

JEWISH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY OF AMERICA

Jewish Literature 9173x

Prof. David G. Roskies

The Theme of the Holocaust in Jewish Literature

Fall 1976 Course Outline

1. Introduction to the Literature of the Holocaust (September 10)
2. The Holocaust as Presence (September 17)
  - Sylvia Plath -- "Daddy"
  - Irving Feldman -- "The Pripet Marshes," "To the Six Million"
  - Anthony Hecht -- "Rites and Ceremonies"
  - Paul Celan -- "Todesfuge"
3. Culture and Anarchy (September 19, October 7)
  - Curzio Malaparte -- from Kaputt
  - Jacob Presser -- Breaking Point
4. The Psychological Novel (October 8)
  - Piotr Rawicz -- Blood from the Sky
5. Three Jewish Storytellers (October 22, 24)
  - Jurek Becker -- Jacob the Liar (Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, \$7.95)
  - Adolf Rudnicki -- "The Crystal Stream"
  - Jakov Lind -- "Ressurrection"
6. L'univers concentrationnaire (October 29)
  - Tadeusz Borowski -- This Way for the Gas, Ladies and Gentlemen (Penguin pb. \$295)
7. History and Myth (November 5, 12)
  - André Schwarz-Bart ----- The Last of the Just (Bantam pb. \$1.50)
8. The Holocaust as Parable (November 19)
  - Elie Wiesel -- The Gates of the Forest (Avon pb. \$175)
9. Class Presentations (November 21, December 5)
10. Memory and Metaphor (December 3)
  - Abraham Sutzkever -- Green Aquarium

Secondary Sources

- + recommended reading
- \* required reading

C Columbia University, Butler Library  
B Barnard College Library  
S Seminary Library  
Y YIVO Institute Library

1. Methodological Problems

\* Lucy S. Dawidowicz, "Introduction: On studying Holocaust Documents," in her A Holocaust Reader (New York, 1976), pp. 9-21.

\* George Steiner, "The Hollow Miracle," in his Language and Silence (London, 1967).

2. Descriptive Approach

\* A. Alvarez, "The Literature of the Holocaust," Commentary, November 1964, pp. 65-69.

\* Sidra Ezrahi, "Holocaust Literature in European Languages," Encyclopedia Judaica Year Book, 1973, pp. 106-119.

+ Lawrence L. Langer, The Holocaust and the Literary Imagination (New Haven & London, 1975).

Ernst Pawel, "Fiction of the Holocaust," Midstream, June/July 1970, pp. 14-26.

David Stern, "Imagining the Holocaust," Commentary, July 1976, pp. 46-51.

3. National Approach

Edward Alexander, "The Holocaust in American-Jewish Fiction: A Slow Awakening," Judaism, XXV (Summer 1976), 320-330.

+ Robert Alter, "Confronting the Holocaust," in his After the Tradition: Essays on Modern Jewish Writing (New York, 1971).

Cynthia Haft, The Theme of Nazi Concentration Camps in French Literature (1971) (S) D 805 A2 H24

\* Ann L. Mason, "Nazism and Postwar German Literary Style," Contemporary Literature, Winter 1976, 63-83.

+ Jadwiga Maurer, "The Jew in Contemporary Polish Writing," Wiener Library Bulletin XXI, no. 4 (1967), 26-30.

4. Types Approach

Richard Grunberger, "The Literature of Remorse," Jewish Book Annual, XXII (1964/5), 26-41.

Nancy Ann Lauckner, "The Image of the Jew in the Postwar German Novel" (unpublished Ph.D. thesis, 1971). (Y) 3/70366.

Kurt S. Maier, "Images of the Jew in Postwar German Fiction and Drama (1945-1965)" (unpublished Ph.D. thesis, 1969). (C) LD 1237.5D 1969 .M334.

5. Individual Authors

\* Robert Alter, "Elie Wiesel: Between Hangman and Victim," in his After the Tradition.

Shonfeld, Ruth, 2/3 , בחינוך , "על אדולף רודניצקי המספר היהודי" , (1972) , עמ' 111-116.

\* Ruth Wisse, "The Prose of Abraham Sutzkever," intro. to Abraham Sutzkever Griner akvarium un andere dertseylungen (Jerusalem, 1975), pp. V-XXIII.

\* Karl S. Weimar, "Paul Celan's 'Todesfuge': Translation and Interpretation," PMLA 89/1 (Jan. 1974), 85-96.

6. Related Studies

Terrence Des Pres, The Survivor: An Anatomy of Life in the Death Camps (London & N.Y. 1976).

+ Robert Jay Lifton, Death in Life; Survivors of Hiroshima, chap. 12  
(New York, 1968) (C) D767.25 .H6 L4.

+ Aleksandr I. Solzhenitsyn, The Gulag Archipelago. An Experiment in Literary Investigation, parts I-IV.

7. Bibliography

Jacob Robinson, The Holocaust and After. Sources and Literature in English  
(Jerusalem, 1973), Part Seven, chap. 31.

Paper Topics

1. The Holocaust in American Poetry

Anthony E. Hecht, The Hard Hours

(C) PS 3558 .E28 H3 1967b

Galway Kinnell, "The Avenue Bearing the Initial of Christ into the New World"

Charles Reznikoff, Holocaust (S) PS 3535 E98

2. The Bildungsroman (1): The Child

Elie Wiesel Night

Michel del Castillo Child of Our Time

3. The Bildungsroman (2): The Woman

Anna Langfus The Whole Land Brimstone

Susan Fromberg Schaeffer, Anya (Avon pb. \$1.95)

4. History and Myth

Schwarz-Bart, The Last of the Just

Michel Tournier The Ogre (Dell pb. 1975 \$1.50)

5. The Comic Novel

Jurek Becker Jacob the Liar

Romain Gary The Dance of Genghis Cohn (S) PQ 2635 0515 DS

6. The Picaresque Novel

Jerzy Kosinsky, The Painted Bird (Bantam pb. \$1.75)

Gunter Grass, The Tin Drum (Vintage pb. \$2.45)

7. The Holocaust as Parable

Soma Morgenstern The Third Pillar (S) PT 2625 068 T5

Simon Wiesenthal The Sunflower

8. The Mind of the Child

Ilse Aichinger Herod's Children (B) PT 2601 .I26 G7 1963

Arnold Lustig Diamonds in the Night (Y) 1/69387

9. The Camp as Fictional Universe

David Rousset, The Other Kingdom (Y) 3/70604

Jorge Semprun, The Long Voyage (Y) 1/66574

10. The Survivor

Tadeusz Konwicki A Dreambook for Our Time (Penguin pb. 1976 \$2.95)

Edward Lewis Wallant, The Pawnbroker

THE JEWISH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY OF AMERICA

GRADUATE SCHOOL

Jewish Literature 7153y: Responses to Catastrophe in Jewish Tradition

Syllabus - Spring, 1978

[Jan. 20	Lurianic Kabbala as a Response to the Spanish Exile	Siegel
Jan. 27	Jewish Psychological Responses to Catastrophe	Ostow
Feb. 3	Student presentations and discussion	
Feb. 10	The Catastrophe of 1648/9: History and Memory	Bacon
Feb. 17	Responses to Catastrophe in Christian Tradition: Some Examples	Roger Shinn (UTS)
→ Feb. 24	Student presentations and discussion	
Mar. 3	Traditional and Modern Liturgical Responses to Catastrophe	Harlow
Mar. 10	Theological Responses to the Holocaust	Gillman
Mar. 17	Student Presentations and discussion	
Mar. 31	Jewish Behavior During the Holocaust	Isaiah Trunk (YIVO)
Apr. 7	History and Myth in Holocaust Fiction	Roskies
Apr. 14	Bringing it All Together	
May 4	Yom Hashoah: Student -run workshops	

THE JEWISH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY OF AMERICA

GRADUATE SCHOOL

Jewish Literature 7153X: Responses to Catastrophe in Jewish Tradition

Syllabus - Fall, 1977

Sept. 9	Continuity in the Responses to Catastrophe	Roskies
Sept. 16	National Catastrophe and Biblical Faith	Gordis
Sept. 30	Biblical Eschatology and Postbiblical Apocalyptic Literature	Geller
Oct. 7	Discussion	
Oct. 14	Halachic Responses to Catastrophe	Weiss-Halivni
Oct. 21	From Lamentations to Lamentations Rabbah: The Bible as Paradigm	S. Cohen
Oct. 28	Jewish Martyrology and Jewish Historiography	G. D. Cohen
Nov. 4	Discussion	
Nov. 11	Crusader Chronicles and Medieval Piyyutim	Scheindlin
Nov. 18	Pietism as Surrogate Martyrdom? The Pietistic Revival in Early Ashkenaz	Marcus
Dec. 2	Discussion	
Dec. 9	Abravanel and the Expulsion from Spain	Silverman

JEWISH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY OF AMERICA

GRADUATE AND RABBINICAL SCHOOLS

Fall 1979

Prof. David G. Roskies

Jew. Lit. 7153x - Responses to Catastrophe in  
Jewish Tradition

Objectives: To study catastrophe, a central feature of Jewish life, from a variety of textual and methodological vantage points; to bring the tradition to bear on related, contemporary issues; to develop a conceptual, interdisciplinary approach to problem solving. The first semester will focus on premodern texts, the second -- on modern contexts.

Requirements: Weekly reading assignments; biweekly oral presentations; a final paper, a summary of which will be delivered in class, on a premodern text of the student's choice. The student will be required to keep an active file on current events so as to reinterpret these events in the light of each successive period studied.

Sept. 7	Introductory lecture: History, Liturgy & the Shorthand of Destruction	Roskies
Sept. 14	Biblical Myth and Biblical Morality	Greenstein
Sept. 28	Myth and Lamentation	
Oct. 5	Eschatology and Apocalypse	Geller
Oct. 19	Typology in Second Isaiah, Ezekiel, Bk. of Revelation	
Oct. 26	National and Natural Disasters: Megillat and Masekhet Ta'anit	Halivni
Nov. 2	The making of martyrdom: Hannah, Akiva, Ignatius & Polycarp	
Nov. 9	Midrash Eicha Rabba: The Bible as Paradigm	S. Cohen
Nov. 16	A Literary analysis of Midrash Eicha Rabba	
Nov. 30	History and Memory in the Medieval Chronicles	Bacon
Dec. 7	The Liturgy of Anguish	Scheindlin
Dec. 14	Student presentations	

פרופ' דוד-הירש ראסקעס

ספרות ישראל א 7153

תגובות לחורבן במסורת היהודית

ביבליוגראפיה כוללת

א. קבצים

יהודה אבן-שמואל. מדרשי גאולה. פרקי האפוקליפסה היהודית סחתיסח  
התלמוד הבבלי ועד ראשית האלף הששי. מהדורה שנייה, י-ס-ח"א, 1968.

ח.נ. ביאליק וי.ה. רבניצקי. ספר האגדה: חורבן בית ראשון, חורבן  
בית שני, גלות.

סיכה יוסף בן-גוריון (ברדיצ'בסקי). מספור ישראל, סיפורים לאומיים:  
גזירות.

שמעון ברנפלד. ספר הדמעות, מאורעות הגזירות וחרדיפות והשמדות.  
3 כרכים. ברלין, 1926-1925.

הנ"ל. על נהרות ספרד. קינות כמנהג ספרד על חורבן ירושלים  
ועל הפורענויות עד גזירות קנ"א. תל-אביב, 1956.

ח.י. גורלאנד. לקורות הגזירות על ישראל [1768-1648]. הוצאה צילום.  
ירושלים, תשל"ד.

א.ס. חברמן. ספר גזירות אשכנז וצרפת [1298-922]. מהדורה שנייה.  
ירושלים, תשל"א.

ישראל היילפרין. ספר תגבורת, אנתולוגיה היסטורית-ספרותית. 2 כרכים.  
מהדורה שנייה, תל-אביב, 1977.

ב. מקורות (בסדר כרונולוגי)

ספר המכבים.  
יוספוס פלביוס. מלחמות היהודים.

מגילה אסתר.  
אפרים ב"ר יעקב. ספר זכירת, סליחות וקינות. ערך א.ס. חברמן.  
ירושלים 1970.

קינות לחשעה באב.  
סימון בן יוסף חדין. אגרת הנחמה (חורגם לאנגליה).  
משה בן סימון. אגרת השמר, בחוך אגרות הרמב"ם, ערך מ.ד. רבינוביץ.  
ירושלים 1943/4.

הנ"ל. איגרת הימן (חורגם לאנגליה).  
ספר החסידים.

דון יצחק אברבנל. מבואות לספר יהושע, מלכים, דברים.  
הנ"ל. משמיע ישועה.

שלמה אבן ורעה. שבט יהודה. ערך עזריאל שוחט. ירושלים תש"ז.  
סיפור דוד הראובני. ערך א.ז. אשכולי. ירושלים, 1940.

יוסף הכהן. עמק הבכא (חורגם לאנגליה).  
ספר תולדות הארי. ערך סאיר בניהו. ירושלים 1967.

יום-טוב ליפמן העללער, מגילת איבה [1629]  
 נתן-נמט הנובר. יהון המצולה. ערך ישראל היילפרין. ח"א 1966.  
 (חורגם לאנגליה)  
 מאיר בן שמואל. צוק העתים. בחוך גורלאנד, חלק ג'.  
 שבת הכהן. מגילת עיפה. בחוך ישראל היילפרין, בית ישראל בפולין.  
 ירושלים 1953, כרך 2.  
 ספר שבת הבעש"ט.

ג. מחקרים

שלמה אשכנזי, ארבע חקופות של קידוש השם, ספר קארל, סאמרים בחקר  
 חנך. ירושלים 1960, עם' 271-287.  
 גרשון דוד כהן, מעשה חנה ושבעה בניה בספרות העברית, ספר היובל  
 למרדכי קפלן. נ"י 1953, עם' קס-קכב.  
 יעקב כ"ץ, בין חתנ"ו לח"ח, ספר היובל ליצחק בער. ירושלים 1960  
 עם' 318-337.  
 שמואל קרויס, עשרה הרוגי-מלכות, השלוח, 44(1925), 10-22, 106-117,  
 221-253.  
 י. חשבי, תורת הרע והקליפה בקבלת הארי, ירושלים חשכ"ה.

Gerson D. Cohen, "Messianic Postures of Ashkenazim and Sephardim (Prior to Shabbethai Zevi)," Leo Baeck Memorial Lecture, 9 (New York, 1967).

Louis Finkelstein, "The Ten Martyrs," Essays and Studies in Memory of Linda R. Miller (New York, 1938), pp. 29-55.

S. Lieberman, "The Martyrs of Caesarea," Annuaire de l'Institut de Philologie et d'Histoire Orientales et Slaves, 7(1939-44), 395-446.

Jacob Neusner, "Judaism in a Time of Crisis. Four Responses to the Destruction of the Second Temple," Judaism, 21(1972), 313-327.

Shalom Spiegel, The Last Trial. On the Legends and Lore of the Command to Abraham to Offer Isaac as a Sacrifice: The Akedah (N.Y. 1969).

Elias Tcherikower, "Jewish Martyrology and Jewish Historiography," YIVO Annual of Jewish Social Science, I(1946), 9-23.

Yosef Hayim Yerushalmi, "The Lisbon Massacre of 1506 and the Royal Image in the Shebet Yehudah," HUCA Supplement, No. 1 (Cincinnati, 1976).



THE JEWISH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY OF AMERICA  
GRADUATE AND RABBINICAL SCHOOLS

SPRING 1980

Prof. David G. Roskies

Jewish Lit. 7154y: Responses to Catastrophe in Jewish Tradition

Objectives: To explore how the response to catastrophe structures varied aspects of contemporary and Jewish culture: in the visual arts, the social sciences, humanities, in the religious and secular spheres, in Israel and the Diaspora.

Requirements:

- (a) A midterm paper, 10 pages long, which analyzes a personal memoir from various disciplinary approaches.  
Due on March 14.
- (b) A final paper on responses to catastrophe in the life of the Yishuv or the State of Israel. An abstract thereof is due on April 18.

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Jan. 18

Cinema: The Art of Atrocity

1. Night & Fog, Jean Cayrol & Alain Resnais (France, 1955), 31 min.
2. Ambulance, J. Morgensztern (Poland, 1962), 15 min.

Jan. 25

Iconography: The Visual Arts

1. Hans Hofer, "The Film About Terezin: a Belated Reportage," Terezin (Prague, 1965), pp 181-184
2. Lucy S. Dawidowicz, "Visualizing the Warsaw Ghetto," Shoah, vol. 1. no. 1.
3. Judith E. Doneson, "The Jew as a Female Figure in Holocaust Film," Shoah, vol. 1. no 1.

Feb. 1

Intellectual History: The Art of Demythologizing

1. George L. Mosse "The Jews and the German War Experience 1914-1918," Leo Baeck Memorial Lecture, no. 21 (New York, 1977)
2. Uriel Tal, "Religious and Anti-Religious Roots of Modern Anti-Semitism," Leo Baeck Memorial Lecture, no. 14 (New York, 1971).
- \*3. Richard L. Rubenstein The Cunning of History Mass Death and the American Future (New York, 1975). Harper & Row \$2.95.

Feb. 8

Social History: The Art of the Collective

- \*1. Lucy S. Dawidowicz The War Against the Jews 1933-1945 (New York, 1975), Part II. Bantam, \$2.95
2. Erich Goldhagen, "The Mind and Spirit of East European Jewry During the Holocaust," The Beiner-Citrin Memorial Lecture (Cambridge, Mass. 1979).

Feb. 15

Social Psychology: The Art of Survival

- \*1. Terrence Des Pres, The Survivor An Anatomy of Life in the Death Camps (New York, 1976) chaps. 2-7. Pocket Books \$1.95
2. Mortimer Ostow, "Jewish Response to Crisis," manuscript.

Feb. 22

Theology: The Art of Interpretation (David W. Silverman)  
Readings to be announced

Feb. 29

Language and Lore: The Art of the Incongruous

1. Henry Friedlander, "The Language of Nazi Totalitarianism" Shoah, vol. 1, no. 2 (Fall, 1978), 16-19
2. Uriel Tal, "Excursus on The Term: Shoah", Shoah, vol. 1, no. 4, 10-11.
3. H.J. Zimmels, "Glossary of Words & Phrases as Used in Connection with the Nazis," in The Echo of the Nazi Holocaust in Rabbinic Literature (Ireland, 1975).
4. Pogrom Songs: The Balta Pogrom (1881), The Odessa Pogrom (1905)
5. Songs of the Kovno and Vilna Ghettos (1941-43)
  - a. Avrom Akselrod: At the Ghetto Gate, Ya'ales
  - b. Anonymous: Woe is Me, My Shoes Are Torn
  - c. Leyb Rosenthal: Yisrolik
  - d. Leah Rudnitski: Birds are Drowsing on the Branches
6. Nachman Blumental, "Magical Thinking Among the Jews During the Nazi Occupation," Yad Vashem Studies, V (Jerusalem, 1963), 221-236.

Mar. 7

Halachah and Hasidism: The Art of Tradition

1. Peter Schindler "Responses of Hassidic Leaders and Hassidism during the Holocaust in Europe" (unpublished Ph.D. thesis, N.Y.U., 1972), pp. 16-18, 83-109, 136-148. DS 126.33 5327
2. H.J. Zimmels, "The Echo of the Nazi Holocaust in Rabbinic Literature," Proceedings of the Fifth World Congress of Jewish Studies (1969) (Jerusalem, 1972), 186-204.
3. Idem, "How far can the Nazi Holocaust be termed 'Shaath ha-shemad' (religious persecution)?" in Echo, pp 244-250.
4. Irving J. Rosenbaum, The Holocaust and Halachah (New York, 1976), chaps. 2,6.

Mar. 14

Memoir: The Art of Individual Experience  
Student presentations

Mar. 21

Literature: The Art of Travesty

1. S.Y. Abramovitsh, "Hanisrafim" (1897)
2. H.N. Bialik, "B'ir haharegah" (1904)
3. I.M. Weissenberg, "A Shtetl" (1906) A Shtetl and Other Yiddish Novellas, ed. Ruth R. Wisse (New York, 1974),

Mar. 28

Literature: The Art of Violence

- 1. Lamed Shapiro, "White Chalah" (1916) in A Treasury of Yiddish Stories, ed. Irving Howe & Eliezer Greenberg (New York, 1954) pp. 325-333.
- \*2. Isaac Babel, "Discourse on the Tachanka", "The Death of Dolgushov," "After the Battle," "The Rabbi's Son," "Argamak" in The Collected Stories, ed. Walter Morison. NAL \$3.95
- 3. Tadeusz Borowski, "The Man With the Package," This Way to the Gas, Ladies, and Gentleman (New York, 1967).
- 4. Frederick Hoffman, The Mortal No: Death and The Modern Imagination (Princeton, 1964), pp. 158-178.
- 5. David Stern, "Imagining the Holocaust," Commentary (July, 1976).

Apr. 11

Liturgy: The Art of Remembrance

- 1. David G. Roskies, Night Words: A Midrash on the Holocaust (Washington, 1971).
- 2. Mahzor for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, ed. Jules Harlow (New York, 1972), pp. 554-569, 614-617.
- 3. Gates of Repentance, The New Union Prayerbook for the Days of Awe, ed. Chaim Stern (New York, 1978), pp. 429-442.

Apr. 13

Yom Hashoah

Apr. 18

Postwar Responses: The Art of Retraditionalization

- 1. Jacob Glatstein, "Good Night, Wide World" (1938)
- 2. Chaim Grade, "My Quarrel with Hersh Rasseynier" (1951) in A Treasury of Yiddish Stories
- 3. Cynthia Ozick, "The Whole World Wants Us Dead," Esquire Magazine, 1974.
- 4. Report to the President, President's Commission on the Holocaust (Washington, 1979)

Apr. 25/7

Israel: The Art of the Covenant  
Student presentations

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Titles marked by an asterisk are available for your reading pleasure at Salter's Book Store.

## Memoirs

### A. Pre-Holocaust

1. S. Anski. Khurbm Galitsye (=vols. iv-vi of his Gezamlte verk). Vilna-Warsaw- N.Y., 1921.
2. Mordechai Hacohen. Milhemet ha-amim (yoman). 5 vols. Jerusalem-Tel-Aviv, 1929-1930.
3. Rahel Imri (Faygenberg). Megillot Yehudei Rusia 1905-1964. Jerusalem, 1965.
4. Jacob Mestel. Milkhme-notitsn fun a yidishn ofitsir. 2 vols. Warsaw, 1924.

### B. Holocaust

5. Mary Berg. Warsaw Ghetto: A Diary. New York, 1945.
6. Halina Birenbaum. Hope Is the Last to Die. N.Y. 1971.
7. The Diary of Adam Czerniakow
8. Alexander Donat. The Holocaust Kingdom. N.Y. 1965.
9. Moshe Flinker. Young Moshe's Diary. Jerusalem, 1965.
10. Bernard Goldstein. The Stars Bear Witness. N.Y., 1949 (also issued as Five Years in the Warsaw Ghetto).
11. The Diary of Eva Heimann. Jerusalem, 1974.
12. Zelig Kalmanovitch. A Diary of the Nazi Ghetto in Vilna. YIVO Annual of Jewish Social Science, VIII (1953), 9-81.
13. Chaim A. Kaplan, Scroll of Agony, N.Y. 1965.
14. Yitzhak Katznelson. Vittel Diary (May 22, 1943- Sept. 16, 1943) Tel-Aviv, 1964.
15. Gerda Weissman Klein. All But My Life. N.Y. 1957.
16. Herman Kruk. "Diary of the Vilna Ghetto." YIVO Annual XIII (1965), 9-78.
17. Emmanuel Ringelblum. Notes from the Warsaw Ghetto. N.Y. 1958
18. Donia Rosen. The Forest, My Friend. N.Y. 1971
19. Yitskhok Rudashevsky. The Diary of the Vilna Ghetto. Israel 1973.
20. Leon W. Wells. The Janowska Road. N.Y. 1963.
21. Michael Zylberberg. A Warsaw Diary. London, 1969.

East European Jewish Artists

I. 1880-1939

1. Samuel Hirszenberg (b. Lodz 1865; d. Jerusalem 1908)  
[Ahasver (The Wandering Jew) c. 1896]  
Exile (originally titled Refugees) c. 1898
2. E.M. Lilien (b. Drohobycz 1874; d. 1925)  
For the Martyrs of Kishinev 1903
3. Mauricy Minkowski (b. Warsaw 1881; d. Argentina 1930)  
from: Pogrom Victims (sequence) c. 1905
4. Issachar Ber Ryback (b. Elisabethgrad 1897; d. 1935)  
Eve of the Pogrom c. 1918  
Pogrom 1918

II. 1939-

1. Samuel Bak (b. Vilna 1933; lives in Savyon)  
The Wanderer (Trans-plant) 1968/9  
Home 1969  
Yizkor 1971  
Yizkor (Point of Departure) 1973  
Landscapes of Jewish History (sequence) 1975-1977
2. Yosl Bergner (b. Vienna 1920; lives in Tel Aviv)  
Well-furnished Desert 1968  
The View from the Top 1971  
Destination X (2,3) 1974
3. Naftali Bezem (b. Essen, 1924; lives in Jerusalem)  
Itsik Vittenberg c. 1942
4. Marc Chagall (b. Vitebsk 1887; lives in Vence, France)  
White Crucifixion 1938  
The Martyr 1940  
Yellow Crucifixion 1943  
The Crucified 1944
5. Bedřich Fritta (Fritz Taussig) (b. Moravia 1909; d. Auschwitz 1944)  
Incoming Transport  
Potemkin-style shops  
The Cafe  
Going to Work  
Waiting for the Transport to Auschwitz

6. Mendl Grossman (b. Lodz 1912; d. Germany 1944)  
from With A Camera in the Ghetto
7. Nathan Rapoport (b. Warsaw 1911; lives in NYC)  
Warsaw Ghetto Monument

### III. The Artistic Heritage

Rubens, The Horrors of War  
Goya, The Disasters of War 1811-1821  
Delacroix, Liberty Leading the People  
George Grosz, Ecce Homo 1918-1922  
Picasso, Guernica 1938

### Bibliography

- E.H. Gombrich. Symbolic Images. Studies in the Art of the Renaissance.  
Phaidon 1972.
- Albert C. Moore. Iconography of Religions; An Introduction. Phila.  
1977. N7790 M65
- Jewish Museum, N.Y. Jewish Experience in the Art of the Twentieth  
Century. NY 1975. N7415 J482
- Ernst M. Namenyi, "Jewish Impressionists," in Cecil Roth, ed., Jewish  
Art, 2nd rev. ed. New York Graphic Society 1971
- Jozef Sandel. Yidishe motivn in der poylisher kunst. Warsaw 1954.
- Franz Meyer. Marc Chagall: Life and Work. NY: Harry N. Abrams.
- Gerald Green. The Artists of Terezin. NY: Hawthorn Books 1969.
- UAHC. Spiritual Resistance Art from Concentration Camps. NY 1978
- A. Kaufman, "Conversation with the artist," in Bak Paintings of the  
Last Decade. Aberbach Fine Art 1974
- Samuel Bak. Landscapes of Jewish History. Aberbach n.d.

### READING ASSIGNMENT FOR FEBRUARY 22

Theology; The Art of Interpretation

Emil Fackenheim. God's Presence in History. Harper Torchbooks. Salter's.

THE JEWISH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY OF AMERICA

GRADUATE SCHOOL

FALL 1983

Prof. David G. Roskies

Jew. Lit. 5173x : The Literature of the Holocaust

Objectives: To explore the continuity and change in the response of East European Jews in the Holocaust proper.

Writing Assignments: Two short papers due on Oct. 3 and Oct. 17 and a final paper to be presented orally on Dec. 5.

- Sept. 12     Songs of the Ghettos: The folk legacy and its transformation  
\*Dawidowicz, pp. 171-233  
Xeroxed song sheets
- Sept. 19     The Underground Press  
from Kermish, 'Itonut-hamahteret begeto Varsha
- Sept. 26     Reportage, I  
from Peretz Opoczynski, Reshimot (Sketches from the Warsaw Ghetto)
- Oct.    3     Reportage, II  
from Shimon Huberband, Kiddush Hashem  
Dawidowicz, pp. 289-237  
\*Mendel Grossman, With a Camera in the Ghetto
- Oct. 10     Diaries, I  
\*Scroll of Agony : The Warsaw Diary of Chaim Kaplan  
J. Kermish, "Mutilated Versions of Ringelblum's Notes," YIVO Annual of Jewish Social Science 8 (1953): 289-301
- Oct. 17     Diaries, II  
Zelig Kalmanovitch, A diary of the Nazi ghetto in Vilna  
Yitzhak Katzenelson, Vittel Diary
- Oct. 24     The Short Story  
Isaiah Spiegel, stories written in the Lodz Ghetto
- Oct. 31     The Novel  
from Curzio Malaparte, Kaputt
- Nov. 7-14    Lyric Poetry  
the ghetto poetry of Abraham Sutzkeuer
- Nov. 21     Epic Poetry  
Simkhe-Bunem Shayevitsh, Lekh-lekho  
Yitzhak Katzenelson, Dos lid vegn Radziner

- Nov. 28 Lament  
Yitzhak Katzenelson, The Song of the Murdered Jewish People
- Dec. 5 Presentation of Final Papers

Texts:

- Lucy Dawidowicz. A Holocaust Reader. Behrman House pb.
- Scroll of Agnoy: The Warsaw Diary of Chaim Kaplan. Collier Books
- Mendel Grossman. With a Camera in the Ghetto. Schocken pb.

Reference Works on Reserve

- Yitzhak Arad. Ghetto in Flames. The Struggle and Destruction of the Jews of Vilna in the Holocaust
- Nachman Blumental, Verter un vertlekh fun der khurbm-tkufe
- Michel Borwicz, Ecrits des condammes a mort sous l'occupation nazie
- Israel Gutman, The Jews of Warsaw 1939-1945
- Shmerke Kacerginski, Lider fun di getos un lagern
- Israel Kaplan, Dos folks-moyl in Natsi-klem
- Ruta Pups, Dos lid fun geto
- Isaiah Trunk, Judenrat

Writing Assignments (5 pages each)

- Oct. 3 Report on the Oyneg shabes exhibition at the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, 86th at Fifth Avenue
- Oct. 17 The use of analogies in Kalmanovitch's and Katzenelson's diaries
- Nov. 14 The sublimation of reality in Abraham Sutzkever's ghetto poetry

Final Paper Topics

1. Mordkhe Gebirtig and the folk tradition
2. Youth movements and the Mystique of armed revolt
3. Hasidic theodicy in the Nazi ghettos
4. Adolescent diaries: a comparison between Moshe Flinker and Yitskhok Rudashevski
5. Zelig Kalmanovitch and the path of return
6. Ringelblum and the politics of solidarity
7. The search for transcendence in I. Spiegel's ghetto stories
8. Curzio Malaparte and the myth of blood and crucifixion
9. Sutzkever and the making of the Holocaust archetype
10. Katzenelson: poet, prophet and profaner



THE JEWISH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY OF AMERICA

SEMINARY COLLEGE OF JEWISH STUDIES

- Fall 1984      Jewish Lit. 3153x      Prof. David G. Roskies  
Jewish Responses to Catastrophe
- Sept. 12      Liturgy and the Life Cycle  
  
Psalm 137  
Mishna Ta'anit 2:1-5  
Eleazar ben Kallir- kinot for Tisha b'Av  
Av haraḥamim  
Uri Zvi Greenberg - Hazkarat neshamot (1928)  
Abraham Sutzkever - I Feel Like Making a Prayer (1942)  
Jules Harlow - Yom Kippur Mahzor, martyrology  
Defense Dept. of the Israeli Army - sourcebook for Yom  
Hazikaron
- Sept. 19      Lamentation  
  
Eicha (JPS translation)  
Zishe Landau-For All That Ever Has Been Ours (1916)  
Yizḥak Katzenelson-The Song of the Murdered Jewish People  
(1943)  
  
Alan Mintz, Ḥurban: Responses to Catastrophe in Hebrew  
Literature (NY: Columbia UP, 1984), pp. 22-41 - on reserve  
Noah H. Rosenbloom, "The Threnodist and the Threnody of  
the Holocaust", in Katzenelson's The Song - on reserve  
\*David G. Roskies, Against the Apocalypse: Responses to  
Catastrophe in Modern Jewish Culture (Harvard, \$20) chap.  
1, pp. 15-27, 92-94.
- Oct. 3      Prophecy  
  
Isaiah 40-43 (JPS translation)  
Ezekiel 36-39  
Haim Nahman Bialik - B'ir haharegah (1904)  
Uri Zvi Greenberg - from Masa el Eropah (1926)  
    Le'elohim be'Eropah (1951)  
A. Avital, ed. -Shirat Bialik vehatanah, pp. 265-77 - on reserve  
PJ 5053 B5 A16 A8  
Mintz - pp. 41-46, 141-54, chap. 5  
Roskies - pp. 79-92, 263-74.

page two

- Oct. 10      Apocalypse  
Isaiah 24  
Daniel 7-12  
The War of the Sons of Light and the Sons of Darkness (Gaster ed. of The Dead Sea Scriptures)  
Revelation of John  
Moyshe-Leyb Halpern - A Night (1916-1919)  
Lamed Shapiro - White Chalah (1919)  
Piotr Rawicz - Blood from the Sky, Part I (1964)  
The Interpreters Dictionary of the Bible, s.v. Apocalypticism - REF BS 440 163 vol. I  
Roskies - pp. 92-97, 147-55, 225-27
- Oct. 24      Martyrdom  
2 Maccabees 6-7  
Tractate Mourning (Semahot) chap. 8 (trans. Dov Zlotnick)  
B. Berakhot 61b  
B. Sanhedrin 74 a-b  
Church Fathers - Letters of Ignatius, Bishop of Antioch, Martyrdom of St. Polycarp  
Crusade chronicle of Solomon bar Simson  
Martyr's prayer  
Shivhei haBesht, tale 137  
Shimon Huberband - from Kiddush Hashem (1939-1943)  
Roskies - pp. 27-45, 54-57  
\*Shalom Spiegel, The Last Trial: On the Legends and Lore of the Command to Abraham to Offer Isaac as a Sacrifice - The Akedah, trans. Judah Goldin (Behrman House, \$7.95)
- Oct. 31      Theodicy  
Midrash Eicha Rabba - excerpts (A. Cohen, trans.)  
Midrash Eileh ezkerah  
Kalonymus Shapiro - from Esh kodesh (1939-1942)  
Yitzhak Katzenelson - The Song about the Radziner (1942-43)  
  
Mintz - chap. 2  
Roskies - pp. 208-20  
Nehemia Polen, "Esh kodesh: The Teachings of Rabbi Kalonymus Shapiro in the Warsaw Ghetto" (diss., 1983) - on reserve
- Nov. 7       Parody  
Meir of Rothenburg - Sha'li serufah ve'esh  
Isaac bar Shalom - Ani hu hakkonen kinah  
Barukh ben Yehiel - Ein kamokha ba'ilmim  
S.Y. Abramovitsh - Hanisrafim (1897)  
H.N. Bialik - 'Al hashhitah (1904)  
Peretz Markish - from The heap (1921)  
Ghetto songs  
  
Roskies - pp. 62-70, 73-78, 97-101, 185-89.

Nov. 14 Consolation

S.Y. Abramovitch - Shem ve Yefet ba'agalah (1890)  
Sholem Aleichem - A Wedding Without Musicians (1909)  
Jacob Glatstein - Good Night, Wide World (1938)  
Yitzhak Katzenelson - On Bialik's Yortsayt (1940)  
Dror - Intro. to Suffering and Heroism in the Jewish Past in the Light of the Present (1940)  
Leyb Rosental - Yisrolik (1942)  
Shmerke Kaczerginski - Shtiler, shtiler (1942)  
Zelig Kalmanovitch - Passover sermon 1943  
Abraham Sutzkever - To the Child (1943) Under Your White Stars (1942), The Lead Plates of the Rom's Press (1943-45), Frozen Jews (1944), Green Aquarium (1954-55)

Roskies - pp. 70-72, 163-65, 172-76, chaps. 8-9.

Nov. 21 Ani hagever: Personal Testimony

Avigdor Hameiri - from The Great Madness (1925)  
David Bergelson - Among Refugees (1924)  
\*Isaac Babel - from Red Cavalry (1925) - in Collected Stories, ed. Walter Morison (NAL, \$7.95)  
\*Chaim Kaplan - from The Scroll of Agony, ed. Abraham I. Katsch (Macmillan, \$6.95)  
\*Elie Wiesel - Night (1956)

Roskies - chap. 6

Nov. 28 Group Therapy

Avraham Shapira, ed. - Siah lohamim/The Seventh Day (1967)  
Helen Epstein - from Children of the Holocaust: Conversations with Sons and Daughters of Survivors (1979) - on reserve  
Breaking the Silence (1984)

Mortimer Ostow, "The Jewish Response to Crisis", in Judaism and Psychoanalysis (NY, 1982) - on reserve BM 538 P73 J83

Dec. 5 Iconography

Marc Chagall - Crucifixion Series (1938-1944) - on reserve  
Marcel Janco - Kav hakets (drawings of the Bucharest pogrom of 1940) - on reserve  
\*Mendel Grossman - With a Camera in the Ghetto (Schocken pb)  
Gerald Green, ed. - The Artists of Terezin (NY 1969) - on reserve

Roskies - pp. 276 - 310.

ASSIGNMENTS

- Oct. 10      1) Rewrite Shapiro or Rawicz into poetic form – preferably in Hebrew
- 2) Describe the stylistic elements of apocalyse
- 3) Explain how the apocalyptic vision treats earlier sources
- 4) Explain how it incorporates historical data.
- 5) Describe its implicit view of freedom and fate, the individual and the collective, nature and society.
- Nov. 14      The Myths of Group Survival in the Nazi Ghettos
- Dec. 5        Paint a picture, create a collage, take a photograph or describe an existing work of graphic art that expresses your personal view of Jewish or universal catastrophe.

THE JEWISH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY OF AMERICA  
LIST COLLEGE OF JEWISH STUDIES

Fall 1987

Prof. David G. Roskies

Lit. 3153x Jewish Responses to Catastrophe

3 Sept. Liturgy and Memory

Primary Sources: Anthology, secs. 1-3, 24-28, 34, 38-39, 78, 94, 98, 100

Secondary Sources: Yerushalmi, chaps. 1-2  
Roskies, chap. 1

10 Sept. Women, God and History

Primary Sources: Anthology, secs. 4-21

Secondary Sources: Mintz, pp, 22-41, chap. 2

Writing Assignment: How and why are women privileged in these ancient texts?

17 Sept. The Politics of Jewish Survival

Primary Sources: Anthology, secs. 22-23, 29-33, 35-37

Secondary Sources: Halkin-Hartman, pp. 47-51, 67-83  
Chazan, chap. 4

Writing Assignment: Compare the politics of Jewish survival in the medieval Sephardic and Ashkenazic communities.

1 Oct. The Rhetoric of Modern Prophecy

Primary Sources: Anthology, secs. 40-47

Secondary Sources: Roskies, chap. 3  
Mintz, pp. 141-54

Writing Assignment: What rhetorical means are used by Mendele, the Bund, the Hebrew Writers' Union and the speaker in Bialik's poem to move their respective audiences to action?

- 22 Oct. Speech and the Psychology of Violence  
Primary Sources: Anthology, secs. 49-60  
Secondary Sources: Roskies, chaps. 6-7  
Ostow, "The Jewish Response to Crisis"  
Writing Assignment: How do the survivors of catastrophe use speech to "work through" the trauma?
- 29 Oct. The Shtetl as Kehillah Kedoshah  
Primary Sources: Anthology, secs. 48, 61-63  
Secondary Sources: Roskies, chap. 5  
Writing Assignment: How does the new communal covenant replace the one of old?
- 3 Nov. The Poetics of Violence  
Primary Sources: Anthology, secs. 64-70  
Secondary Sources: Roskies, chap. 4  
Writing Assignment: What role do sacred mountains play in the apocalyptic response to catastrophe?
- 5 Nov. The Nazi Ghetto as Kehillah Kedoshah  
Primary Sources: Anthology, secs. 71-77  
Secondary Sources: Roskies, chap. 8  
Writing Assignment: Compare the opposing views on Jewish autonomy in the Warsaw ghetto.
- 12 Nov. Holocaust: Birth of an Archetype  
Primary Sources: Anthology, chaps. XVI, XVIII  
Secondary Sources: Roskies, chap. 9  
Writing Assignment: What are the parts that stand for the whole and when does that whole defy analogy?

19 Nov. Messianism as a Response to Catastrophe

Primary Sources: Anthology, secs. 89-90, 95-97

Secondary Sources: Scholem, "Toward an Understanding of the Messianic Idea in Judaism," "The Messianic Idea in Kabbalism"

Writing Assignment: How is messianism related to catastrophe in the modern era?

3 Dec. Iconography

Primary Sources: The Book of Alfred Kantor Spiegelman, Maus: A Survivor's Tale

Secondary Sources: Roskies, chap. 10  
Adam Gopnik, "Comics and Catastrophe"

Writing Assignment: Is representational art commensurate with the Holocaust?

8 Dec. Student Presentations

#### Course Requirements

Ten 2-page writing assignments due each week.

8 Dec. Compose a liturgy for Yom Hashoah, Yom Hazikkaron or create a Third Seder incorporating new sounds and images of catastrophe.

#### Texts

Anthology - The Literature of Destruction: Jewish Responses to Catastrophe, ed. David G. Roskies (xeroxed).

Chazan - Robert Chazan, European Jewry and the First Crusade (Univ. of California Press, 1987), on reserve.

Gopnik - Adam Gopnik, "Comics and Catastrophe," The New Republic, 22 June 1987 (xeroxed).

Halkin - Crisis and Leadership: Epistles of Maimonides, ed. Abraham Halkin, discussions by David Hartman (Jewish Publication Society, 1985), on reserve.

- Kantor - The Book of Alfred Kantor (NY, 1971), on reserve NC 139 K3 A43.
- Mintz - Alan Mintz, Hurban: Responses to Catastrophe in Hebrew Literature (Columbia Univ. Press, 1984), on reserve.
- Ostow - Mortimer Ostow, "The Jewish Response to Crisis," in Judaism and Psychoanalysis (NY, 1982), on reserve BM 538 P73 J83.
- Roskies - David G. Roskies, Against the Apocalypse: Responses to Catastrophe in Modern Jewish Culture (Harvard Univ. Press, 1984), on reserve or \$9.95 at Book Forum.
- Scholem - Gershom Scholem, The Messianic Idea in Judaism and Other Essays on Jewish Spirituality (Schocken, 1971), on reserve.
- Spiegelman - Art Spiegelman, Maus: A Survivor's Tale (Pantheon, 1986), on reserve or \$8.95 at Book Forum.
- Yerushalmi - Yosef Hayim Yerushalmi, Zakhor: Jewish History and Jewish Memory (Univ. of Washington Press, 1982), on reserve.



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.

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

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 Kalmanovitsh - Three Sermons (1942) - LOD  
Shmerke Kaczerginski - Itsik Vittenberg  
Hirsh Glik - Zog nit keyn mol

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 & Lapidus, 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. `Itonut-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 O65.

\*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.

THE JEWISH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY OF AMERICA  
GRADUATE SCHOOL

Spring 1998

Prof. David G. Roskies

Lit 5173y *The Holocaust in Yiddish and Hebrew Literature*

**Course Objectives:** To develop a hermeneutics of Jewish literary responses to the Holocaust, which is grounded in time, place, language, genre, gender, historical archetypes, and cultural politics.

**Requirements:** One midterm paper and a take-home exam.

I. *Genres*

20 Jan. **Metonymy, Archetype, Antitype**

Abraham Sutzkever - To the Child (1943)  
Dan Pagis - Written in Pencil in the Sealed Railway Car (1970)

27 Jan. **Reportage**

Josef Zelkowicz - 25 Live Hens and One Dead Document (1942)  
Peretz Opoczynski - Smuggling in the Warsaw Ghetto (1941)  
Leyb Goldin - Chronicle of a Single Day (1941)  
Yehoshue Perle - 4580 (1942)  
Zalmen Gradowski - The Czech Transport (1944)

Emanuel Ringelblum - Oyneg Shabbes (1943) - *LOD*

3 Feb. **Popular Song**

Songs from the Cracow, Lodz, and Vilna Ghettos

Gila Flam, *Singing for Survival: Songs of the Lodz Ghetto, 1940-45*,  
pp. 34-47, 146-50.

Robert A. Rothstein - "Homeland, Home Town, and Battlefield:  
The Popular Song."

10 Feb. **The Prophetic Oracle**

Hayyim Nahman Bialik - In the City of Slaughter (1903)

Simkhe-Bunem Shayevitsh - Spring 1942

Abba Kovner - A Summons to Resistance in the Vilna Ghetto, January 1942

Abraham Sutzkever - Song for the Last (1943)  
 Yitzhak Katzenelson - from: *The Song of the Murdered Jewish People*  
 (1943-44)

Roskies, *Against the Apocalypse*, chaps. 8-9.

**Midterm paper (due February 17) - Bialik in the Ghetto: The Actualization of the Modern *Masa***

TBA A screening of *Partisans of Vilna* (USA, 1986).

17 Feb. **Eicha, Tokheha, Elegy**

Rachel Auerbach - *Yizkor*, 1943  
 Jacob Glatstein - from *Gedenklider* (1938-43)  
 Uri Zvi Greenberg - from *Rehovot hanahar* (1954)

Alan Mintz - *Hurban*, chap. 5.  
 Ruth R. Wisse - "Language as Fate: Reflections on Jewish Literature in America."

24 Feb. **The Diary of Survival**

Leyb Rochman - *The Pit and the Trap* (1949).

Marie Syrkin - [Holocaust] "Diaries."

3 Mar. **The Novel of Atrocity**

Ka-Tzetnik - *The House of Dolls* (1955)

Omer Bartov - "Kitsch and Sadism in Ka-Tzetnik's Other Planet: Israeli Youth Imagine the Holocaust."

**II. *Through a Glass, Darkly***

10 Mar. **A Sense of Time, a Sense of Place**

Abraham Sutzkever - *Frozen Jews* (1944); Poem about a Herring (1946);  
 Self-Portrait (1951); *Toys* (1956); *Green Aquarium* (1953-54)  
 Abba Kovner - *Of All My Loves*; *Lord of Dreams* (1965); *My Little Sister*  
 (1967)

Zvia Ben-Yoseph Ginor - "Paradise Betrayed or the Betrayal of Paradise:  
Vilna as Memory in Abba Kovner's Poetry."  
Ruth R. Wisse - "The Prose of Abraham Sutzkever."

17 Mar. **The Palmach Prism**  
[Guest Lecture by Prof. Alan Mintz]

Uri Orlev - from: *The Lead Soldiers* (1956) - *FTH*  
Aharon Megged - *The Name* - *FTH*  
Hanoch Bartov - *Enemy Territory* (1965) - *FTH*  
A. B. Yehoshua - *On Hebrew Holocaust Literature* (1979) - xerox  
  
Gershon Shaked - "Facing the Nightmare: Israeli Literature on the  
Holocaust."

TBA Screening of *The Summer of Avia* (Israel, 1989)

Mar. 24 **The Poetics of Indirection**  
[Guest Lecture by Prof. Alan Mintz]

"Bertha" (1962) - *FTH*  
\*Aharon Appelfeld, *Baddenheim 1939* (1980).  
  
Mintz - *Hurban*, chap. 6.  
Lawrence Langer - "Aharon Appelfeld and the Uses of Language  
and Silence."

Mar. 31 **The Poetics of Suppression**

Shulamith Hareven - *Twilight* (1980) - *FTH*  
Michal Govrin - *La Promenade* (1984) - *FTH*  
Nava Semel - *A Hat of Glass* (1985) - xerox  
Leah Aini - *Until the Entire Guard Has Passed* (1991) - xerox  
Ruth Almog (1993) - *A Good Spot* - xerox

6 Apr. Lecture by **Ilan Peleg** [Seminar Room, 3:30-5:00]  
"The Holocaust and Israeli Political Culture"

7 Apr. **Polarities of Time, Polarities of Place**  
[Guest Lecture by Prof. Yael Feldman]

Ben Zion Tomer - *Children of the Shadows* (1962)  
Yehoshua Sobol - *Ghetto* (1984)



Yael Feldman - "'Identification-with-the-Aggressor' or the 'Victim Complex'? Holocaust and Ideology in Israeli Theater."

Michael Taub - "The Challenge to Popular Myth and Conventions in Recent Israeli Drama."

14 Apr. פסח

21 Apr. The Limits of Storytelling, the Ambitions of Art  
[Guest Lecture by Prof. Alan Mintz]

\*David Grossman, *See Under: Love* (1986).

Alan Mintz - "A Major Israeli Novel"

28 Apr. Personae

Abraham Sutzkever - 1980, 1981

Abba Kovner - *Sun-Watchers* (1972); *Taschlich* (1980) *Xenophon among Jewish Partisans* (1987)

Dan Pagis - from *Gilgul* (1970); *Autobiography* (1975)

Sidra DeKoven Ezrahi, "Conversation in the Cemetery: Dan Pagis and the Prosaics of Memory."

Zvia Ben-Yoseph Ginor - "The *Sheliah Tsibur* as a Poetic Persona: Abba Kovner's Self-Portrait."

Reading List

(Books marked by an asterisk are available at the Labyrinth Book Store, 526 W 112th Street. Titles marked by a plus sign are available from the Faculty Secretary. All articles are on reserve.)

\*Appelfeld, Aharon. *Badenheim, 1939*. Godine \$10.95.

Bargad, Warren & Chyet, Stanley F., eds. *Israeli Poetry: A Contemporary Anthology*. Indiana, 1986. PJ5059 E3I87 1986.

Bartov, Omer. "Kitsch and Sadism in Ka-Tzetnik's Other Planet: Israeli Youth Imagine the Holocaust," *Jewish Social Studies* 3:2 (1997): 42-76.

DeKoven Ezrahi, Sidra. "Conversation in the Cemetery: Dan Pagis and the Prosaics of Memory," in Geoffrey H. Hartman, ed. *Holocaust Remembrance: The Shapes of Memory*. Cambridge. 1994. D804.3 H6494 1994.

Domb, Risa, ed. *New Women's Writing from Israel*. Essex, 1996. PJ5059 E8 N49 1996.

Feldman, Yael. "'Identification-with-the-Aggressor' or the 'Victim Complex'?" Holocaust and Ideology in Israeli Theater: *Ghetto* by Joshua Sobol." *Modern Judaism* 9 (1989): 165-78.

Flam, Gila. *Singing for Survival: Songs of the Lodz Ghetto, 1940-45*. ML 3776 F62 1992.

Ginor, Zvia Ben-Yoseph. "Paradise Betrayed or the Betrayal of Paradise: Vilna as Memory in Abba Kovner's Poetry." *Hebrew Studies* 37 (1996): 83-98.

\_\_\_\_\_. "The *Sheliah Tsibur* as a Poetic Persona: Abba Kovner's Self-Portrait." *Prooftexts* 15 (1995): 227-47.

\*Grossman, David. *See Under: Love*. Trans. Betsy Rosenberg. FS&G, \$14.00.

+Ka-Tzetnik. *House of Dolls*. Trans. Moshe Kohn. NY 1955.

Kovner, Abba. *My Little Sister and Collected Poems*, trans. Shirley Kaufman. PJ5054 K6A 723 1986.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Kol shirei Abba Kovner*. vol. 2. PJ5054 K6A 17 1996.

Langer, Lawrence. "Aharon Appelfeld and the Uses of Language and Silence." *Remembering for the Future: The Impact of the Holocaust on the Contemporary World*, vol. 2 Oxford, 1988, pp. 1602-9.

Mintz, Alan. *Hurban: Responses to Catastrophe in Hebrew Literature*. New York, 1984. PJ 5012 H65 M5 1984.

\_\_\_\_\_. "A Major Israeli Novel." *Commentary* (July 1989).

Pagis, Dan. *Kol hashirim*, ed. Hanan Hever, T. Carmi. Jerusalem, 1991. PJ 5054 P32 K6 1991.

+ Ramras-Rauch, Gila & Joseph Michman-Melkman, eds. *Facing the Holocaust: Selected Israeli Fiction*. [Abbreviated *FTH*.] Phila: JPS, 1985. \$15.00. PJ5059 E8P33 1985.

+ Rochman Leyb. *The Pit and the Trap: A Chronicle of Survival*. Trans. Moshe Kohn & Sheila Friedling. NY Holocaust Library, 1983. \$2.00.

Rothstein, Robert A. "Homeland, Home Town, and Battlefield: The Popular Song," in *Culture and Entertainment in Wartime Russia*, ed. Richard Stiles. Indiana UP, 1995, chap. 6.

Roskies, David G. *Against the Apocalypse: Responses to Catastrophe in Modern Jewish Culture*. Harvard, 1984. PJ 5120 R66 1984.

\* \_\_\_\_\_, ed. *The Literature of Destruction: Jewish Responses to Catastrophe*. Jewish Publication Society, 1989. [Abbreviated *LOD*] DS 102 L58 1989.

Shaked, Gershon. "Facing the Nightmare: Israeli Literature on the Holocaust," Afterword to Ramras-Rauch, *FTH*, pp. 273-88.

Sutzkever, Abraham. *Lider fun yam-hamoves*. New York, 1968. PJ5129 A4 S86 L55.

Syrkin, Marie, "Diaries." in *Encountering the Holocaust: An Interdisciplinary Survey*. Ed. Byron L. Sherwin & Susan G. Ament. Chicago, 1979, pp. 226-43. D810 J4E 525.

Taub, Michael, ed. *Israeli Holocaust Drama*. Syracuse University Press, 1996. PJ 5043 I87 1996.

\_\_\_\_\_. "The Challenge to Popular Myth and Conventions in Recent Israeli Drama," *Modern Judaism* 17 (1997): 133-52.

Wisse, Ruth R. "Language as Fate: Reflections on Jewish Literature in America." *Studies in Contemporary Jewry* 12 (1996): 129-47.

\_\_\_\_\_. "The Prose of Abraham Sutzkever." Intro. to *Griner akvarium un andere dertseylungen* Jerusalem, 1975. PJ5129 A4 S86 G7.

JEWISH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY OF AMERICA  
GRADUATE SCHOOL

Spring 2000    HIST/PHILO/LIT/MJS 5714y    **Approaches to the Holocaust**

Roskies et al. / Thursday 3:30-5:20

**Course Objectives:** Rather than approach the Holocaust from the perspective of the twenty-first century, this course begins at the other end, by attempting to define the range of literary and theological modes of Jewish response to historical catastrophe. What changes, we then ask, were wrought by the Holocaust within the repertory of ancient, medieval, and modern Jewish responses? How did these changes play out differently in different points on the Holocaust compass? Finally, in the postwar era, how has the Holocaust been transformed into a universal construct through the use of multiple lenses and media?

**Requirements:** Ten 2-page writing assignments (worth 50% of the grade), attending the screening of five films, and a final paper. The writing assignments allow the student to synthesize the readings and to react critically to the different disciplinary perspectives. The student is free to focus on any ten sessions. These papers are due no later than 5:00 pm on the Wednesday before class and are to be deposited in a brown envelope affixed to Prof. Roskies's office door. In contrast, the scope and direction of the final paper will be determined by whatever department is granting credit for the course: History, Philosophy, Literature, or Modern Jewish Studies.

**Logistics:** This course is being team-taught by eight different members of the JTS faculty. The course will follow a **שיעור ותרגיל** format. Each class will begin with a formal lecture, lasting roughly from 3:30-4:30. The class will then be divided in half, with one section led by Professor Roskies, the other by Rabbi David Fine. The guest lecturers, wherever relevant, will "do the rounds," and field specific questions. All the lecturers will be available outside of class to discuss the final paper topics and to suggest additional reading.

My office is located in Unterberg 505 and my office hours are Wednesdays from 1:00-3:00. My e-mail address is: [daroskies@jtsa.edu](mailto:daroskies@jtsa.edu). Alternatively, students may contact Rabbi Fine: [dafine@jtsa.edu](mailto:dafine@jtsa.edu).

Course packets are available for sale from the Faculty Secretary, currently located in the gym. Books marked by an asterisk may be purchased at Labyrinth Books, 536 West 112th Street. Otherwise, the assigned readings are all on reserve.

**Screenings:** Each film will be screened twice: on Wednesday evenings and Friday mornings. Students who are unable to attend either screening will be responsible for seeing the films on their own time.

Before

- 20 Jan. **Catastrophe and Countercommentary** **Roskies**
- B. Gittin 56b  
 שפוך חמתך  
 אב הרחמים  
 Isaac Bar Shalom, אין כמוך באלמים (ca. 1147)  
 Hayyim Nahman Bialik, על השחיטה (1903)  
 Peretz Markish, from די קופע (1921)
- Jakob J. Petuchowski, *Theology and Poetry: Studies in the Medieval Piyyut* (London: Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1978), chap. 7. BM670 P5P47.  
 David G. Roskies, *Against the Apocalypse: Responses to Catastrophe in Modern Jewish Culture* (Harvard, 1984), chaps 1-2. PJ5120 R86.
- 27 Jan. **Rabbinic Theodicy** **Kraemer**
- מכילתא בחודש, פרשה י  
 בבלי, ברכות ה, א-ב  
 David Kraemer, *Responses to Suffering in Classical Rabbinic Literature*, pp. 79-101, 165-71, 188-207. BM 645 S9 K7.  
 David Kraemer, *The Meanings of Death in Rabbinic Judaism*, pp. 142-49.
- 3 Feb. **Lamentations and Martyrology** **Scheidlin**
- איך מכל אומות  
 Ephraim of Bonn, את אבותי אני מזכיר  
 Meshulam ben Kalonymus, אלה אזכרה  
 אדברה בצר רוחי  
 Abraham Ibn Ezra, אהה ירד על ספרד  
 Eliezer ben Judah, אשת חיל  
 Kalonymus ben Judah, מי יתן ראשי מים  
 Mystery piyyutim
- Daniel Goldschmidt, ed. מחזור ליום כיפור, pp. 568-73.  
 David Stern, ed. *Rabbinic Fantasies* (JPS, 1990), pp. 143-65.  
 BM512 R22 1990

**During**

- 9/11 Feb. Partial screening of *Shoah* (1985), dir. Claude Lanzmann
- 10 Feb. **Nazi Anti-Semitism and Jewish Responses** **Wertheimer**
- \*Marion Kaplan, *Between Dignity and Despair: Jewish Life in Nazi Germany*. Oxford UP, 1995. \$14.95. DS 135 G3315 K37.
- \*Lucy Dawidowicz, ed., *A Holocaust Reader* (NY: Behrman House, 1976), sections 2-5. \$19.95. DS126.33 H665.
- 16/18 Feb. Screening of *Partisans of Vilna* (1986), dir. Joshua Waletzky, 133 min.
- 17 Feb. **The Ghettos** **Roskies**
- Emanuel Ringelblum, "Oyneg-shabes" (1943)  
 Peretz Opoczynski, "Smuggling in the Warsaw Ghetto" (1941)  
 Leyb Goldin, "Chronicle of a Single Day" (1941)  
 Yehoshue Perle, "4580" (1942)
- Lucy Dawidowicz, *The War Against the Jews 1933-1945* (New York, 1975), chaps. 11-13. DS 125.33 D34.
- Samuel David Kassow, "Vilna and Warsaw, Two Ghetto Diaries: Herman Kruk and Emanuel Ringelblum," *Holocaust Chronicles: Individualizing the Holocaust through Diaries and Other Contemporaneous Personal Accounts* ed. Robert Moses Shapiro (Ktav, 1999), pp. 171-215. D804.18 H67 1999.
- 24 Feb. **The Holocaust and the Soviet Union** **Fishman**
- Mordechai Altshuler, "The Unique Features of the Holocaust in the Soviet Union," in *Jews and Jewish Life in the Soviet Union*, ed. Yaacov Ro'i (Frank Cass, 1995), pp. 171-88.
- Yehoshua Gilboa, *The Black Years of Soviet Jewry*. DS 135 R9 G45. pp. 3-145.
- Mordechai Altshuler, "Jewish Warfare and the Participation of Jews in Combat in the Soviet Union as Reflected in Soviet and Western Historiography," in Zvi Gitelman, ed., *Bitter Legacy: Confronting the Holocaust in the USSR*. DS 135 R92 B54.
- I. Ehrenburg, Vasily Grossman, eds., *The Black Book*. DS 135 R9 C433. pp. 3-13, 77-91, 139-82.

2 Mar. **Three Hasidic Responses****Magid**

Rabbi Yoel Teitelbaum, from the preface to ויאל משה  
 Aviezer Ravitsky, *Messianism, Zionism, and Jewish Religious Radicalism*,  
 pp. 59-66.  
 Rabbi Yessachar Shlomo Teichtal, from אם הבנים שמחה  
 Pesach Schindler, *Hasidic Responses to the Holocaust in the Light of Hasidic  
 Thought*, pp. 37-58.  
 Rabbi Kalonymus Kalman Shapiro, from אש קודש  
 Nehemia Polen, *The Holy Fire: The Teachings of Rabbi Kalonymus Kalman  
 Shapira, the Rebbe of the Warsaw Ghetto* (Jason Aaronson, 1994), pp. 1-22.  
 BM 740 S444 P62

9 Mar. **Auschwitz****Roskies**

Yisrael Gutman & Michael Berenbaum, eds. *Anatomy of the Auschwitz Death  
 Camp* (US Holocaust Memorial Museum, 1994): chaps. 1, 7, 18, 24.  
 D805 P7 A53.  
 Zalman Gradowski, "The Czech Transport: A Chronicle of the Auschwitz  
*Sonderkommando*" (1944)  
 \*Tadeusz Borowski, *This Way for the Gas, Ladies and Gentlemen* (1948)  
 Penguin pb \$12.95. PG 7158 B6

**After**15/18 Mar. Screening of *Au Revoir les Enfants*, dir. Louis Malle (1987), 103 min.16 Mar. **The French Lens****Roskies**

François Mauriac, Preface to Elie Wiesel, *Night* (1958)  
 Elie Wiesel, from *Night* (1956, 1958)  
 André Schwarz-Bart, from *The Last of the Just* (1960)  
 Piotr Rawicz, from *Blood from the Sky* (1964)

Annette Wieworka, "Jewish Identity in the First Accounts by Extermination  
 Camp Survivors from France," *Yale French Studies* 85 (1994): 135-51.  
 Armand Vulliet, "Letters to Claude Lanzmann and to the *Grande Larousse*,"  
*ibid.*, pp. 152-59.

Optional: Naomi Seidman, "Elie Weisel and the Scandal of Jewish Rage," *Jewish Social Studies*, ns 3:1 (1996): 1-19.

23 Mar. **The Theological Lens**

**Gillman**

Eliezer Berkovits, *Faith After Auschwitz*, chap. 4. BM601 B4.  
 Emil Fackenheim, "On the Eclipse of God," in *Quest for Past and Future*, chap. 15. BM601 F3.  
 Richard Rubenstein, in *The Condition of Jewish Belief*, pp. 198-201. M601 C63.  
 Irving Greenberg, "Cloud of Smoke, Pillar of Fire: Judaism, Christianity, and Modernity after the Holocaust," in *Auschwitz: Beginning of a New Era?* ed. Eva Fleischner, pp. 7-55. BM645 H6157.

29/31 Mar. Screening of *Under the Domim Tree*, dir. Eli Cohen (1994), 102 min.

30 Mar. **The Israeli Lens**

**Mintz**

Uriel Tal, "Excursus on the Term 'Shoah'"  
 David Grossman, "Momik," from *See Under: Love* (1986)  
 Aharon Appelfeld, *Baddenheim 1939* (1979)

Alan Mintz, "The Appelfeld World," in *Hurban: Responses to Catastrophe in Hebrew Literature* (NY: Columbia, 1984), chap. 6. PJ5012 H65M5 1984.  
 Gilead Morahg, "Breaking Silence: Israel's Fantastic Fiction of the Holocaust," in Alan Mintz, ed., *The Boom in Contemporary Israeli Fiction* (1997), pp. 143-83. On reserve.

5/8 Apr. Screening of *The Pawnbroker*, dir. Sydney Lumet (1965)

6 Apr. **The American Lens**

**Roskies**

\*Art Spiegelman, *Maus*, Books I-II (Pantheon, 1985, 1991), \$14.00 each. DS135 P6 S62-63.

Terrence Des Pres, "Holocaust *Laughter?*," in *Writing and the Holocaust*, ed. Berel Lang (NY: Holmes & Meier, 1988), chap. 14. DS 126.33 H74 1988.  
 Alan Rosen, "The Language of Survival: English as Metaphor in Spiegelman's *Maus*," *Prooftexts* 15 (1995): 249-62.



13 Apr.

**The Artistic Lens****Roskies**

Ziva Amishai-Maisels, *Depiction and Interpretation: The Influence of the Holocaust on the Visual Arts* (Oxford: Pergamon, 1993). N7417.6 A59 1993.  
 Samuel Bak, *Landscapes of Jewish Experience*, with commentary by Lawrence Langer (Boston: Pucker Gallery & Brandeis UP, 1997). ND979 B27A4 1997.  
 Janet Blatter & Sybil Milton, eds., *Art of the Holocaust* (NY: Routledge, 1981). N7417.6 B59  
 Roskies, *Against the Apocalypse*, chap. 10.

**Additional Reading**

Annette Insdorf, *Indelible Shadows: Film and the Holocaust* (NY, 1983). PN1995.5 H53 I57.

David G. Roskies, *The Literature of Destruction: Jewish Responses to Catastrophe* (JPS, 1989). DS 102 L58 1989.

JEWISH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY OF AMERICA  
GRADUATE SCHOOL

Fall 2005 LIT 5714x **Jewish Responses to Catastrophe**  
Prof. Roskies / Tuesdays, 10:20-12:100

**Course Objectives:** How does one respond when, out of the clear blue September sky, catastrophe strikes--a disaster unlike any other? Must it bring a paradigm shift in its wake? Be given a separate code name? Be regarded as utterly unique? Alternatively, can one disassemble such an unprecedented event into its constituent parts? How does one acquire such analytic skills? What is the interface between historical catastrophe and faith in God? Or faith in one's fellow human beings? In answer, this course will examine a cumulative and internally coherent "literature of destruction" that spans three millennia: popular and elite traditions of Jewish response, from biblical times until the present, with special emphasis on the destruction of the First and Second Temples, the Crusades, the Spanish Expulsion, World War I, and the Shoah.

**Requirements:** In addition to preparing **all** the primary and secondary readings, students are to submit two writing assignments, an 8-10-page essay due **21 October**, and a 15-20-page essay due **18 December**. The first paper will be submitted by e-mail the week of Hol Hamoed Sukkot, when our class does not meet, so please pace yourself accordingly.

**Logistics:** Every student must acquire a copy of *The Literature of Destruction: Jewish Responses to Catastrophe [abbreviated LoD]*, David G. Roskies, ed., which is available for sale at Labyrinth Books, 536 West 112th Street. The secondary readings are available for sale but may be read on reserve instead. *Against the Apocalypse* can be read digitally as an EBOOK using JTS campus computers. If you go into ALEPH and type in the title you will find one of the results' "call number" says EBOOK. Go into that record. Open it fully so that you see on the bottom of the record LINK and click on the link. You will be brought to the Ebooks website of that book. From there, just "agree" to the terms and you will be able to read the book digitally.

Prof. Roskies has scheduled office hours on Thursdays 9:00-11:00 in Unterberg 506, and may be contacted via e-mail (darsoskies@jtsa.edu).

## I. The Classical Tradition

6 Sept.      **Catastrophe and Collective Memory: The Evidence of Popular Song**

Song of the Balta Pogrom – LoD 39  
 Songs of the Kishinev Pogrom - LoD 42  
 Mordecai Gebirtig - Fire!- LoD 67  
 Songs of the Nazi Ghettos – LoD 79, 80, 83-86

David G. Roskies, *Against the Apocalypse: Responses to Catastrophe in Modern Jewish Culture* (Harvard, 1984), chap. 7. PJ5120 R86.

13 Sept.     **What Is an Historical Archetype?**

Galut – LoD I  
 Book of Lamentations – any Hebrew-English edition  
 Hurban – LoD II

Roskies, *Against the Apocalypse*, chap. 2.  
 Alan Mintz, *HURBAN: Responses to Catastrophe in Hebrew Literature*. (Columbia 1984), chap. 1. PJ5012.H65M5 1984

20 Sept      **Apocryphal and Rabbinic Responses**

Kiddush Hashem – LoD III  
 Rabbinic Theodicy in Midrash – LoD IV

Mintz, *Hurban*, chap. 2

27 Sept.     **The Liturgy of Destruction**

History as Liturgy in Ashkenaz – LoD V

Mintz, *Hurban*, chap. 3

4 Oct.        **Rosh Hashanah**

11 Oct.      **The Historical Chronicle**

The Spanish Exile – LoD VI  
 The Golden Age of Polish Jewry – LoD VII

18 Oct.      **Sukkot**

21 Oct. **First Writing Assignment**

The Ten *Harugei Malkhut* (LoD 22) is a late rabbinic, possibly Geonic response of unknown authorship. Show how it transforms the punctual into the transtemporal. Unpack the ways in which it undermines or challenges former traditions. Show how its theodicy resists or rewrites the inherited tradition.

25 Oct. **Shmini Azereth**

**II. Countertraditions**

1 Nov. **Parody & Countercommentary**

Sholem Yankev Abramovitsh - Burned Out - LoD 41  
 Proclamation of the Jewish Labor Bund - LoD 44  
 Proclamation of the Hebrew Writer's Union - LoD 45  
 Hayyim Nahman Bialik - Upon the Slaughter, In the City of Slaughter -  
 LoD 64-47

Roskies, *Against the Apocalypse*, chap. 3.  
 Mintz, *Hurban*, chap. 4.

8 Nov. **Between Metonymy and Myth**

World War I - LoD XI  
 Peretz Markish - The Mound - LoD 64  
 Isaac Lamdan - Masada - LoD 65  
 Yankev Glatstein - Memorial Poems - LoD 69  
 Natan Alterman - Joy of the Poor - LoD 70

Roskies, *Against the Apocalypse*, chap. 4.

15 Nov. **Between Psyche & Sacred Space**

Yosef Hayyim Brenner- The Way Out - LoD 56  
 Lamed Shapiro - The Cross, White Challah - LoD 50, 57  
 Isaac Babel - And Then There Were None, The Rabbi's Son -LoD 59-60  
 The Rape of the Shtetl - LoD XIII

Roskies, *Against the Apocalypse*, chaps. 5-6.

### III. The Holocaust

22 Nov.      **Wartime Chronicles**

Scribes of the Warsaw Ghetto – LoD XV

29 Nov.      **The Poetry of Abraham Sutzkever**

Xeroxed bilingual poems, 1941-81

Roskies, *Against the Apocalypse*, chap. 9

6 Dec.        **Birth of an Archetype**

The Great Lament – LoD XVIII

Roskies, *Against the Apocalypse*, chap. 8.

13 Dec.      **Art and Iconography**

*Ambulance*, dir. Janusz Morgenstern (Poland 1962)

Roskies, *Against the Apocalypse*, chap. 10.

18 Dec.      **Second Writing Assignment**

Choose one Jewish-authored classic of Holocaust literature from the following list and situate it within the Literature of Destruction.

Primo Levi, *Survival in Auschwitz/If This Be a Man* (1946)

Elie Wiesel, *Night* (1958)

André Schwarz-Bart, *The Last of the Just* (1959)

Piotr Rawicz, *Blood from the Sky* (1964)

Jerzy Kosinski, *The Painted Bird* (1965)

Jurek Becker, *Jacob the Liar* (1969)

Aharon Appelfeld, *The Age of Wonders* (1978)

Art Spiegelman, *Maus: A Survivor's Tale I* (1985)

Ida Fink, *A Scrap of Time: Stories* (1987)

## KIDDUSH HASHEM: BIRTH OF AN ARCHETYPE

### Biblical

[Akedah/עקידה]

5. Ezek. 36:2-28: God will vindicate His honor.

### Hellenistic

10. 2 Maccabees 6-7 by Jason of Cyrene:  
Eleazar the Priest; the mother and her seven sons.  
Antiochus Epiphanes  
Belief in the afterlife  
Rhetoric of martyrdom.  
[Cf. B. Gittin 57b; Midrash on Lamentations, **17-19**]
11. Dan. 3:13-33:  
Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah rescued because they are blameless;  
Antiochus-as-Nebuchadnezzar

### Tanaitic

12. Tractate "Mourning"/Semahot:  
Martyrs of Caesarea; בשעת השמד /Hadrianic persecution

### Amoraic

13. B. Berakhot 61b: Martyrdom of Rabbi Akiva;  
accepts suffering with love
- B. Sanhedrin 74a-b: "legal" parameters of martyrdom

### Byzantine [?]

22. Midrash Eleh Ezkerah: combines **10, 12, 13**  
עשרה הרוגי מלכות  
Nomenclature: *Harugei malkhut*: put to death for treason against Jewish king.

### Medieval Ashkenaz

23. Crusade Chronicle of Solomon bar Simson;  
recorded in 1140 from eyewitnesses
28. The Martyr's Prayer by Isaiah Horowitz (של"ה)

## Women, God & History

### Biblical

1. Covenant Curses  
Deut. 28:56-57; cannibalism
  
3. By the Rivers of Babylon  
Zion vs. Fair Babylon
  
4. Lamentations  
1:1-2: Zion-as-a-widow  
2:13: What can I compare or liken to you, O Fair Jerusalem?  
2:20: Covenant curse as reality

### Hellenistic

10. 2 Macc.  
Nameless Mother-and-her-7 sons  
resurrection linked to procreation

### Tanaitic

12. Rabbinic Martyrs  
Semahot 8:12: Hanina b. Tardion's daughter

### Amoraic

- Midrash on Lamentations
16. Moses & Mother Rachel
  17. Martyrdom at Sea
  18. The wife of Trajan
  19. The daughter of Zadok the High Priest
  20. The parable of the ketubbah

### Questions

1. Are women somehow more implicated in the covenantal scheme?
2. Does a literature produced by men essentialize womankind?
3. Is there any discernible change in the representation of women?

Our Rabbis taught: Once the wicked Government<sup>1)</sup> issued a decree forbidding the Jews to study and practise the Torah. Pappus b. Judah came and found R. Akiba publicly bringing gatherings together and occupying himself with the Torah. He said to him: Akiba, are you not afraid of the Government? He replied: I will explain to you with a parable. A fox was once walking alongside of a river, and he saw fishes going in swarms from one place to another. He said to them: From what are you fleeing? They replied: From the nets cast for us by men. He said to them: Would you like to come up on to the dry land so that you and I can live together in the way that my ancestors lived with your ancestors? They replied: Art thou the one that they call the cleverest of animals? Thou art not clever but foolish. If we are afraid in the element in which we live, how much more in the element in which we would die! So it is with us. If such is our condition when we sit and study the Torah, of which it is written, *For that is thy life and the length of thy days,*<sup>2</sup> if we go and neglect it how much worse off we shall be! It is related that soon afterwards R. Akiba was arrested and thrown into prison, and Pappus b. Judah was also arrested and imprisoned next to him. He said to him: Pappus, who brought you here? He replied: Happy are you, R. Akiba, that you have been seized for busying yourself with the Torah! Alas for Pappus who has been seized for busying himself with idle things! When R. Akiba was taken out for execution, it was the hour for the recital of the *Shema*,<sup>3</sup> and while they combed his flesh with iron combs, he was accepting upon himself the kingship of heaven.<sup>4</sup> His disciples said to him: Our teacher, even to this point? He said to them: All my days I have been troubled by this verse, *'with all thy soul'*, [which I interpret,] *'even if He takes thy soul'*. I said: When shall I have the opportunity of fulfilling this? Now that I have the opportunity shall I not fulfil it? He prolonged the word *ehad*<sup>4</sup> until he expired while saying it. A *bath kol*<sup>5</sup> went forth and proclaimed: Happy art thou, Akiba, that thy soul has departed with the word *ehad*! The ministering angels said before the Holy One, blessed be He: Such Torah, and such a reward? [He should have been] *from them that die by Thy hand, O Lord.*<sup>6</sup> He replied to them: *Their portion is in life.*<sup>7</sup> A *bath kol* went forth and proclaimed, Happy art thou, R. Akiba, that thou art destined for the life of the world to come.

וְאֵהֶבֶת אֶת ה' אֱלֹהֶיךָ: בְּתַנְיָא ר' אֲלִיעֶזֶר אוֹמֵר אִם נֹאמֵר בְּכָל נִפְשֶׁךָ לְמָה נֹאמֵר בְּכָל מֵאֲדָךְ וְאִם נֹאמֵר בְּכָל מֵאֲדָךְ לְמָה נֹאמֵר בְּכָל נִפְשֶׁךָ אִלָּא אִם יֵשׁ לְךָ אָדָם שְׂגוּפּוֹ חָבִיב עָלָיו מִמְמוֹנּוֹ לְכָךְ נֹאמֵר בְּכָל נִפְשֶׁךָ וְאִם יֵשׁ לְךָ אָדָם שְׂמֻמוֹנוֹ חָבִיב עָלָיו מִגּוּפוֹ לְכָךְ נֹאמֵר בְּכָל מֵאֲדָךְ ר"ע אוֹמֵר בְּכָל נִפְשֶׁךָ אִפְיֵי נוֹטֵל אֶת נִפְשֶׁךָ תֵּנוּ רַבָּנִן פַּעַם אַחַת גְּזֵרָה מַלְכוּת הַרְשָׁעָה שְׁלֵא יַעֲסֻקוּ יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּתוֹרָה בְּאֵ פְּפוּס בֵּן יְהוּדָה וּמִצְאוֹ לר"ע שְׁהִיָּה מְקַהֵל קְהֵלוֹת בְּרַבִּים וְעוֹסֵק בְּתוֹרָה אֹמֵר לִיָּה עֲקִיבָא אִי אַתָּה מִתִּירָא מִפְּנֵי מַלְכוּת אֹמֵר לוֹ אֲמִשׁוּל לְךָ מִשְׁלַל לְמָה הַדְּבַר

דומה לשועל שהיה מהלך על גב הנהר וראה דגים שהיו מתקבצים במקום למקום אמר להם מפני מה אתם בורחים אמרו לו מפני רשתות שמביאין עלינו בני אדם אמר להם רצונכם שתעלו ליבשה ונדזור אני ואתם כשם שדרו אבותי עם אבותיכם אמרו לו אתה הוא שאומרים עליך פקח שבחיות לא פקח אתה אלא טפש אתה ומה במקום תיותנו אנו מתיראין במקום מיתתנו על אחת כמה וכמה אף אנחנו עכשיו שאנו יושבים ועוסקים בתורה שכתוב בה (דברים ל) כי הוא חייך ואורך ימין כך אם אנו הולכים ומבטלים ממנה על אחת כמה וכמה אמרו לא היו ימים מועטים עד שתפסוהו לר"ע וחבשוהו בבית האסורים ותפסו לפפוס בן יהודה וחבשוהו אצלו אמר לו פפוס מי הביאך לכאן אמר ליה אשריך ר' עקיבא שנתפסת על דברי תורה אוי לו לפפוס שנתפס על דברים בטלים בשעה שהוציאו את ר' עקיבא להריגה זמן ק"ש היה והיו סורקים את בשרו במסרקות של ברזל והיה מקבל עליו עול מלכות שמים אמרו לו תלמידיו רבינו עד כאן אמר להם כל ימי הייתי מצטער על פסוק זה בכל נפשך אפי' נוטל את נשמתך אמרתי מתי יבא לידי ואקיימנו ועכשיו שבא לידי לא אקיימנו היה מאריך באחד עד שיצתה נשמתו באחד בת קול ואמרה אשריך ר"ע שיצאה נשמתך באחד אמרו מלאכי השרת לפני הקב"ה זו תורה וזו שכרה (ספלים י) ממתים ידך ה' ממתים וגו' אמר להם חלקם בחיים יצתה בת קול ואמרה אשריך ר"ע שאתה מזומן לחיי העוה"ב:



## Traditional Parameters of Kiddush Hashem

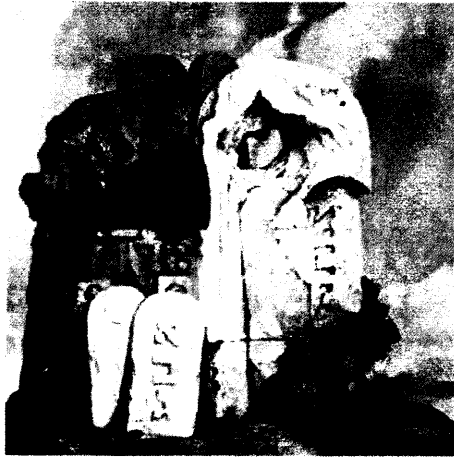
1. Basic law: "You shall live by them" (Leviticus 18:5)
2. One must die rather than transgress murder, forbidden sexual relations, and idolatry. (Sanhedrin 74a)
3. In addition, one must die and not transgress if:
  - a. It is a time of general persecution. (Sanhedrin 74a)
  - b. It is in public, before 10 Israelites. (Sanhedrin 74a,b)
4. However, one is freed from the obligation to die if:
  - a. The person wanted the transgression for his own benefit. (Sanhedrin 74b)
  - b. One is totally passive. (Sanhedrin 74b)
  - c. It is a positive commandment. (Ran on Shabbat 49a, Sefer Hahinukh 295)  
(Some authorities disagree.)
5. Fundamental Halachic dispute:
  - a. Rambam - allowed to die only in those situations where the halacha requires it. (Hilhot Y'sudei Torah 5:4)
  - b. Tosephot and most other authorities - Can be stringent on self and die when not required. (Tosephot, Avodah Zarah 27b, d.h. Yakol)

JEWISH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY OF AMERICA  
Albert A. List College of Jewish Studies

Fall 2017

Prof. David Roskies

SEM 1007: Jewish Responses to Catastrophe  
Tues/Thu. 4:10-5:25



**Course Description:** A literary-historical survey of Jewish responses to catastrophe that begins in Biblical times and ends in the present. How the Jews record and recall events has changed dramatically—from treaty curses to prophecy, from epic verse to prosaic chronicle, from midrash to martyrology, from pathos to satire, from psychological short story to graphic novel; from liturgy to literature and back again. But the deep structures of remembrance and resistance remain remarkably constant.

**Course Goals:** To learn the grammar of remembrance: how unprecedented historical catastrophes are broken down into their constituent, recognizable parts; how Scripture is read as a blueprint, as a record not only of the hallowed past but also of the as-yet unscripted future. To explore how, when this system of meaning breaks down, new modes and models and remembrance were created to supplant the old.

**Course Objectives:** To model a wholistic approach to the study of Jewish culture and civilization.

**Expectations & Assessment:** All students must prepare for and participate in class. The final grade will be based on three assignments:

1. One writing assignment, 5-8 pp. in length on “Martyrs vs. Marranos: A Comparison of the Crusade Chronicles and The Epistle on Conversion.” Due on October 10. Worth 40%.
2. An open book midterm exam to be held on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Worth 40%.

3. "Reading The National September 11 Memorial & Museum through a Jewish Commemorative Lens." Around mid-semester, on their own time, students will pay a visit to the memorial and museum to the victims of 9/11.

<https://www.911memorial.org/>

After dividing up into smaller groups, each group will do a lecture-presentation on either December 5 or 7. These in-class presentations are worth 20% of the final grade.



**Readings:** It is strongly recommended that every student acquire a copy of *The Literature of Destruction: Jewish Responses to Catastrophe*. Philadelphia : Jewish Publication Society, 1989. [abbreviated **LoD**]. DS102 .L58 1989 VXJM.

These will be will be available for sale in class; new copies @ \$25.00 and pre-read copies @ \$15.00.

All other readings are available on Canvas.

Prof. Roskies has scheduled office hours on Thursdays 1:00-3:00 in Unterberg 506, and may be contacted via e-mail ([darsoskies@jtsa.edu](mailto:darsoskies@jtsa.edu)).

The JTS policy on disabilities may be found at [http://my.jtsa.edu/ICS/Policies/Students with Disabilities.jnz](http://my.jtsa.edu/ICS/Policies/Students_with_Disabilities.jnz)"

**Academic Integrity:** Students in this class are expected to maintain academic integrity; academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. JTS Student Disciplinary Procedures can be found at [http://my.jtsa.edu/ICS/Policies/Student Disciplinary Procedures.jnz](http://my.jtsa.edu/ICS/Policies/Student_Disciplinary_Procedures.jnz) JTS students are expected to bear sole responsibility for their work, to learn the rules and definitions that underlie the practice of academic integrity and to uphold its ideals.



		TUESDAY		THURSDAY
Sept.	5	<b>Catastrophe and Collective Memory: The Evidence of Popular Song</b> Song of the Balta Pogrom – LoD 39; Songs of the Kishinev Pogrom - LoD 42; Mordecai Gebirtig - Fire!- LoD 67	7	<b>What Is an Historical Archetype?</b> Galut – LoD I
	12	<b>What Is an Historical Archetype?</b> Book of Lamentations, Chaps. 1, 3 (Canvas)	14	<b>What Is an Historical Archetype?</b> Hurban – LoD II Collins on Apocalyptic (Canvas)
	19	Kiddush Hashem – LoD III Mintz, <i>Hurban</i> , chap. 2	21	Rosh Hashana – no classes
	26	Rabbinic Theodicy in Midrash – LoD IV	28	The Crusade Chronicles – LoD V Cohen: from <i>Sanctifying the Name of God</i> , 13-54
Oct.	3	The Crusade Chronicles – LoD V The Spanish Exile – LoD VI	5	Sukkot – no classes
	10	1 <sup>st</sup> Paper Due: Martyrs vs. Marranos [Classroom discussion]	12	Shemini Atzeret – no classes
	17	<b>Parody &amp; Countercommentary</b> Sholem Yankev Abramovitsh – Burned Out – LoD 41	19	Proclamation of the Jewish Labor Bund – LoD 44 Proclamation of the Hebrew Writer's Union – LoD 45
	24	Hayyim Nahman Bialik – Upon the Slaughter, In the City of Slaughter – LoD 46-47. Mintz, <i>Hurban</i> , chap. 4.	26	<b>World War I:</b> Peretz, Dinezon & Ansky– Call to Collect Materials S. Ansky – The Destruction of Galicia Roskies, <i>Against the Apocalypse</i> , 4

Nov.	10/ 31	<b>The Self Under Siege</b> Lamed Shapiro – The Cross– LoD 50	2	<b>Midterm:</b> Gauging how the new responses engage and break with the old.
	7	List College Recess	9	<b>Ghetto Chroniclers</b> Emanuel Ringelblum – Oyneg Shabes; Josef Kirman – I Speak to You Openly, Child; Shimon Huberband – Ghetto Folklore
	21	<b>Ghetto Chroniclers</b> Leyb Goldin – Chronicle of a Single Day	23	Thanksgiving Recess
	28	<b>Ghetto Chroniclers</b> Yehoshue Perle – 4580	30	<b>Ghetto Chroniclers</b> Rachel Auerbach – Yizkor, 1943
Dec.	5	Class Presentations	7	Class Presentations

**Secondary Readings:**

Jeremy Cohen, *Sanctifying the Name of God: Jewish martyrs and Jewish memories of the First Crusade*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2004. DS135.G31 C64 2004.

John Joseph Collins, *The apocalyptic imagination an introduction to Jewish apocalyptic literature*. Grand Rapids, Mich. : William B. Eerdmans, 1998. BS646 .C65 1998

Alan Mintz, *HURBAN: Responses to Catastrophe in Hebrew Literature*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1984. PJ5012.H65M5 1984.

David G. Roskies, *Against the Apocalypse: Responses to Catastrophe in Modern Jewish Culture* Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University 1984. PJ5120 R86.