This seminar examines modern concepts of Jewish space, concentrating on how people have imagined, constructed or enacted space in Jewish life from the period from the nineteenth century until now. The course is structured around three themes: the characteristic blend of the secular and sacred; the relation between space and time; and between Jews and others. The types of spaces considered range from the secular to the ritual, memorial and spiritual. Thus ways in which spaces are constructed or conceived to include or exclude Jews are considered, as well as spaces where people mingle with one another in imagination or reality. The themes overlap, particularly in cases where concepts of time merge with concepts of space, as in spaces, such as the Eruv, that are activated only at certain times. Examples of spaces treated include synagogues (modern buildings and ancient objects of modern scholarship), Eruvim, prison (or concentration) camps, baseball fields, Jewish Museums, and Eretz Israel. Readings include theorists of space including Henri Lefebvre as well as writers associated (as primary or secondary sources) with the particular case studies. Students will make presentations and submit papers on topics of their choosing in consultation with the professor. A major aim of the seminar is a better understanding of the role of space in concepts of Jewish identity, as conceived by Jews and others. Qualified undergraduates are welcome.

**Requirements:**

**Readings:**
All readings are due on the day they are assigned. Come to class prepared to discuss them. Each student takes on one or more assignments based on the reading, as explained in class. These will take the form of discussion board entries. All students will be required to read these. Jonathan Z. Smith, *To Take Place* and *James Sturm’s America* have been ordered through Labyrinth Books and the Divinity School Bookstore. All other readings can be found on the course website under the Resources tab.

**Reports:**
Twenty-minute talks or other appropriate presentations based on topics of your choice, to be discussed with and approved by me, during the first month of the course.

**Papers:**
Graduate Students: 15-20 page papers based on the seminar report, but not necessarily identical to it.
Undergraduates: 10-15 page papers. If appropriate, a project in an alternative form may be accepted in lieu of a paper.
Jewish Space
HSAR 730b/JDST 716b/REL 955b/RLST 794b
Draft Calendar and Readings:

**In the interest of full disclosure, I have indicated those topics on which I have written by citing at least some of the bibliography in small type under the topic to which they pertain.**

Jan. 11: Introduction to “Jewish Space”

Jan. 18: 1. Space and Jewish Space

Jan. 25: 2. Theory of Ritual Space - Rosenzweig
   Reading: Rosenzweig, from The Star of Redemption

Feb. 1: 3. Theory of Ritual Space 2
   Reading: Jonathan Z. Smith, To Take Place: Toward Theory in Ritual

Feb. 8: 4. Structures Permanent and Temporary
   Readings: Miriam Lipis, “A Hybrid Place of Belonging: Constructing and Siting the Sukkah.” Sukkah City (illustrations)

Feb. 15: 5. The Eruv

March 1: preliminary discussion of seminar topics

March 8, 15: Spring Break

March 22: 7. Homogenizing Jewish Space: The baseball field:
   Reading: James Sturm, *The Golem’s Mighty Swing*, from *James Sturm’s America*; Barnett Newman, Design for a synagogue (illustrations)

March 29: 9. Memorial Spaces and Jewish Museums

April 5: 10. Israel:

April 12: Seminar reports

April 19: Seminar Reports

April 26: Seminar Reports

May 3: Seminar Reports: (at least) 3 hour session (may have to be rescheduled, depending on exam schedules)

May 10: Papers/Projects Due