

PROJECT JUDAICA UPDATE:  
FEBRUARY 1994

Fall 1993 Program of Instruction

This was the first semester of PROJECT JUDAICA's expanded program of instruction at Russian State University for the Humanities (RGGU) in Moscow. 42 students are now enrolled in two contingents of Jewish studies majors. 19 are third-year students at the Historical-Archival Institute, and 23 are newly-admitted first year students in the School of Historical and Literary Studies. The program successfully assumed the additional administrative responsibilities associated with the greater number of professors in residence, courses offered, and RGGU schools with which PROJECT JUDAICA cooperates. Library hours were also expanded to accommodate greater use.

The semester's course offerings were as follows:

1. Elementary Hebrew  
Instructor: Tamar Ben Vered (JTS) and tutor.  
15 weeks, 8 hours per week.  
[both contingents]
2. The Jews of Russia and Poland, 1917 to the Present  
Instructors: Emanuel Meltzer (Tel Aviv), Zvi Gitelman (Michigan), David Roskies (JTS), Mark Kupovetski (Moscow).  
15 weeks, 6 hours per week.  
[third year students]
3. Survey of Biblical Literature: Torah/Early Prophets  
Instructors: Barukh Schwartz (Tel Aviv), Emanuel Ben Na'eh (Ministry of Education, Jerusalem).  
15 weeks. 6 hours per week.  
[first year students]
4. Seminar in Judaica  
Instructor: Mark Kupovetski (Moscow).  
15 weeks, 2 hours per week.  
[first year students]

Both contingents of students began the intensive study of Hebrew, utilizing the JTS textbook Ha-yesod. The third-year students, who were already familiar with the alphabet and numerous Hebrew words and Jewish concepts, advanced at a somewhat quicker pace than the first year students.

In other areas, the two contingents of students followed different curricular tracks. The third year group continued its investigation of East European Jewish History and Culture, focusing on the history of Soviet Jewry and Yiddish literature of the Holocaust. Because of the immediate relevance of these subjects to Russian Jews, the students found the course extremely exciting and meaningful.

The first year students launched their study of Judaica with an in-depth examination of the first and most fundamental book of the Jewish tradition: the Bible. They were joined by several students from the University's School of Comparative Religion, who found the teaching of Bible from a Jewish (and, to a certain extent, Israeli) perspective to be extremely stimulating.

Both groups of students began to work on year-long research papers in their respective fields. Three of the third year students will receive their general RGGU diplomas in June, and are writing Bachelors' Theses on Jewish subjects: Lev Krichevski, "Jews in the Soviet Security Aparatus (until 1941); Anya Malchikova, "The Fate of Revisionist Zionist Parties in the USSR (1917-1920)"; and Larisa Vekselman, "Julii Gessen - Historian of Russian Jewry".

The program's academic supervision has been strengthened by the addition of Mark Kupovetsky to PROJECT JUDAICA's full-time faculty. Mr. Kupovetsky is a specialist in Jewish demography, ethnology, and Soviet Jewish affairs, and is currently completing his Doctoral dissertation at the Institute of Ethnology of the Russian Academy of Science. In addition to his teaching responsibilities, he advises students on their course-work and research papers, supervises the Judaica library's acquisitions, and serves as a close consultant and editor for the Jewish Archival Survey. He is the first locally-based full-time faculty member of PROJECT JUDAICA.

#### Extra-Curricular Programs and Outreach

As before, members of the PROJECT JUDAICA faculty contributed to intellectual life at RGGU and in the Jewish Community. At the university, our professors offered the following guest-lectures:

Barukh Schwartz: "Biblical Exegesis and Jewish-Christian Polemics in the Middle Ages" (to Program in the History and Theory of Culture)

Emanuel Ben Na'eh: "Jerusalem in Jewish National Consciousness, Ritual and Folklore" (to School of Comparative Religion)

Zvi Gitelman: "Ethnic Issues of Post-Communist Societies in Eastern Europe" (to Program in Political Science)

David Roskies: "Jesus and the Devil - Two Polarities in Modern Jewish Literature" (to School of Comparative Religion)

David Roskies: "The Image of the Shtetl in Yiddish Literature" (to School of Historical-Literary Studies)

In addition, faculty members taught and lectured in various Jewish communal forums. Dr. Schwartz gave a series of lectures at the Jewish University of Moscow; Dr. Ben Na'eh taught at the Steinsaltz yeshiva and was a week-end scholar in residence at the Jewish University of St. Petersburg; and Dr. Roskies gave a Seminar to the Advisory Council of the newly-formed JDC Jewish Cultural Center.

PROJECT JUDAICA's students also engaged in various extra-curricular activities. A "Student Circle in Jewish History", open to all interested members of the RGGU community, was launched, and heard presentations from third-year students Mikhail Sivertsev and Ira Astashkevich. The circle will serve as an open, student-run forum for discussions and presentations.

Other noteworthy recent student developments: Anya Solntseva has been hired by the Russia State Archive of Literature and Art (RGALI), to catalogue the collections of several Yiddish writers; Motya Chlenov is one of the leaders in the Jewish Geneological Society, which processes requests for geneological information from abroad; and Ira Astashkevich is an active volunteer-worker for the Jewish Repatriation Information Center, which sponsors programs on Israel and aliya.

#### Archival Project

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To date, PROJECT JUDAICA's Archival Survey has amassed information on Jewish holdings in some 83 repositories in the Russian Federation. Approximately 1,000 collections of Jewish origin and/or subject matter have been recorded, 331 of which have been entered in the Archival Survey's computerized database.

A sampling of this information is available in the Guide to Jewish Collections in Moscow Museums, Libraries and the Former Communist Party Archives, recently published by PROJECT JUDAICA in New York. The brochure, which covers eight different Moscow repositories, was edited by David Fishman (JTS and YIVO), Marek Web (Director, YIVO Archives), and Evgenii Starostin (Director, Center for Archival Research, RGGU).

Extensive information on holdings in St. Petersburg will soon be obtained by the Archival Survey, thanks to a newly-concluded agreement with the Jewish University of St. Petersburg. The University's Vice-Rector, Mr. Dmitry Eliashevich, has compiled a card-catalogue of Jewish archival collections in Petersburg, the city which was Russia's capital until 1917. The card-catalogue will serve as the basis for further examination of these collections, and their description according to the Archival Survey's guidelines.

In December 1993, PROJECT JUDAICA signed an official agreement with the Ministry of Archives of Belarus in Minsk.

The agreement stipulates that the Belorussian State Archives will conduct a comprehensive survey of Jewish collections in their possession, as part of the archives' official work-plan for 1994-96. The survey-work will be conducted in cooperation with PROJECT JUDAICA and its findings will be included in the project's computerized data-base. The survey will be overseen by Professor Eduard Savitsy of the Belarus Academy of Science.

The information gathered from the survey will culminate in the publication of a comprehensive Guide to Archival Collections on the History of the Jews in Pre-Revolutionary Russia and the USSR. This Guide will be published in three volumes, one for each republic surveyed: Russia, Belarus, and Ukraine. Each volume will be published in the native language of the corresponding republic, as well as in English in the United States.

### Future Plans and Challenges

Plans are now under way for next year, 1994-95, which will be the "senior year abroad" for the advanced contingent of PROJECT JUDAICA students. A group of 8 students will spend the academic year in New York, at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America and YIVO, and the remainder will study in Jerusalem, under the auspices of the Seminary of Judaic Studies, the Israeli affiliate of JTS.

The year abroad will serve several important functions: It will be the students' first opportunity to immerse themselves exclusively in Judaica, without needing to take general university requirements in other areas. They will also benefit from the rich human and library resources available in both these great centers of Judaica. Perhaps most important of all, the students will spend the year in a comprehensive Jewish learning environment, in the midst of American and Israeli students, who are similarly committed to the perpetuation of Jewish life and knowledge.

Before the advanced students depart for overseas, they will participate, along with the new cohort, in one of two program-sponsored summer activities: a student conference in Jewish studies (tentatively scheduled for June), and the library-archive practicum (tentatively slated for July, in Moscow, Vilnius, and Kiev).

RGU Vice Rector Natalya I. Basovskaya and PROJECT JUDAICA's Director, Dr. David Fishman, have held discussions on admitting a new class of students in fall 1994. Academically, it was determined that for all but the language courses, this next class would join the ongoing curriculum offered in the School of Historical-Literary Studies. Additional faculty will, therefore, not be required. First year language instruction will be provided by the program's Hebrew language instructor, who will also offer the second-year course to the continuing students. Formal University approval of the plan is expected in the spring.

Professors Basovskaya and Fishman also began serious discussions on the creation of an autonomous Department of Jewish Studies at the University. The discussion revealed a readiness and desire on the part of RGGU to bring about a complete and permanent integration of Jewish Studies into the university's program of instruction and research. The department, which must according to university regulations, have at least five full-time faculty members, would in itself be a historic achievement: the first department of Jewish Studies in a Russian state university in more than sixty years.

Appendix I  
PROJECT JUDAICA - Fall 1993 GRADES  
 Advanced Group (Historical Archival Institute)

"East European Jewry, 1917 - Present". Instructors: Emanuel Meltzer (Tel Aviv U.), Zvi Gitelman (Michigan), David Roskies (JTS). 13 weeks, 6 hours per week.

"Elementary Hebrew". Instructor: Tamar Ben Vered (JTS). 15 weeks, 8 hours per week.

| <u>Name</u>  | <u>Eastern Europe</u> | <u>Hebrew</u> |
|--|-----------------------|---------------|
| 1. Astashkevitch, Ira                                      | 5 (avg.93.6)          | 5             |
| 2. Chlenov, Matvei   | 3 (avg.65)            | 4             |
| 3. Dubrova, Katya  | 3 (avg. 63)           | 4             |
| 4. Eliasberg, Galina                                       | 5 (avg. 87.3)         | 5             |
| 5. Khanina, Anya   | 3 (avg. 58.6)         | 4             |
| 6. Kheifets, Karina  | 4 (avg. 84.6)         | 5             |
| 7. Kornilov, Aleksei                                       | 4 (avg. 78)           | 4             |
| 8. Krichevski, Lev   | 5 (avg. 95.6)         | 5             |
| 9. Levitova, Anya  | 5 (avg. 92)           | 5             |
| 10. Malchikova, Anya                                       | 3 (avg. 60.6)         | 4             |
| 11. Martinoiva, Yaroslava                                  | 3 (avg. 69)           | 4             |
| 12. Mogiliova, Yulia                                       | 4 (avg. 80.6)         | 5             |
| 13. Pichugin, Ivan   | 4 (avg. 78.6)         | 4             |
| 14. Shkolnikova, Elena                                     | 5 (avg. 87)           | 5             |
| 15. Shternshis, Anya                                       | 4 (avg. 83)           | 4             |
| 16. Sivertsev, Aleksei                                     | 5 (avg. 93.6)         | 5             |
| 17. Solntseva, Anya<br>[hospitalized for part of semester] | 4 (avg. 80.3)         | [exempted]    |
| 18. Tarutin, Pavel   | 3 (avg. 55.6)         | 5             |
| 19. Vekselman, Larisa                                      | 4 (avg. 74.6)         | 5             |



Project Judaica - Fall 1993 Grades  
New Group (School of Historical and Literary Studies)

"Survey of Biblical Literature". Instructors: Barukh Schwartz (Tel Aviv U.) and Emanuel Ben Na'eh (Ministry of Education, Jerusalem). 15 weeks; 6 hours per week.

"Elementary Hebrew". Instructor: Tamar Ben Vered (JTS). 15 weeks; 8 hours per week.

"Seminar in Judaica". Instructor: Mark Kupovetski (Moscow). 15 weeks; 2 hours per week. [Full year course; grades will be given in June]

| <u>Name</u>                           | <u>Bible</u> | <u>Hebrew</u> |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| 1. Andreeva, Lilia                    | 5            | 5             |
| 2. Bootsens, Olga                     | 4            | 4             |
| 3. Danilkova, Yulia                   | 4            | 5             |
| 4. Gavomov, Alexei                    | 3            | 4             |
| 5. Kabanov, Alexei                    | 3            | 3             |
| 6. Kaspina, Maria                     | 5            | 5             |
| 7. Kondratovitch, Nadya               | 4            | 5             |
| 8. Korolova, Maria                    | 4            | 4             |
| 9. Lantsman, Leonid [auditor]         | 5            | 5             |
| 10. Lemeshko, Iren                    | 4            | 4             |
| 11. Lifshits, Alexander               | 5            | 4             |
| 12. Lifshits, Kate [auditor]          | 3            | 5             |
| 13. Lobovskaya, Vera                  | 4            | 5             |
| 14. Malkina, Viktoria                 | 4            | 5             |
| 15. Mironova, Stasia                  | 4            | 4             |
| 16. Skopina, Veronika                 | 4            | 5             |
| 17. Smirnova, Inna                    | 5            | 5             |
| 18. Liavdansky [Comp. Religion]       | 5            | 5             |
| 19. Look, Olga [Comp. Religion]       | 5            | [-]           |
| 20. Zhukova, Mila [Comp. Relig.]      | 5            | 5             |
| 21. Kinderman, Natasha [auditor] [-]  |              | 5             |
| 22. Furmanova, Eleonora [auditor] [-] |              | 5             |
| 23. Orkin, Mikhail [auditor] [-]      | [-]          | 3             |

Appendix II  
PROJECT JUDAICA CURRICULUM FOR SPRING 1994

First Group of Students  
(Historical-Archival Institute)

1. Elementary Hebrew (continued)  
Instructor: Edna Nahshon (JTS), tutor: Lev Gorodetski (Moscow).  
14 weeks, 8 hrs per week.
  
2. Contemporary Jewish History 1914 to the Present  
(a) The Yishuv/ State of Israel: Yosef Gorni (Tel Aviv)  
(b) Post-War European Jewry: Zvi Gitelman (Michigan)  
6 weeks, 6 hours per week.
  
3. Jewish Philosophy and Religion  
(a) Jewish Philosophy/Thought: Ze'ev Harvey (Hebrew U.)  
(b) Judaism II: Moshe Tutnauer (Bet Midrash, Jerusalem)  
8 weeks, 6 hrs per week.
  
4. Guided Readings in Yiddish  
Instructors: Misha Krutikov (JTS), Genadi Estraiikh (Oxford), Chava Lapin (YIVO)  
12 weeks, 4 hours per week.

New Group of Students  
(School of Historical and Literary Studies)

1. Elementary Hebrew (continued)  
Instructor: Edna Nahshon (JTS), tutor: Lev Gorodetski (Moscow)  
14 weeks, 8 hours per week.
  
2. Survey of Biblical Literature (continued)  
(a) Jewish Biblical Exegesis: Burton Visotsky (JTS)  
(b) The Latter Prophets: Moshe Tutnauer (Bet Midrash)  
(c) The Writings: Alexander Rofe (Hebrew U.)  
12 weeks, 6 hours per week
  
3. Jewish Philosophy/Thought  
Instructor: Ze'ev Harvey (Hebrew U.)  
4 weeks, 6 hours per week.
  
4. Seminar in Judaica  
Instructor: Mark Kupovetski (Moscow)  
15 weeks, 2 hours per week.



Appendix III  
Moscow Faculty and Staff of Project Judaica

I. Senior Staff and Faculty

Dorit Sallis, Moscow Coordinator; supervises entire operation of program, liason with New York office and with RGGU central administration.

Mark Kupovetsky, Academic curator; teaches, advises students and faculty, supervises library acquisitions and consultant to Jewish archival survey.

Lev Gorodetsky, Hebrew tutor; assists Hebrew faculty with grading papers, private tutoring, review-sessions.

II. Office Staff

Valery/Erazm, "the techies"; input archival information into computerized data-base, responsible for photo-copying of assigned readings, E-mailing, faxing, purchases of supplies and equipment.

Katya, office manager, archival project; conducts correspondence with all archives and independent archival surveyors, record-keeping of archival information.

Lydia Churakova, registrar and office manager, Jewish studies program of instruction, liason with students and with administration of various RGGU schools.

Mark Zacharevitch Perl, Judaica librarian; supervises circulation and cataloguing of books.

III. Support Services

Arkady/Rita Kruzhkov, kosher food service; deliver kosher meat meals twice per week.

Alexander Petrovitch, driver.