

**2015 Centropa Summer Academy  
Elective Group Descriptions**

Elective	Description
<b>Cities &amp; Shtetls: Jewish life in pre-war Central and Eastern Europe</b>	Since we began, Centropa’s goal was to preserve Jewish memory and that’s why our resources focus more on how Jews lived than how they died. Participants in this elective will delve into the wide diversity of stories from pre-war Jewish life in our database and film collection – from the well-to-do in cities like Krakow to the very poor living in small villages known as shtetls. The variety of Jewish life in Poland and other countries in Central and Eastern Europe will come to life for your students when you bring back descriptions of the life that was in the words of the people who lived it.
<b>Holocaust in German-occupied Poland</b>	Anyone teaching Holocaust in a school knows that there’s never enough time to cover all events and topics. This elective will give you the opportunity to create a dynamic lesson or project for your students focusing on a central place in Holocaust history: German-occupied Poland. For your lessons, you will draw from a wide range of Centropa resources – primary source interviews and photographs in our database, interview excerpts and essays in the <i>Polish Jewish Source Book</i> , and the many things you learn through the tours, lectures and museums during the CSA.
<b>Civil Society and the Fall of Communism - Central and Eastern Europe under Communism, 1980- 1989</b>	When students are so young that they see the entire 20 <sup>th</sup> century as ancient history, we need to teach it to them in ways that are relevant to them. That is why we highlight the role of civil society in bringing about change, and there are examples from several countries to share with your students. Participants in this elective will create a lesson or project about the fall of Communism and the role of civil society in various Central and Eastern European countries in the past three decades. The discussions held on July 10 will provide you with material to bring back to your students, and the essays in the <i>Polish Jewish Source Book</i> will give you and your students historical context and details that will engage your students.
<b>Central and Eastern Europe under Communism</b>	What happened to Jews in Communist countries after the Holocaust? That is the question participants in this elective will explore to bring back to World History and other courses. After the end of World War Two, Jews were removed from leading positions in the Communist parties in Eastern Europe - for example, in Czechoslovakia, where most of the Jews in the leadership of the Czechoslovak

	<p>Communist Party were purged in the Slánský Trial of 1952. In 1956, many Jewish leaders in Hungary and Poland were removed from office. At the same time, exercising Jewish traditions and Jewish religion became more and more difficult. This group will look at selected Centropa stories from Central and Eastern Europe to discuss how Jews lived in post-Holocaust Central and Eastern European Communist countries.</p>
<p><b>The Uses and Misuses of Memory: Facing our Past</b></p>	<p>The funny thing about memory is that while it is about the past, it takes place in the present - and good educators show their students how memory, or history, is used by everyone for their own purposes. What does it mean for us as teachers, for example, that Poles have a very different interpretation of what happened in German-occupied Poland, than Jews? What does it mean for how the Holocaust is taught -in Poland versus other countries, in public versus Jewish schools? How do these discrepancies hinder us from moving forward in the 21<sup>st</sup> century? How do we talk to our students about dual narratives in history? These are the questions you will explore.</p>
<p><b>Digital Storytelling through Video</b></p>	<p>Centropa teachers in the US, Europe, and Israel assign video projects on a wide range of topics - their towns' Jewish histories, family histories, historical events, poems - and they share them with one another on the Centropa website. This is your chance to get some experience with video-making by making your own video of your trip to Poland, to share with your students. If you are more comfortable making your own video you are more likely to give your students a video project. Join in the fun, and learn the secret of how to make a short, effective film from our experienced veterans, Wolfi Els (Centropa's filmmaker), and our printable video-making guide - and then take it home to share with your students!</p>