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What does ‘antisemitism’ mean?

The phenomenon in cultural sources (literature, press, movies)

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Faculty of Philology

University of Lodz, Poland.

Name of Instructor: Małgorzata Domagalska Ph.D.

Level: undergraduate

Type of course: seminar

Department: Department of Positivism and Young Poland Literature; Pomorska str 171/173, 91-404 Lodz, Poland.

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Course description:

The main goal of the course is an analyse of the phenomenon of antisemitism. What is antisemitism and what are its components. How this phenomenon was influenced by Christianity, how anti-judaic prejudices influenced modern antisemitism. What type of myths were created during centuries – especially myth of false converts and hidden Jews, in Polish realities –myth of JudeoPolonia, the phantasm of greedy, dishonest, alien Jew.

The course will be conducted at the Polish Philology department so sources to analyse are: Polish literature, Polish press and movies. The special interest will be focused on antisemitic language – language of hate and exclusion. There is also important to show the impact of Polish history on modern antisemitism as well as the situation in Europe (the Dreyfuss affair, the process of assimilation in the 19th century) and the growing nationalism and development of fascism movement in Germany and Italy during 30ties before the WWII. Next how antisemitism exists during communist time (Kielce pogrom and March 1968 antisemitic

campaign). There is also important to show how this phenomenon exists today in Poland and in Europe.

Course objectives:

The most important thing is to educate students about antisemitism, what does it mean, what was its influence on Jews and also gentile society. It is necessary to show horrible consequences caused by this phenomenon and sensitize students to the language of hate and other antisemitic prejudices (stereotypes) that still exists among society. This knowledge should lead them to recognize contemporary antisemitism often hidden and invisible at first sight.

Required Reading:

- Analizować nienawiść. Dyskurs antysemitki jako tekstowe wyzwanie, ed. Paweł Kuciński, Grzegorz Krzywiec, Warszawa 2011.
- Bartal Israel, *The Jews of Eastern Europe 1772–1881*, Philadelphia 2002 (Polish version)
- Błoński Jan, *Biedni Polacy patrzą na getto*, in: idem, *Biedni Polacy patrzą na getto*, Kraków 1994.
- Cała Alina, *Żyd – wróg odwieczny? Antysemityzm w Polsce i jego źródła*, Warszawa 2012.
- Bożena Keff, *Antysemityzm. Niezamknięta historia*, Warszawa 2013.
- Gelber Mark H., *What is Literary Antisemitism?*, „*Jewish Social Studies*” 47, 1985, nr 1.
- Głowiński Michał, *Swoistości dyskursu antysemitki*, in: idem, *Realia, dyskursy, portrety*, Kraków 2011.
- Gross Jan Tomasz, *Sąsiedzi*, Warszawa 2008
- Gross Jan Tomasz, *Strach*, Warszawa 2008
- Janion Maria, *Bohater, spisek, śmierć. Wykłady żydowskie*, Warszawa 2009.
- Janion Maria, *Mit założycielski polskiego antysemitki*, in: *Społeczeństwa europejskie i Holocaust*, ed. Jürgen Hensel, Warszawa 2004.
- Kersten Krystyna, *Polacy, Żydzi, komunizm : anatomia półprawd 1939-68*, Warszawa 1992
- Michlic Joanna Beata, *Obcy jako zagrożenie. Obraz Żyda w Polsce od roku 1880 do czasów obecnych*, Warszawa 2015.
- Modras Robert, *Kościół katolicki i antysemityzm w Polsce w latach 1933–1939*, Kraków 2004.
- Szaynok Bożena, *Pogrom Żydów w Kielcach 4 lipca 1946*, Warszawa 1992
- Tokarska-Bakir Joanna, *Okrzyki pogromowe. Szkice z antropologii historycznej Polski z lat 1939–1944*, Wołowiec 2012.
- Trachtenberg Joshua, *Diabeł i Żydzi. Średniowieczna koncepcja Żyda a współczesny antysemityzm*, tłum. Robert Stiller, Gdynia 1997

- Volkov Shulamit, Antysemityzm jako kod kulturowy, in: Ze sobą, obok siebie, przeciwko sobie. Polacy, Żydzi, Austriacy, Niemcy w XIX i na początku XX wieku, red. Barbara Breysach, Kraków 1995.
- Wojna żydowsko-niemiecka. Polska prasa konspiracyjna 1943–1944 o powstaniu w getcie Warszawy, Warszawa 1992.

Recommended Reading:

- Blobaum Robert, The Politics of Antisemitism in Fin-de-Siecle Warsaw, „The Journal of Modern History” 73, 2001.
- Cała Alina, Asymilacja Żydów w Królestwie Polskim (1864–1897). Postawy, konflikty, stereotypy, Warszawa 1989.
- Domagalska Małgorzata, Disgraceful Love. The Romantic Novel as an Antisemitic Genre in Poland (1880–1939), „Gal-Ed” 2015, no 24.
- Domagalska Małgorzata, Zatrute ziarno, Warszawa 2015.
- Friedrich Agnieszka, The Image of the Warsaw Pogrom of 1881 in Late Nineteenth-Century Polish Literature, „East European Jewish Affairs” 40, 2010, no 2.
- Gilman Sander L., The Jew’s Body, New York 1991.
- Głowiński Michał, Nowomowa i ciągi dalsze. Szkice dawne i nowe, Kraków 2009.
- Golczewski Frank, Anti-Semitic Literature in Poland before the First World War, in: Polin. Studies in Polish Jewry, vol. 4: Poles and Jews: Perceptions and Misperceptions, red. Władysław Bartoszewski, Oxford–Portland 2004.
- Inny, inna, inne. O inności w kulturze, ed. Maria Janion, Claudia Snochowska-Gonzalez, Kazimiera Szczuka, Warszawa 2004.
- Jagodzińska Agnieszka, Pomiędzy. Akulturacja Żydów Warszawy w drugiej połowie XIX wieku, Wrocław 2008.
- Kristeva Julia, Potęga obrzydzenia. Esej o wstręcie, transl. Maciej Falski, Kraków 2007.
- Krzywiec Grzegorz, Gangrena, czyli kto nam dusze zeszpecił. Obraz Żydów w prasie ziemiańskiej końca XIX wieku, „Kwartalnik Historii Żydów” 2002, no 1.
- Landau-Czajka Anna, W jednym stali domu... Koncepcje rozwiązania kwestii żydowskiej w publicystyce polskiej z lat 1933–1939, Warszawa 1998.
- Markiewicz Henryk, Asymilacja Żydów jako temat kultury polskiej, in: idem, Literatura i historia, Kraków 1992.
- Markowski Artur, Anti-Jewish Pogroms in the Kingdom of Poland, w: Polin. Studies in Polish Jewry, vol. 27: Jews in the Kingdom of Poland 1815–1918, ed. Glenn Dynner, Antony Polonsky, Marcin Wodziński, Oxford–Portland 2015.
- Tadeusz Mazowiecki, Jerzy Turowicz, Tadeusz Żychiewicz, Antysemityzm, [Warszawa 1981].

- Musolff Andreas, Metaphorical Parasites and „Parasite” Metaphors. Semantic Exchanges between Political and Scientific Vocabularies, „Journal of Language and Politics” 2014, no 2.
- Musolff Andreas, What Role do Metaphors Play in Racial Prejudice? The Function of Anti-Semitic Imagery in Hitler’s „Mein Kampf”, „Patterns of Prejudice” 41, 2007, no 1.
- Oişteanu Andrei, Inventing the Jew. Antisemitic Stereotypes in Romanian and other Central-East European Cultures, Lincoln–London 2009.
- Opalski Magdalena, Bartal Israel, Poles and Jews. A Failed Brotherhood, Hanover–London 1992.
- Porter-Szűcs Brian, Gdy nacjonalizm zaczął nienawidzić. Wyobrażenia nowoczesnej polityki w dziewiętnastowiecznej Polsce, transl. Agnieszka Nowakowska, Sejny 2011.
- Tokarska-Bakir Joanna, Hassliebe. Źydowska samonienawiść w ujęciu Sandera L. Gilmana (Od Hermana z Moguncji do Johannesesa Pfefferkorna), „Studia Litteraria Historica” 2013, no 2.
- Weeks Theodore R., From Assimilation to Antisemitism. The Jewish Question in Poland 1850–1914, DeKalb 2006.
- W poszukiwaniu religii doskonałej? Konwersja a Źydzi, ed. Agnieszka Jagodzińska, Wrocław 2012.

Weekly topics:

1. Antisemitism – the phenomenon. Antisemitism and anti-judaism, the differences and contamination.
2. Antisemitic language in Polish anonymous leaflets and press in the XVIII century (before partition of Poland).
3. The Myth of Judeopolonia. (Short story by Julian Ursyn Niemcewicz – The incredible dream. Year 3333, written in 1817, published in 1858).
4. The Myth of false converts and hidden Jews – The drama by Wincenty Krasiński, Nie-Boska Komedia (1833) from romanticism period in Poland.
5. The beginning of modern antisemitism in Poland – The social and political situation after January Uprising in Poland 1863, the civil rights for Jews – 1864 and its influence of growing antisemitism in Polish Kingdom (under partition).
6. Warsaw Pogrom 1881 – why it happen, the influence on Poles and Jews.
7. Antisemitism in Polish Press – „Rola” weekly, the first antisemitic weekly in Poland. Language of hate (1883-1912).
8. What does it mean literary antisemitism. Examples. (Antisemitic Polish novel from 19th century i.e. Artur Gruszecki, Bujne chwasty – Lash weeds)
9. Independence of Poland. Growing antisemitism during 20 and 30ties. Main topics in nationalistic press. What is old, what is new. The influence of Nazi Germany and then Nuremberg Laws.

10. The Second World War. The situation in Poland. Memoires of Jews . Polish attitude toward Jews.
11. Casus of Jedwabne (Jan Tomasz Gross, The Neighbours)
12. After the War. Casus of Kielce pogrom in 1946. The myth of ritual murder.
13. Situation in Poland during communist time. Mass emigration of Jews and antisemitic campaign in 1968.
14. Contemporary antisemitism – Pokłosie (Aftermath) – a movie by Władysław Pasikowski
15. Antisemitism in Poland and in Europe. The differences and similarities.

Evaluation:

Attendance, active discussion, presentations.