This course will compare Jews and Roma in Europe from a variety of perspectives and experiences, focusing on identity and boundary formation, mobilization patterns, as well as larger discourses about authority and authenticity. This course will also examine forms of exclusion and hatred directed at Jews and Roma, focusing on antisemitism and antigypsyism prior to World War II, during the Holocaust and Samudaripen, and in the post-war period. Special attention will be paid to the ways in which Jews and Roma have been categorized as European “others,” especially in the populist politics of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries and also the ways in which these groups interface with one another, especially with regard to the memory and memorialization of genocide and questions of broader social and political mobilization.

Learning Outcomes:

- Reflect upon the diversity and contingency of identity by comparing the experiences of Jews and Roma
- Analyze the impact of exclusionary practices on group formation, memorial culture and the everyday life of Jews and Roma.
- Assess the role of prejudice and stereotypes in framing majority-minority relations.
- Understand the academic and political discourses surrounding authority, authenticity and representivity

Course Requirements:

Regular attendance
Active class participation (10%)
Class presentation (30%)
Term paper (60%)

1. Introduction (January 10)

The aim of this class is to introduce the comparative framework of this course and explore ways in which the experiences of Jews and Roma might inform one another.


2. Who is a Jew? Who is a Roma? (January 17)

This class aims to identify the ways in which Jews and Roma are defined, classified, categorized and essentialized and to discuss broader strategies of boundary maintenance.


“Who is a Jew? – Professor Isaiah Berlin’s Memorandum to the Prime Minister of Israel, 23 January 1959,” *Israel Studies* 13/3 (Fall 2008): 170-177.

3. What is antisemitism? What is antigypsyism? (January 24)

*Antisemitism and antigypsyism are ideological constructs that are widely used and abused. The class will try to define the concepts, origins, manifestations and consequences of antisemitism and antigypsyism.*


Recommended Readings:


4. Visual and Literary Representations (January 31)

*The class will explore the representation of “the Jew” and “the Gypsy” in visual arts and literature.*


5. Persecution under Nazism (February 7)

This class examines the historiographical debates about the Shoah and Porrajmos, exploring the ways they interact, interface and sometimes compete with one another.


6. Politics of Memory (February 14)

This class examines the commemorative practices related to the Shoah and the Porrajmos and the ways in which Jews and Roma endow their victimhood with deeper meaning.


Recommended readings:


7. Communism (February 21)

This class examines the divergent experiences of Jews and Roma in Eastern Europe under Communism, using Hungary as a case study.

Guest: András Kovács (Nationalism Studies Program / Jewish Studies Program)


8. Prejudice and Stereotypes (February 28)

Guest: Luca Varádi (Nationalism Studies Program)

This class adopts a social psychological approach to prejudice and stereotypes, exploring ways that attitudes toward Jews and Roma reflect broader social norms.


https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijintrel.2017.06.002


9. Ethnic and Political Mobilization (March 7)

This class aims to examine the different kinds of ethnic and political mobilization adopted by Jews and Roma, using Hirschmann’s conceptual framework of Exit, Voice and Loyalty.


10. Tour of Budapest, 8th District (March 14)

*This tour of Budapest’s 8th District, which is identified as both a “Jewish” and a “Gypsy” neighborhood, explores the ways in which the neighborhood’s “ethnic” identity is embraced by its current and former inhabitants.*

11. Tourism (March 21)

*This class explores the ways in which tourism has framed and embedded Jewish and Roma identity within the urban landscape.*


12. Identity Politics and Academia (March 28)

*This class explores the academic and political discourses in the fields of Romani Studies and Jewish Studies, with an emphasis on debates about authority, authenticity and representivity.*


Recommended reading:


Guided tours:

https://apnews.com/7699db7ff3e9473dbea6a211c4b81d6c/neighborhoods-exploring-budapesst-gritty-8th-district#sthash.NmyU0VUk.Bqg8cyQm.dpuf

https://www.facebook.com/events/781639738569683/

http://www.beyondbudapest.hu/turak/a_nyocker_mallo_pompaja___szociokulturalis_kalandozas_a_jozsefvarosban