

LLCU 395: Jewish Latin America
Fall 2020

Instructor: Dr. J. Mennell
Office: Kingston Hall 401

email: djm4@queensu.ca
Virtual Office hours: TBA

Texts: *The Jews of Latin America (3rd Edition) by Judith Laikin Elkin (Boulder, Lynne Rienner Pub., 2014).* To be purchased, available on amazon.ca.

Articles, short stories, video clips and links to other texts to be indicated on OnQ.

Course Description: This course will explore the history and cultural production of Jews in Latin America from various perspectives. After a brief survey of how the Jewish community arrived in the continent and some of the major experiences they underwent, we will examine questions of the diversity of the group, the uses of hyphenated identities and their contributions to individual national cultures. Texts will include excerpts from historical texts, essays on Jewishness, short stories, films, music and art. We will also examine their role in national politics and the relationship to global events such as the Shoah (Holocaust) and the creation of Israel.

Objectives:

1. To provide students with a broader knowledge of Latin America and its diversity
2. To understand a specific immigrant as an example to the invention of Latin America
3. To understand systemic anti-Semitism and racism in the continent.
4. To understand mechanisms of marginalization and exclusion in immigrant societies
5. To identify major contributions of Jewish cultural production in the various nations
6. To understand the diversity and heterogeneity of the Jewish Diaspora in general

Coursework: As this course is essentially a seminar style and not a lecture, there is a need for interaction between students and the instructor. As much as possible, the course will be conducted **SYNCHRONOUSLY** on the Zoom platform and **ASYNCHRONOUSLY** through the OnQ component of the course. Synchronous sessions will be twice a week during scheduled hours, and there will be tasks and assignments indicated on OnQ. Readings/Viewings should be completed before the Synchronous classes to enable a robust discussion, and questions on OnQ will help to generate debate. All synchronous classes will be taped and made available through OnQ for those who cannot attend. There will also be asynchronous sessions for questions and answers, discussion, etc.

Each student will:

1. Give an oral presentation of 10-15 minutes in video format and upload it to OnQ for viewing.
2. Provide brief responses daily to the course material in the discussion forums on OnQ. This will be included within the participation grade.
3. Write two short commentaries of 3-4 pages. Topics will be provided on OnQ by the instructor.
4. Submit a final research paper of 8-10 pages on a topic/text/film/artists **NOT** covered in class.

Grade Distribution:

Daily responses and participation:	20%
Two short commentaries	30%
Oral Presentation	15%
<u>Final project/research paper</u>	<u>35%</u>
Total	100%

All components of this course will receive numerical percentage marks. The final grade you receive for the course will be derived by converting your numerical course average to a letter grade according to Queen's Official Grade Conversion Scale:

Grade	Numerical Course Average (Range)	Grade	Numerical Course Average (Range)
A+	90-100	C	63-66
A	85-89	C-	60-62
A-	80-84	D+	57-59
B+	77-79	D	53-56
B	73-76	D-	50-52
B-	70-72	F	49 and below
C+	67-69		

