

JEWISH STUDIES 19
FIAT LUX FRESHMAN MINI-SEMINAR
JEWISH SETTLERS ON THE AMERICAN FRONTIER

Winter 2006
Wednesday 3:00-3:50
Royce Hall 166

Professor: Eleanor Kaufman
Office: Royce Hall 353
Telephone: 206-8155
Office hours: Wednesday 4-5

Required texts (available in Ackerman Union):

Sophie Trupin, Dakota Diaspora
I Married Wyatt Earp: The Recollections of Josephine Sarah Marcus Earp, ed. Glenn G. Boyer*

*available as course reader

note: additional materials will be distributed in class and compiled in a second reader

Course description

This course explores writings about and by a population that might seem like a contradiction in terms: Jewish farmers, cowboys, ranchers, and small town settlers in the American West between the 1850s and the 1930s. We will first read short memoirs and fictional narratives about Western Jewish settlement (on Jewish homesteaders and cowboys in North Dakota, and on Wyatt Earp's Jewish wife) and through these stories broach larger questions about diaspora studies and the process of constructing an archive. How does one represent a fleeting population that is no longer present in the rural sites in question, except in the form of Jewish cemeteries on the prairie? How is material about these Jewish settlements archived or exhibited in museums? How does it relate to other ethnic minorities in the American West, especially Chinese immigrants? In exploring these questions, we will turn to writings about the nature of the archive. We will also visit a local archive and attend events related to the year-long Jewish Studies seminar on the history of Jewish Los Angeles.

Course requirements:

Class will meet for discussion of short reading assignments on a once a week basis. Students will be asked to attend, in lieu of a class meetings, one relevant Jewish Studies lectures. Students will be asked to write several one-page (or one long paragraph) responses to readings and lectures. They will also be asked to identify a research topic related to the class and will be guided through the beginning stages of a research project. On the last day, they will give a brief final presentation about their experiences.

SYLLABUS

January 11	Introduction
January 18	Trupin, <u>Dakota Dispora</u>
January 25	Trupin, <u>Dakota Disapora</u> and excerpts from Rachel Calof, “My Story”
February 1	<u>I Married Wyatt Earp</u>
February 8	<u>I Married Wyatt Earp</u> and excerpts from Rochlin
February 15	excerpts from Raboy, <u>Jewish Cowboy</u>
February 22	the museum—materials presented on Western Jewish museum exhibits Gilman, intro to <u>Jewries at the Frontier</u>
March 1	the archive—possible visit to or visit by a local Jewish archivist Derrida, excerpt from <u>Archive Fever</u>
March 8	the cemetery—Jewish cemetery photos Final class presentations

Lectures of interest:

Thursday, January 26, 2006 • 306 Royce Hall • 12 pm Eleanor Kaufman, “Western Jewish Agricultural Colonies and Why They Failed” PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED. PLEASE RSVP TO CJS@HUMNET.UCLA.EDU

Monday, March 6, 2006 • 306 Royce Hall • 12 pm Josh Kun
“Corner, Aleph, Border: Figuring Tijuana, Figuring Jewishness”
Pre-registration is required. Please RSVP to cjs@humnet.ucla.edu