 26, 28

Background: From revolution to Stalinism
   Readings: Freeze 307-373.

Background: Jews in the USSR
   Readings: Kappeler 377-382.

   Movie: Triumph of the Will.

   Quiz 2: February 24.
   First reaction paper due: February 21.
   First film review due: February 21.
Weeks IX-X
March 10, 12, 14, 17, 19, 21

Institutions and policies of totalitarian art
  Readings: Golomstock 81-130.

Esthetics, function and language of totalitarian art

Weeks XI-XIV
March 24, 26, 28, 31, April 2, 4, 7, 9, 11, 14, 16, 18

Case study: Moscow State Yiddish Theater, 1919-1938
  Readings: Veidlinger 1-184.

Movies: Dybbuk.
        Jewish Luck.
        Return of Nathan Becker or Seekers of Happiness.

Quiz 3: March 28.
Quiz 4: April 18.
Second reaction paper due: April 18.
Second film review due: April 18.

Week XV
April 21, 23

Concluding Remarks; pre-Final Review; Final exam