Critical Theory and the Jew, FALL 2017
Instructor: Professor Dragan Kujundzic
Seminar Room, Center for Jewish Studies, Walker Hall 201
JST 4936
ENG 3011
REL 4936
TU 3-6pm (periods 9-11)
Office 203 Walker Hall
Office Hours TH 3-5 and TBA
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The course will explore the ways the notion or the figure of "the Jew" has been formulated by major authors in Critical Theory, philosophy, psychoanalysis, literature and cinema. The focus will be on the critical articulations and interpretations of this figure regardless of the medium in which it is formulated. The students will learn the notion of critical theory as well as some of the major tenets of Judaism and Jewish Thought.

There will be one midterm and one final term paper, each 30% of the grade, three and a half to four pages single space each. The papers will be presented in class as well.
Attendance will comprise 20% of the grade;
Collective presentations and class participation 20%.

Attendance is mandatory and the original written excuse from a doctor’s office or a similar official document is required for a missed class, to be submitted with the final paper at the end of the semester. UF code of conduct, student honor and health codes will be observed. Online assignments, class announcements, reading material, and any changes in the syllabus to accommodate student’s reading schedule or preferences, when agreed upon in class, will be sent and confirmed via email; it is the student’s obligation to have a valid UF registered email and read it regularly.

Week one, Aug 22. Introduction; readings to be distributed via email;

Week two, Aug 29. Judaism, Goldberg, "Judaism as the Religious System"; Levinas, "Judaism"

Week three, Sept 5. Jews in Diaspora: Sholem Aleichem, Fiddler on the Roof; Tevye Stories; Dan Miron on Tevye;

Week four, Sept 12. Marxism; Zionism; Marx and Herzl on the "Jewish Question";

Week five, Sept 19. Abraham, Coen Brothers, Serious Man
Week six, Sept 26. Abraham continued, Reports, "Serious Man,” essays; Jacques Derrida, "Abraham, the Other.”


Week eight, Oct 10. Anti-Semitism and the Frankfurt School. Adorno; Benjamin; Kafka, "The Metamorphosis”;

Week nine, Oct 17. MIDTERM in Class


Week eleven, Oct 31. Response to Sartre. Emmanuel Levinas, "Being Jewish”; "Time and the Other,” excerpts; "The Name of a Dog”

Week twelve, Nov 7 Shoah. Sarah Kofman, "Rue Ordener, rue Labat,” excerpts; Smothered Words, excerpts; Night and Fog, screening;

Week thirteen, Nov 14 Hannah Arendt, Eichmann in Jerusalem; Vita Activa: The Spirit of Hannah Arent, discussion.

Week fourteen, Nov 21 Judaism in the Maghreb and Israel. Albert Memmi, Portrait of the Jew, and Jews and Arabs, excerpts. Scholem’s letter to Rosenzweig on the Hebrew Language and the Founding of the State of Israel

Week fifteen, Nov 28 Abraham in Film, Continued: Harmonia, discussion

Week sixteen, Dec 5 Conclusion. FINAL PAPER DUE IN CLASS