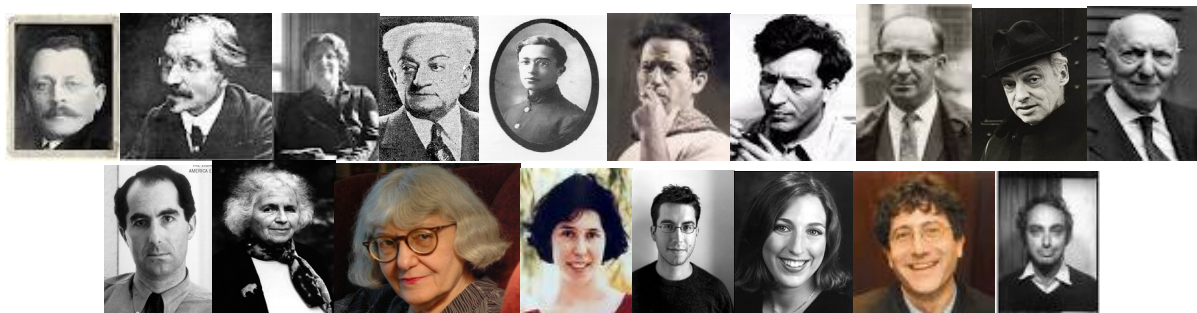


Veranstalter	Prof. Dr. Virginia Ricard
Thema	American Jewish Literature in the 20th Century [AA- V4a/b, ENG-13, AA-M5, AA-M7, A-M15, AA-W]
Art der Veranstaltung	Seminar II
Veranstaltungsnummer	53-569
Zeit	2st, Fr 10-12
Raum	Phil 1250
Beginn	08.04.2011



In this course, we will read works by some of the major twentieth-century American Jewish writers. We will concentrate on fiction — short stories, novellas and extracts of novels — but will also read some autobiography. We will work chronologically, beginning with Abraham Cahan's "A Providential Match" (1898), paying particular attention to the patterns and movements of Jewish life in America. We will discuss recurrent themes such as immigration, intermarriage, assimilation, Israel, and the Holocaust. And as we read, we will ask ourselves a number of questions: Are these stories simply another form of local color, sociological documents in a sense, or do at least some of them belong to the world of great art? What makes the Jewish experience in America unique and what does it tell us about all human experience everywhere?

Students will be required to read a particular story (sometimes two stories), a passage from a novel, and on one or two occasions a whole novel, for each class as well as other background material that will be provided. Please read Abraham Cahan's "A Providential Match" (1898) before the first class.

Requirements:

Apart from formal requirements, both active participation in the seminar sessions (oral presentation) and a term paper of 15 – 20 pages are required.