

JST 4936 / Cross-listed with English and Religion

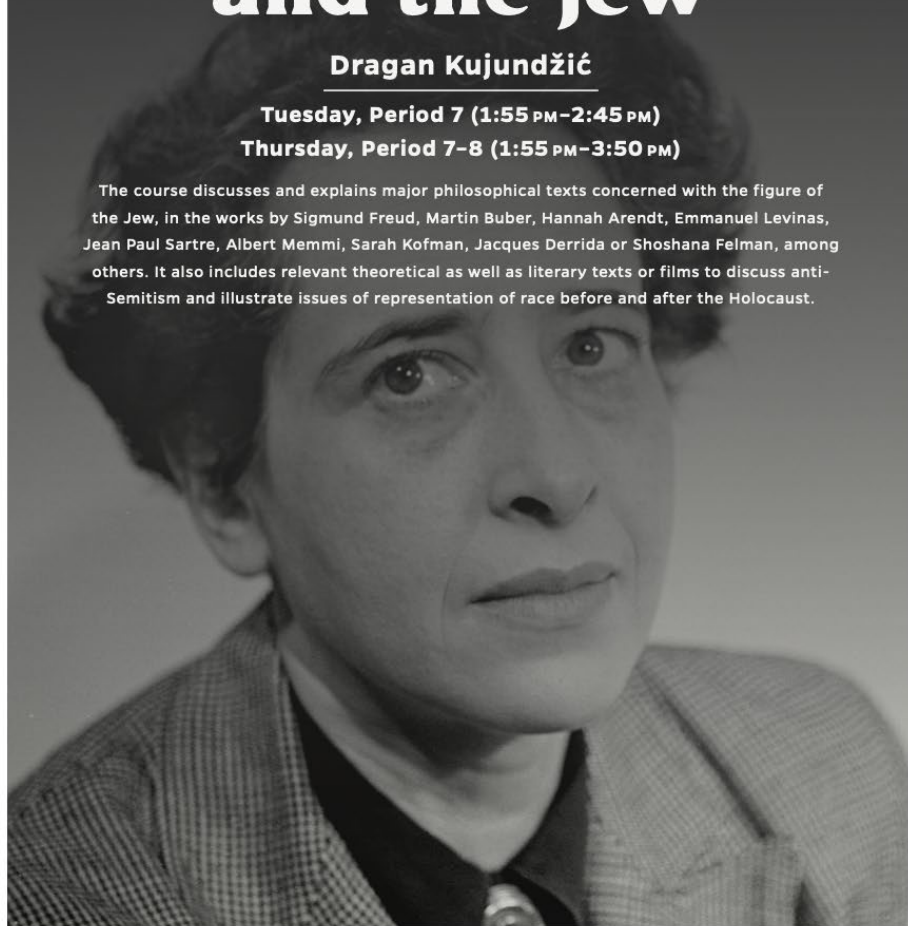
Critical Theory and the Jew

Dragan Kujundžić

Tuesday, Period 7 (1:55 PM–2:45 PM)

Thursday, Period 7–8 (1:55 PM–3:50 PM)

The course discusses and explains major philosophical texts concerned with the figure of the Jew, in the works by Sigmund Freud, Martin Buber, Hannah Arendt, Emmanuel Levinas, Jean Paul Sartre, Albert Memmi, Sarah Kofman, Jacques Derrida or Shoshana Felman, among others. It also includes relevant theoretical as well as literary texts or films to discuss anti-Semitism and illustrate issues of representation of race before and after the Holocaust.



— **Counts for European Jewish Studies Certificate** —

Critical Theory and the Jew, SPRING 2022

Instructor: Professor Dragan Kujundzic, dragan@ufl.edu

JST 4936

ENG 3011

Turlington 120K

The course will explore the ways the notion or the figure of “the Jew” has been formulated by major authors in Critical Theory, philosophy, psychoanalysis, literature and cinema. The focus will be on the critical articulations and interpretations of this figure regardless of the medium in which it is formulated. The students will learn the notion of critical theory as well as some of the major tenets of Judaism and Jewish Thought. The works of Baruch Spinoza will be discussed together with issues of Jews in Philosophy, the Ethics based on Jewish thought (Levinas), the Jews and Race, and Religion, the representation of Jews in Cinema and Literature, the Jews in Marxism, Capitalism and Zionism, anti-Semitism and the Holocaust, Jewish Art and Music in practice and as interpreted in philosophy, etc.

There will be one midterm and one final term paper, each 30% of the grade. The papers will be presented in class as well. Attendance and homework will comprise 10% of the grade; Collective presentations and class participation 30%.

Attendance is mandatory and the original written excuse from a doctor’s office or a similar official document is required for a missed class, to be submitted with the final paper at the end of the semester. UF code of conduct, student honor and health codes will be observed. Online assignments, class announcements, reading material, and any changes in the syllabus to accommodate student’s reading schedule or preferences, when agreed upon in class, will be sent and confirmed via email; it is the student’s obligation to have a valid UF registered email and read it regularly.

Please consult your UF email regularly as well as Canvas for announcements about the class and class assignments.

The class will meet via ZOOM. Please plan to attend all meetings. Two absences are allowed without excuse.

The Zoom link and password will be provided on the Canvas Home page for this class/and via the list serve for the course.

Do not share your Zoom classroom link or password with others. If you cannot retrieve it, write to dragan@ufl.edu before the class starts.

When attending a Zoom class or meeting:

- Join the Zoom meeting on time or a few minutes early if possible. Attendance will be taken at the start of each class session, and tardiness will be marked.
- Set up and mount the webcam video at the level of your eyes to show your full face. Test the audio of your webcam. For any technical difficulties, please contact the UF

Computing Help Desk (352-392-4357).

<https://elearning.ufl.edu/media/elearningufl.edu/zoom/How-to-Join-a-Meeting.pdf>

- During class session, set yourself on mute unless you want to speak or you are called upon.
- If you want to speak, you can raise your hand (click the “raise hand” button at the center bottom of your screen).
- You are encouraged to keep your webcam on throughout the class hour. Please be visible during your individual presentation and, in general, allowing the class to see you will facilitate interaction. Audio presence is required.
- As in all courses, unauthorized recording and unauthorized sharing of recorded materials is prohibited.
- If you are assigned to a breakout room, enable your webcam and microphone so that your partners may hear and see who they are working with.
- Find a quiet indoor space with stable internet connection to attend class. The study space does not need to be a separate room. The space should be conducive to work, including pair/group work. Make sure you are uninterrupted by other household members.
- Your professor and classmates can also see what is behind you, so be aware of your surroundings. You may use a virtual background if your device supports this feature. Be sure to avoid using backgrounds that may contain offensive images and language.
- Follow the same rules of respectful interaction as you would in a face-to-face course.
- Alert your instructor as soon as possible if you experience technical difficulties. A “chat” can be sent at any moment during a Zoom session if, for example, you find that your webcam or microphone are not functioning properly.

Thank you for your patience and understanding when confronted with the challenges of remote teaching. Relax and enjoy the class!

Students must respect THE UNIVERSITY HONOR CODE:

HONOR PLEDGE: We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity by abiding by the Student Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by Students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.”

See also <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>

The University of Florida policy related to accommodations for students with disabilities reads as follows:

“Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation.”

Course Evaluations

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

Week one

Introduction; readings to be distributed via email; *Fiddler on the Roof*; the figure of the Jew in the 20th Century; *Tevye the Milkman (Library of Yiddish Classics Edition)* by Sholem Aleichem, texts, provided by instructor. *Fiddler on the Roof*, Screen, Amazon Prime;

Introduction: **Aleichem**

Week two

Sholem Aleichem 2

Watch: *Laughing in Darkness*, Library UF; *Fiddler on the Roof*, Screen, Amazon Prime;

Presentation, Group 1

Introduction, Zionism

Week three

Sholem Aleichem 3, presentations, Group 1. Introduction, Zionism

Week four

Zionism; Herzl

Watch *It is no Dream*, on Amazon Prime

Read selection, Herzl, on Zionism and Israel

Variations of Zionism, Albert Memmi; Sholem on the Hebrew Language

Presentation, Group 2;

Introduction, Buber

Week five

Martin Buber and Ethics

Watch *Martin Buber*, screen, Amazon Prime

Read: selection from *I and you*

Presentation, Group 3

Introduction: Levinas

Week six

Emanuel Levinas

Levinas, selection from *Difficult Freedom, Time and the Other*, excerpts; “The Name of a Dog”

Watch: *Absent God*, YouTube

Presentation, Group 4

Introduction: Freud

Week seven

Freud; Judaism, Psychoanalysis

Read: Freud, “Moses and Monotheism Part 1,”; Eliza Slavet, “Freud’s Theory of Jewishness”; Debate Yerushalmi-Derrida on Freud; Trauma Theory and Moses, Cathy Carruth.

Presentation Group 1

Week eight

The Shoah. Sarah Kofman, Shoshana Felman

Read: “Rue Ordener, rue Labat,” excerpts; *Smothered Words*, excerpts; Shoshana Felman on *Testimony*, excerpts. Provided by the Instructor.

Watch *Night and Fog*, screening YouTube; *Frozen Time, Liquid Memories*, screening, instructor’s files; **Walter Benjamin; Franz Kafka, the Holocaust;**

Presentation Group 2

Week nine

Midterm Presentations, each student speaks at least ten minutes about the topic chosen, and **paper due in class after Spring Break. Arendt Introduction**

Spring break

Week 10

Hannah Arendt

Read: *Eichmann in Jerusalem*, selection; *On Totalitarianism*, selection;

Watch: *Vita Activa: The Spirit of Hannah Arendt*; Watch: *Hannah Arendt*, both on Amazon

Presentation group 3

PURIM, no class on Thursday

Introduction: Boym

Week eleven

Svetlana Boym

Continuation, Arendt

Boym Svetlana, FILM, Stream; Dragan Kujundzic, Comments on the Boym film, Youtube, screen.

Boym, Scenography of Friendship

<https://www.cabinetmagazine.org/issues/36/boym.php>

Selection from Boym's work on Hannah Arendt, and Masha Gessen, on Svetlana

Boym, <https://www.newyorker.com/news/news-desk/postscript-svetlana-boym-1959-2015>

Presentation group 4

Introduction: Serious Man, Weber

Week twelve

The Coen Brothers, "A Serious Man," screen; **Samuel Weber**, Lecture, screen, instructor's file;

Watch the documentary: *The Jewish Journey: America*, Amazon Prime (optional)

Watch: the Coen Brothers, *A Serious Man*, Amazon Prime

Watch: Samuel Weber, Lecture on *A Serious Man*, instructors files

All groups in charge of discussion;

Week thirteen

Ruth Bader Ginsburg. Screen film, *RBG*, Amazon Prime. **Selected articles provided by instructor.**

All groups in charge of discussion, coordinate among groups

Week fourteen

Students present topics of individual final papers; concluding remarks

Week 15 Passover, no class. FINAL PAPER DUE April 23