

MOSSE/WEINSTEIN



CENTER FOR
JEWISH STUDIES

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GREENFIELD SUMMER INSTITUTE

“Judaism: Religious and Secular”

THE GEORGE L. MOSSE/LAURENCE A. WEINSTEIN CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDIES

SEVENTH ANNUAL GREENFIELD SUMMER INSTITUTE

“Judaism: Religious and Secular”

JULY 9–13, 2006

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN–MADISON

MADISON, WISCONSIN

The George L. Mosse/Laurence A. Weinstein Center for Jewish Studies
invites you to an unforgettable week of summer fun and learning.

Whether you're an alum who wants to relive your college days, a friend of Jewish Studies who wants to share the excitement of Jewish learning, or a member of the public interested in studying Jewish identity, the George L. Mosse/Laurence A. Weinstein Center for Jewish Studies invites you to participate in its Seventh Annual Greenfield Summer Institute, “Judaism: Religious and Secular.”

The Institute will offer morning and afternoon lectures focusing on religious and secular history, philosophy, literature, and music showcasing some of the Center's faculty who are experts in these subjects. A variety of afternoon events and special evening programs will evoke a powerful intellectual experience amid the sights and sounds that make Madison in the summer a visitor's heaven.

We invite you to join us. Space is limited, so please register early. Registration deadline: June 16, 2006.

THE PROGRAM

SUNDAY, JULY 9

- 5–6 p.m. Registration
University Club, 803 State Street
- 6–7 p.m. Opening Dinner (no charge)
Hosted by a CJS faculty member
- 7–8 p.m. Schmoozing Time

MONDAY, JULY 10

All lectures will be held at the Wisconsin Historical Society (816 State Street) unless otherwise noted.

- 9–10 a.m. **“Religion and Reason in Jewish Philosophy”**
Steven Nadler, Max and Frieda Weinstein-Bascom Professor in Jewish Studies, Philosophy Department

We will look at the way in which classic Jewish philosophers—such as Saadya ben Joseph, Maimonides and Spinoza—dealt with the relationship between faith and philosophy, between the demands of religion (as these are expressed in Scripture and revealed truths) and the claims of rationality. We will concentrate on the different ways in which these philosophers believed reason was to play a role in the interpretation of Scripture and justification of religious beliefs and practices.

- 10:45 a.m. **“The Secular and the Religious in Three Early 20th-Century Figures: Simon Dubnow, Shmuel Yosef Agnon, Yehuda Pen”**
–Noon David Sorkin, Frances and Laurence Weinstein Chair in Jewish Studies, History Department

This talk will address the abiding tension between the secular and the religious by examining the divergent answers of three important early 20th-century figures in three different media: Simon Dubnow was the foremost Jewish historian of the early 20th century; Agnon was probably the foremost Hebrew writer of the time; and Pen was a pioneer Jewish painter.

Lunch on your own

- 1:30–4:30 p.m. **The Life of a Chazzan**

Cantors from the Madison and Milwaukee areas will join us to talk about their journey, followed by a musical performance. It will be an afternoon to remember!

- Evening Free Time

TUESDAY, JULY 11

- 9–10:30 a.m. **“Chaim Zhitlovsky and the Idea of Secular Yiddish Culture”**
Tony Michels, Mosse Professor in American Jewish History, History Department

This lecture will discuss the life and ideas of Chaim Zhitlovsky, a towering figure in immigrant Jewish life in the first half of the 20th century. In North America and Europe, Zhitlovsky played a leading role in advocating Yiddish as the national language of the Jewish people. By merging socialism with Jewish nationalism, Zhitlovsky hoped to lead and refashion a new secular culture in Yiddish.

- 10:45 a.m. **“Our Hope, Our Future: Yiddish Secular Schools in America.”**
–Noon Tony Michels, Mosse Professor in American Jewish History, History Department

Though highly controversial, Yiddish secular schools won the support of thousands of Jews in the U.S. and left an important legacy. The presentation will include both the successes and obstacles confronted by Yiddish schools during their heyday from the turn of the century to the Second World War.

Lunch on your own

- 1:30–3 p.m. **“Dairy Diaspora: Preserving, Adapting and Forsaking Judaism in Wisconsin’s Small Jewish Communities”**
Andrew Muchin, Director of the Wisconsin Small Jewish Communities History Project

Jews have lived in more than 200 Wisconsin cities, villages, and towns since 1793 and have established synagogues in 24 communities outside of Madison and Milwaukee. These were no ghettos. How, then, did local culture affect Jews—particularly immigrants from mid 19th-century central Europe and late 19th and early 20th-century Russia and eastern Europe—and how did Jews affect local culture, if at all? How did Jewish practice and Jews’ self-conceptions fare in Wisconsin’s strongly Christian milieu? How have one-synagogue communities (Appleton, Eau Claire, Green Bay, La Crosse, Manitowoc, Oshkosh, Racine, Sheboygan, Wausau) arrived at a communally acceptable level of Jewish practice? And should we kvetch about the small-community assimilation rate? These and other questions will be addressed in this lecture.

- 3:30 p.m. Film: *The Lost Wooden Synagogues of Eastern Europe*

Narrated by Theodore Bikel, this film tells the story of the synagogues, the life that surrounded them before the war, and what has happened to them in the last fifty years. (48 minutes)

- Evening Klezmer music on the Terrace

Enjoy a night of klezmer music by Madison’s own Yid Vicious. The music, the Terrace, the scenery, who could ask for anything more?

WEDNESDAY, JULY 12

9–10:30 a.m. **“Jews and Judaism in the Ancient World: Relations between Religion and Ethnicity”**
Jonathan Schofer, Assistant Professor of Comparative Ethics, Harvard Divinity School

Does “Jewish” refer to a religion or a people? What is the range of beliefs and practices that are considered Jewish? These questions underlie a number of issues in the ancient world, related both to individual practices (circumcision, diet, observance of holy days) and social relations (acceptance in Jewish communities, governmental privileges and restrictions, and taxation). In this talk we will examine the variety of ways that “Jewish” was employed in the first centuries BCE and CE, focusing on complex relations between ethnicity and religion.

10:45 a.m. **“Rabbis and Other Jews in the Time of ‘Classical’ Judaism”**
–Noon
Jonathan Schofer, Assistant Professor of Comparative Ethics, Harvard Divinity School

The classical rabbis of late antiquity have often been portrayed as creating Judaism as we know it, and their texts (the Mishnah, Talmuds, and Midrash) have become authoritative for a tremendous number of Jews up to the present day. In their own time, though, rabbis were often marginal in Jewish communities, even having tense relations with the Jews that surrounded them. How is it that Rabbis viewed themselves in relation to other Jews, and what do we know about the vast majority of Jews beyond the rabbis? This talk will discuss what we currently know about these difficult questions.

Lunch on your own

1:30–3 p.m. **“Hasidism: Jewish Mysticism in the Modern Age”**
Joshua Shanes, Visiting Assistant Professor, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Just as the Enlightenment stood poised to transform the religious life of West European Jewry, Hasidism—a religious revivalist movement based on Jewish mystical traditions—began its steady conquest of East European Jewry. This lecture will discuss the origins of this powerful movement, survey some of its basic doctrines, and consider its history over the past two centuries.

3:30 p.m. **Film: *A Life Apart***

This extraordinarily intimate film explores the depths of the Hasidim’s joyous, sometimes harsh, and often beautiful world. From mystical tales to mesmerizing music, Rebbes to Holocaust survivors, this film reveals a strange, insular world few outsiders have seen, and fewer yet could imagine. (1997, 96 minutes)

Evening **Concert on the Square**

Enjoy Madison’s historic State Capitol as you listen to a concert of pop music by the Madison Chamber Orchestra.

THURSDAY, JULY 13

9–10:30 a.m. **“The Russians Are Coming, Again: From Jewish Hybridity to Secular Tribridity in Postmodern America”**
Dena Mandel, Lecturer, Mosse/Weinstein Center for Jewish Studies, English Department

The dichotomous experiences of Russian Jewish émigrés to America at both ends of the 20th century underscore the need to re-evaluate standard paradigms regarding the ways Jewish immigrants express and enact their Judaism in their new homeland. The postmodern literature composed by the unanticipated wave of Russian Jews from the former Soviet Union shifts the classical hybridized struggle to accommodate Jewish religious observance with the liberties of American citizenship to an increasingly complex triangulation of choices relating to national ethnicity, secular Judaism, and American liberty. The most recent wave of late 20th-century Russian Jewish immigrants have seemingly hit the ethnicity trifecta as they negotiate their formerly Soviet Union, uncertain Jewish, and newly acquired American identities. Judaism—whether observant or secular—is clearly a work-in-progress for the newest Jewish arrivals.

10:45 a.m. **“Secular and Religious Jewish Learning: Transcending the Old Dualisms”**
–Noon
Daniel Pekarsky, Chair, Joint Program in Education and Jewish Studies, Professor, Educational Policies

This lecture examines transformations in the form, content, and aims of Jewish learning that reflect and respond to changes in Jewish life from pre-modern times to the present. The discussion culminates in a consideration of a recent trend in which the secular/religious split is overcome in ways that are significant and exciting.

Noon–2 p.m. **Farewell Lunch** (no charge)
University Club

REGISTRATION & INFORMATION



Fees

The fee for the Greenfield Summer Institute is \$125. This covers classes and selected meals.

Optional Events

- A variety of afternoon lectures (free)
- An evening of klezmer music with Yid Vicious on Memorial Union Terrace (free)
- Concert on the Square (free)

Parking

Parking is available near the State Historical Society classrooms and costs \$7/day for the duration of the Institute. Application forms will be sent upon request.

Lodging

The Institute has reserved rooms at several nearby hotels/motels. Information will be included in registration packet.

Information

For more information about Madison, please contact:

The Greater Madison Convention and Visitors Bureau

615 East Washington Avenue
Madison, Wisconsin 53703
(800) 373-6376
Fax: (608) 258-4950
E-mail: gmcvb@visitmadison.com

For more information about the Center, visit our Web site at:
<http://polyglot.lss.wisc.edu/jewishst/index.htm>

The Greenfield Summer Institute, **Judaism: Religious and Secular**, is co-sponsored by the George L. Mosse/Laurence A. Weinstein Center for Jewish Studies and the Department of Hebrew and Semitic Studies.

It is funded through the generosity of Lany and Roslyn Greenfield and the Ettinger Family Foundation. For more information, contact the Center at (608) 265-4763, Monday–Thursday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. CST.

JEWISH STUDIES GREENFIELD SUMMER INSTITUTE

JULY 9–13, 2006

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

E-mail _____

Please return before June 16 to:

The George L. Mosse/Laurence A. Weinstein Center for Jewish Studies

308 Ingraham Hall
1155 Observatory Drive
Madison, Wisconsin 53706-1319
Telephone: (608) 265-4763
Fax: (608) 265-8110
<http://polyglot.lss.wisc.edu/jewishst/index.htm>

Please register me for the Greenfield Summer Institute, \$125.

I will be attending the opening dinner at the University Club (no charge)

I need information on a parking permit (information sent separately; \$7/day)

I will be attending the farewell luncheon at the University Club (no charge)

Enclosed is my check, made payable to: **UW–Madison/CJS**

Once your registration has been received, information about the lectures, housing, and parking will be sent to you.