

THE JEWISH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY OF AMERICA  
GRADUATE SCHOOL

Spring 1991

Prof. Roskies

Lit 5173y The Literature of the Holocaust

Course Objectives: To develop a hermeneutics of Holocaust literature grounded in the authentic documents of the Holocaust proper, the chronology of the Final Solution, and the geography of the major ghettos and extermination camps.

Requirements: Ten three-page papers.

17 Jan. Songs of the Ghetto

Peysakh Kaplan - Rivkele di shabesdike (1942)  
Leyb Rozental - Yisrolik (1942)  
Leah Rudnitsky - Dremlen feygl af di tsvaygn  
Avrom Akselrod - Baym geto-toyerl; Yaales  
Anonymous - Hot zikh mir di shikh tserisn  
Shmerke Kaczerginski - Yugnt-himen (1942)  
Hirsh Glik - Shtil, di nakht iz oysgeshternt

24 Jan. The Role of Culture in the Nazi Ghettos

From the Ringelblum Archive:  
Shimon Huberband - Concerning the Rescue of Jewish Cultural Treasures in Occupied Poland - KH  
Hirsh Wasser - The Yiddish Culture Organization YIKOR, Warsaw Ghetto, 1940-1942  
A Call for the Establishment of an Organization for "Moral Supply in the Warsaw Ghetto"  
The Saturday Assembly in Honor of Peretz (1941)  
Abraham Lewin - Commemorative Gathering for I. M. Weissenberg (1941)  
Gelle Seckstein - My Will (1942)

Writing Assignment: Uses of the Past in the Cultural Politics of the Warsaw Ghetto.

Dawidowicz: War Against the Jews, part II

31 Jan. The Lodz Ghetto and its Chroniclers: 1

\*Lodz Ghetto: Inside a Community Under Siege, chaps. 1-5.

7 Feb. The Lodz Ghetto and its Chroniclers: 2

Lodz Ghetto, chaps. 6-10.

Writing Assignment: Josef Zelkowicz's Seeing Eye and Hearing Ear.

14 Feb. The Warsaw Ghetto Chroniclers

Emanuel Ringelblum - Oyneg Shabbes (1943) - LOD

\*Oyneg Shabbes - Research Proposals, Essay Contests, Questionnaires

Shimon Huberband - Ghetto Folklore (1941) - LOD

\*S. Sheynkinder - In the Streets (1941)

Peretz Opoczynski - House No. 21 (1941) - LOD; Smuggling in the Warsaw Ghetto (1941) - HOLR; ~~Goyim in the~~

\*~~Ghetto~~; The Jewish Mailman

Writing Assignment: The Ghetto as a Latter-Day Shtetl in Opoczynski's Chronicles

Feb. 21 Ghetto Poets and Pathologists

Yitzhak Katzenelson - Song of Hunger, Songs of the Cold (1941-42) - LOD

Leyb Goldin - Chronicle of a Single Day (1941) - LOD

Chaim A. Kaplan - Scroll of Agony (1941-42) - LOD

Joseph Kirman - I Speak to You Openly, Child (1942) - LOD

Wladyslaw Szlengel - from What I Read to the Dead (1942-43) - LOD + Xerox

Writing Assignment: The Symbolic Value of the Single Life.

28 Feb. PURIM

7 Mar. The Quest for Spiritual Meaning

Hillel Zeitlin, Israel Milejkowski - Answers to a Questionnaire - HOLR

\*Shimon Huberband - Kiddush Hashem: Jewish Religious and Cultural Life in Poland During the Holocaust

Kalonymus Shapiro - from Fire of Holiness (1942) - LOD

Writing Assignment: Stretching Old Archetypes to the Outermost Limit.

14 Mar. The Great Deportation & After

- \*~~Peretz Opoczynski - Warsaw Ghetto Chronicle (1942)~~
- \*Abraham Lewin - Diary of the Great Deportation (1942-43)
- Israel Lichtenstein's Last Testament (1942) - HOLR
- The Bund Appeals to the Polish Government-in-Exile, May 1942 - HOLR
- Yehoshue Perle - 4580 (1942) - LOD
- Anonymous - The Ghetto in Flames (1943) - LOD
- Three Communiqués of the Jewish Combat Organization (1943) - HOLR
- Rachel Auerbach - Yizkor, 1943 - LOD

Writing Assignment: The Birth of a Holocaust Archetype in the Wake of the Great Deportation.

21 Mar. Old and Young in the Vilna Ghetto

- \*Yitskhok Rudashevski - Diary of the Vilna Ghetto, June 1941-April 1943.
- Abba Kovner - A Summons to Resistance in the Vilna Ghetto, January 1942 - HOLR
- Zelig Kalmanovitch - Three Sermons (1942) - LOD
- \*Shmerke Kaczerginski - Itsik Vittenberg LOD
- \*Hirsh Glik - Zog nit keyn mol LOD

Writing Assignment: The Function of Age in the Response to Catastrophe.

25 Mar. A screening of Partisans of Vilna at Goldsmith Moadon, 8:00 pm

28 Mar. The Poetry of Abraham Sutzkever: Vilna & the Ghetto (1941-1942)

4 Apr. PESAH

11 Apr. Sutzkever's Poetry in the Ghetto, Forests & Freedom (1943- 1944)

Writing Assignment: Metaphor as Memory in Sutzkever's Poetry.

18 Apr. Auschwitz

Zalmen Gradowski - The Czech Transport (1944) - LOD;  
\*from The Scrolls of Auschwitz - xeroxed

Writing Assignment: Auschwitz as Apocalyptic Landscape.

25 Apr. The Vittel Writings of Yitzhak Katzenelson

The Song of the Murdered Jewish People (1943-44) - LOD  
from Vittel Diary

Writing Assignment: Personal and Collective Memory in  
Katzenelson's Song

Reading List

\*Adelson, Alan & Lapides, Robert, eds. Lodz Ghetto: Inside a  
Community Under Siege. Viking, 1989.

Arad, Yitzhak. Ghetto in Flames: The Struggle and Destruction of  
the Jews in Vilna in the Holocaust. Holocaust Library  
1982. DS 135 R93 V5 A713.

Danuta, Czech, ed. Auschwitz Chronicles. Henry Holt, 1990. On  
reserve.

\*Dawidowicz, Lucy. A Holocaust Reader. Behrman House pb, 1976.  
[Abbreviated HOLR]

\_\_\_\_\_. The War Against the Jews. Bantam pb or on  
reserve.

Gutman, Israel. The Jews of Warsaw 1939-1943: Ghetto, Under-  
ground, Revolt. Indiana UP, 1982. DS 135 P62 W3 G821.

\*Huberband, Shimon. Kiddush Hashem: Jewish Religious Life in  
Poland During the Holocaust. Trans. David E. Fishman. Ktav  
& Yeshiva UP, 1987. [Abbreviated KH]

Kaplan, Chaim A. Scroll of Agony: The Warsaw Diary of Chaim A.  
Kaplan. Ed. Abraham I. Katsh. 2nd rev. ed. Colliers, 1973.  
DS 135 P62 W3 K32.

Kaplan, Israel. Dos folksmoyl in natsi-klem. 2nd rev. ed.  
Ghetto Fighters' House, 1982. GR 98 K3 1982.



Katzenelson, Yitzhak. The Song of the Murdered Jewish People.  
Trans. Noah H. Rosenbloom. Ghetto Fighters' House, 1980.  
+PJ 5129 A4 K38 L53.

\_\_\_\_\_. Ktavim aharonim begeto Varsha uvemahane  
Vittel. Vol 5. Ghetto Fighters' House, 1988. On reserve.

\_\_\_\_\_. Vittel Diary. Trans. Myer Cohen. Ghetto  
Fighters' House, nd. DS 126.35 F7 K3.

Kermish, Joseph, ed. To Live with Honor and Die with Honor:  
Selected Documents from the Warsaw Ghetto Underground  
Archives. Yad Vashem, 1986. On reserve.

\_\_\_\_\_, ed. Itanut-hamahteret hayehudit beVarsha. Vols.  
1-3. Yad Vashem, 1979-1984. DS 135 P62 W3 Y3.

Lewin, Abraham. A Cup of Tears: A Diary of the Warsaw Ghetto.  
Ed. Antony Polonsky. Basil Blackwell, 1988. On reserve.

Opoczynski, Peretz. Reshimot. Ed Zvi Shner. Ghetto Fighters'  
House, 1970. DS 135 P62 W3 065.

\*Roskies, David G., ed. The Literature of Destruction: Jewish  
Responses to Catastrophe. Jewish Publication Society, 1989.  
[Abbreviated LOD]

\*Rudashevsky, Yitskhok. The Diary of the Vilna Ghetto. Trans.  
Percy Matenko. Ghetto Fighters' House, 1973.