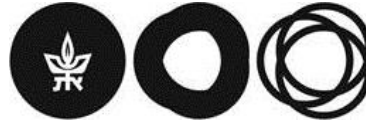


International
Multidisciplinary Program
in the Humanities



The Lester and Sally Entin
Faculty of Humanities
Tel Aviv University

What is Post-Shoah Thought

course

Dr. Barbara Meyer

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Course no. 1662.2304.01

2018-9 fall semester

2 credits

Thursday 12-2 p.m.

Office hours: Gilman, room 436, Thursdays 2-3 p.m.

Course Description

What is post-Shoah Thought for Jews and Christians?

In the last third of the twentieth century some intellectual historians came to see the Shoah as a turning point for the humanities. A number of these Jewish and Christian declared that the Shoah presented a paradigm shift for what it means to be Jewish or Christian today. But what exactly had changed so profoundly, and what precisely needed be reconsidered? Remarkably, Jewish and Christian thinkers came up with entirely different answers to these questions. In this class we will study texts of religious post-Shoah thinkers such as Emil Fackenheim, Richard Rubenstein, Itz Greenberg, Paul van Buren, Roy Eckardt and Alice Eckardt and discuss the different themes addressing Christianity and Judaism. We will also look at texts that don't refer to religion and ask whether this "post-Shoah Thought" means different things for Jews and Christians.

Assessment

Mid Term: A short, 600 words essay, comprising 20% of the final grade

Final requirement: Referat-papers, comprising 80% of the final grade

Participation: Bonus (max. 5 points)

Submission date for the final paper is 5.2.19.

Schedule

18.10.18 Memory

Philosophical Questions

25.10.18 Survival

- Fackenheim, The 614th Commandment

1.11.18 From Theodicy to Tora

- Levinas, Loving the Tora more than God

8.11.18 Covenant

- Greenberg, Voluntary Covenant

15.11.18 Solidarity

- Schwartz, The Shoah from a Torah Perspective

22.11.18 After Theodicy

- Levinas, Useless Suffering

29.11.18 Suffering

- Adi Ophir, The Order of Evils

6.12.18 Suffering and Resistance

- Alice Eckardt, Suffering: Challenge

13.12.18 Resurrection

- Alice and Roy Eckardt, Long Night's Journey

20.12.18 Jewish Suffering and the Cross

- Van Buren (excerpts)

27.12.18 After Supersessionism

- Leighton, Christian Theology After the Shoah

3.1.19 Post-Theodicy

- Meyer, Theodicy and its Critique in Christian Post-Shoah Thought

10.1.19 Communities of Memory

- Margalit, Ethics of Memory

This schedule is tentative and may change as the course progresses.

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory. Students are permitted a maximum of three unexcused absences without penalty. Any additional absences will affect the final grade and may result in failure of the course.

Academic conduct

Plagiarism is taken extremely seriously. Any instance of academic misconduct which includes: submitting someone else's work as your own; failure to accurately cite sources; taking words from another source without using quotation marks; submission of work for which you have previously received credit; working in a group for individual assignments; using unauthorized materials in an exam and sharing your work with other students, will result in failure of the assignment and will likely lead to further disciplinary measures.

Additional requirements

Please keep phones turned-off while in class (except for students with small kids),

Please turn off computers during discussion.

Bibliography

Eckardt, Alice L., Suffering: Challenge to Faith, Challenge to God, in: (Website JCRelations): hwww.jcrelations.net

Eckardt, Alice L. and Eckardt, A. Roy, *Long Night's Journey into Day: Life and Faith after the Holocaust*, Detroit: Wayne State Michigan Press 1982, 166-170

Fackenheim, Emil L., *To Mend the World. Foundations of Post-Holocaust Jewish Thought*, Schocken Books: New York 1989

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Greenberg, Irving (Yitzchak), The Third Great Cycle of Jewish History, in: Steven Katz / Shlomo Biderman / Gershon Greenberg (eds.), *Wrestling with God. Jewish Theological Responses during and after the Holocaust*, Oxford University Press 2007, 523-543

Leighton, Christopher M., Christian Theology after the Shoah, in: *Christianity in Jewish Terms*, ed. by T. Frymer-Kensky, D. Novak, P. Ochs, D. Sandmel, M. Signer, Boulder, Colorado: Westview Press 2000, 36-48

Levinas, Emmanuel, Useless Suffering, in: Steven Katz / Shlomo Biderman / Gershon Greenberg (eds.), *Wrestling with God. Jewish Theological Responses during and after the Holocaust*, Oxford University Press 2007, 451-454

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Margalit, Avishai, *The Ethics of Memory*, Cambridge Mass. / London England, 2002

Ophir, Adi, *The Order of Evils*, New York: Zone Books 2005, 257-259; 267-273

Sacks, Jonathan, The Holocaust in Jewish Theology, in: Steven Katz / Shlomo Biderman / Gershon Greenberg (eds.), *Wrestling with God. Jewish Theological Responses during and after the Holocaust*, Oxford University Press 2007, 664-680

Schwartz, Yoel, The Shoah: From a Torah Perspective, in: Steven Katz / Shlomo Biderman / Gershon Greenberg (eds.), *Wrestling with God. Jewish Theological Responses during and after the Holocaust*, Oxford University Press 2007, 264-273