As the Russian Empire expanded over time, it absorbed territories with large Jewish populations. Jews have played crucial roles in Russian and Soviet history and culture, be it as political radicals and revolutionaries, as moral thinkers and philosophers, or as some of the world’s best poets, artists, and film directors.

We will read Shalom Aleichem’s tales of Tevye the Milkman, Babel’s stories about the Jewish mafia in Odessa, Soviet underground writer and dissident Sevela. We will watch movies about the life of Soviet Jews and the Holocaust. Secondary readings and guest lectures will emphasize the historical background. This new interdisciplinary course has no prerequisites.

1 credit TTH 01:15pm-02:30pm Taught by Dr. Marina Rojavin