



## Modern Jewish Literature

Professor Brett Kaplan

Spring 2007, Comparative Literature 284; English 284; Religious Studies 284

Tuesday/Thursday 2:30-3:50; 156 English

Office Hours: Thursdays 11:30-2 (or by appointment) 3123 FLB; Tel: 333-1253

From South Africa to Cuba, Europe, and America, Jewish literature is varied, complex, and fascinating. The goals of this course are to introduce students to the broad array of Jewish writing and history from around the globe, to help students hone their analytical skills, and to guide students toward the understanding of cultural difference that is crucial for all of today's professions. Reading diverse literatures teaches participants about the rich variety of history, politics, art, and culture that graces our planet. Some of the works we will read in this course may be familiar and others may introduce students to new and exciting worlds they did not know were there. This is a discussion based course, so participants will have ample opportunity to express their ideas and talk to their peers. While the curriculum gives students a solid grounding in Jewish literature the course encourages participants to relate what they learn to conversations with their friends and parents about some of the central concerns of our time from war to racism to resistance to forgiveness.

Course Materials: Achy Obejas, *Days of Awe*; Patrick Modiano, *Dora Bruder*; W. G. Sebald, *Austerlitz*; Jonathan Safran Foer, *Everything is Illuminated*; Allegra Goodman, *The Family Markowitz*; Course Reader available at Notes & Quotes.