



Rothberg International School
בית הספר לתלמידים מחו"ל ע"ש רוטברג
THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM
האוניברסיטה העברית בירושלים



Collective Memory and Cultural Myths in Contemporary Israel (48877)

Instructor: Dr. Dan Tsahor

Summer Semester: July 2 - 26, 2018

Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 13:00-16:00

45 Academic Hours, 3 Academic Credits

Contact Details Instructor

danwts@gmail.com

Course Description

This class examines key issues in the society in Israel by inspecting the way in which the past is remembered and commemorated. Collective memory - the ways in which a society uses and talks about the past - always reflects the needs and developments of that society in the present. In Israel, collective memory plays a leading role in the construction of national and group identities. This class will include an in-depth introduction to theories in collective memory as well as examination of the ways in which these theories are exemplified in the Israeli case study. What is the role of memory of the Holocaust today? Why is Yitzhak Rabin so strongly commemorated in Tel Aviv, and so forgotten in Jerusalem? What are the differences and similarities between Israeli and Palestinian commemoration of the 1948 war? How did historical-religious sites in Jerusalem develop into tourist attractions? And what is the role of archaeology in the shaping of ideology? We will address these issues throughout walking tours in Jerusalem, where we will visit the living side of memory and experience the way past is taking shape in the present today.

Course Objectives

- a) Introduce the students to basic theories in that field of collective memory.
- b) Explore the different dynamics and changes that affect the collective memory in Israel.
- c) Visit monuments and museums in Jerusalem and analyze those using theories of collective memory.
- d) Discuss the role of collective memory in the shaping of the Israeli identity and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Course Requirements

- ***Class attendance***
 - It is mandatory for all students to attend classes and participate in class activities. Failure to attend classes will result in a student being denied the right to partake of the final assignment and receive a final grade in a course. Students who have a justified reason to miss class (illness, mourning, etc.) must communicate with their instructors and the Department of Summer Courses and Special Programs, and complete the material that they have missed.
 - Students who have missed class due to illness must obtain a signed and stamped sick note from a treating physician and submit it to the Dept. of Summer Courses and Special Programs immediately following their return to class. Failure to do so will result in an unexcused absence.
 - The Department reserves the right to refer the issue to an Academic Committee. In some cases, the Academic Committee may decide, in light of the requirements of the course, that it is not possible to make up the missing course work.

- ***Class presentation***
 - Students will be required to give a short presentation on a subject of their choice. The presentation will include a short introduction to one case study of collective memory or commemoration and the theoretical questions it is connected to. Students are encouraged to present case studies from their home country or personal experience.

- ***One final essay*** (approximately 10 pages)
 - In the final essay students are requested to analyze a case study of collective memory according to one of the theories presented in the class. Students may discuss one aspect of collective memory in Israel or any other case study they are familiar with. The essay must include theoretical introduction and analysis of specific case study. Towards the end of the course I will devote two hours to explain the structure of the final essay and to give specific instructions to how it should be written.

Earning Graduate Credits for this course:

- Graduate students are expected to inform the Rothberg International School – rissummer@savion.huji.ac.il - of their interest in earning graduate credit for their summer course(s).
- Graduate students must complete a 15-page, double-spaced, seminar paper with bibliography for the course in place of the course's standard final assessment (in most cases, an exam). The topic and bibliography for these papers must be chosen in conjunction and agreement

with each course instructor. Students must approach course instructors by the end of the first week of the course and arrange a time to meet and define their paper topic and bibliography.

- The seminar paper must make use of at least five scholarly sources (books or academic articles), in addition to internet resources.
- The graduate seminar papers must be submitted within 2 months following course completion in order for the graduate student to fulfill requirements for this course.

Final Grade Breakdown:

- *Participation*: 10%
- *Class presentation*: 20%
- *Final Essay*: 70%

Course Outline

Day	Date	Course	Readings
1	Tue. 3/7	<u>Collective memory, introduction</u>	Olick, Jeffrey Pp. 105-140 <u>Recommended reading:</u> Schwartz, Barry. Pp. 469-496. Jeffrey K. Olick, Vered Vinitzky-Seroussi, Daniel Levy. Pp. 3-62.
2	Wed. 4/7	<u>Memory agents</u>	Fine, Garry A. Pp. 1159-1193.
3	Thu. 5/7	<u>Collective memory, religion and tourism: The Old City of Jerusalem.</u> The old city is a unique case study in which sites of memory are also consumed as archaeological attractions, holy places and national symbols. Church of the Holy Sepulcher Main marketplace – Christian Quarter Jewish Quarter and Western Wall.	Abu El-Haj, N. introduction. <u>Recommended reading:</u> Halbwachs, Maurice. Pp. 60-80

4	Mon. 9/7	<u>Memory and History</u>	Confino (1997) <u>Recommended reading:</u> Pierre, Nora. Pp. 7-24. Lowenthal, David. Pp. 1-36.
5	Tues 10/7	<u>Jewish Memory</u>	Yerushalmi (1982). <u>Recommended reading:</u> Myers.
6	Wed. 11/7	<u>Rivaling narratives: 1948 war</u> The memory of the 1948 war is an important element of both the Israeli and Palestinian society. Tour of Lifta with Zochrot Organization.	Confino (2015) Gutman 61-74.
7	Mon. 16/7	<u>The Palestinian Villages</u>	Benvenisti, Meron. 2002. <u>Recommended reading:</u> Davis, Rochelle. 2011
8	Tues. 17/7	<u>The memory of the holocaust and the Israeli state. (field trips).</u> Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum is the official state commemoration for the Jews murdered during the Second World War. Yad Vashem reveals the importance of the Holocaust to the construction of the Israeli identity. Tour to Yad Vashem Museum	Feldman, J. Pp. 30-55. Zerubavel, Yael. Introduction. <u>Recommended reading:</u> Ben-Yehuda. 1995. Introduction.
9	Wed. 18/7	<u>Collective memory and the nation: Mount Herzl and the Ammunition Hill memorial site.</u> From the early years of the Israeli state the memory the fallen soldiers was an important element of the Israeli identity. In Israel the past was harnessed to promote national identity and individual	Azaryahu, Maoz. Pp. 46-74. <u>Recommended reading:</u> Azaryahu, Maoz. Pp. 57-77. Sivan, Emmanuel. Pp. 177-204.

		commitment to the collective goal. Mount Herzl - the Mount of Remembrance. Ammunition Hill memorial site.	
10	Mon. 23/7	<u>Space and Memory</u>	Laleh Khalili, Pp. 30-45. <u>Recommended reading:</u> Pierre, Nora. Pp. 7-24. Lowenthal, David. Pp. 1-36.
11	Tues. 24/7	<u>From memory to commemoration</u>	Vinitzky-Seroussi, Vered. 2002. "Commemorating a Difficult Past: Yitzhak Rabin's Memorials." <i>American Sociological Review</i> 67: 30-51. <u>Recommended reading:</u> Wagner-Pacifici, Robin and Barry Schwartz. 1991. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial. 376-420.

Course Readings

Confino, Alon. "Collective Memory and Cultural History: Problems of Method." *The American Historical Review* 102, no. 5 (1997): 1386-403. [E-JOURNAL](#)

Yerushalmi, Yosef Hayim. 1982. *Zakhor, Jewish history and Jewish memory*. Seattle: University of Washington Press. **Overseas Library 933.09 Y48**

Myers, David N. 1992. "Remembering Zakhor: a super-commentary". *History and Memory*. 4 (2): 129-146. [E-JOURNAL](#)

Confino, Alon. 2015. "The Warm Sand of the Coast of Tantura: History and Memory in Israel after 1948". *History & Memory*. 27 (1): 43-82. [E-JOURNAL](#)

Benvenisti, Meron. 2002. *Sacred landscape: the buried history of the Holy Land since 1948*. Berkeley, Calif: University of California Press. **Overseas Library E325.21 B478; [E-BOOK \(2000ed\)](#)**.

Davis, Rochelle. 2011. *Palestinian village histories: geographies of the displaced*. Stanford, Calif: Stanford University Press. **Overseas Library E301.35(A) D261; Main Library DS 113.6 D395 2011**

Olick, Jeffrey A. and Joyce Robbins. 1998. "Social Memory Studies: From „Collective Memory“ to the Historical Sociology of Mnemonic Practices." *Annual Review of Sociology* 98(24): 105-140. [E-JOURNAL](#)

Schwartz, Barry. 1997. "Collective Memory and History." *The Sociological Quarterly*, 38(3): 469-496. [E-JOURNAL](#)

Jeffrey K. Olick, Vered Vinitzky-Seroussi, Daniel Levy. 2011. *The collective memory reader*, New York: Oxford University Press. pp. 3-62. **Main Library HM 1033 C62 2011; ERESERVE**

Fine, Garry A. 1996. "Reputational Entrepreneurs and the Memory of Incompetence: Melting Supporters, Partisan Warriors and Images of President Harding." *American Journal of Sociology* 101(5): 1159-1193. [E-JOURNAL](#)

Pierre, Nora. "Between Memory and History: Les Lieux de Memoire." *Representations* 26 (Spring 1989), pp. 7-24. [E-JOURNAL](#)

Laleh Khalili, "Places of Memory and Mourning: Palestinian Commemoration in the Refugee Camps of Lebanon" *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East - Volume 25, Number 1, 2005*, pp. 30-45. [E-JOURNAL](#)

Lowenthal, David. 1975. "Past Time, Present Place: Landscape and Memory." *The Geographical Review* LXV(1): 1-36). [E-JOURNAL](#)

Eviatar Zerubavel. 2003. "The Social Structure of Memory: Introduction". *Time Maps: Collective Memory and the Social Shape of the Past*. Chicago U.P. Introduction. **Main Library BD 638 Z48 2003; ERESERVE**

Feige, Michael. 1995. "Jewish Hebron Between Past and Present: A Case of Collective Memory." *Israel Studies Bulletin* 10(2): 5-9. **ERESERVE**

Wagner-Pacifici, Robin and Barry Schwartz. 1991. "The Vietnam Veterans Memorial: Commemorating a Difficult Past." *American Journal of Sociology* 97: 376-420. [E-JOURNAL](#)

Levy, Daniel and Natan Sznaider. 2002. "Memory Unbound: The Holocaust and the Formation of Cosmopolitan memory." *European Journal of Social Theory* 5(1): 87-106. [E-JOURNAL](#)

Vinitzky-Seroussi, Vered. 2002. "Commemorating a Difficult Past: Yitzhak Rabin's Memorials." *American Sociological Review* 67: 30-51. [E-JOURNAL](#)

Forty, Adrian. 1999. "Introduction." in *The Art of Forgetting*. Edited by Adrian Forty and Susanne Kuechler. Oxford: Berg. pp. 1-18. **Main Library BF 378 S65; ERESERVE**

Zerubavel, Yael. 1995. *Recovered Roots. Collective Memory and the Making of Israeli National Tradition*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Introduction, p. xvii-xx. **Overseas Library E933.01 Z58; ERESERVE**

Ben-Yehuda. 1995. *The Masada Myth: Collective Memory and Mythmaking in Israel*. Wisconsin, Madison: The University of Wisconsin Press. Introduction. **Overseas Library E13 B480; [E-BOOK](#)**

Handelman, Don. 1990. *Models and Mirrors: Toward an Anthropology of Public Events*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Introduction, p. 3-82. **Main Library GT 3930 H34; ERESERVE (p. 3-62); ERESERVE (p. 63-81, 1998 ed.)**

Feldman, J. 2008. "The historical and social context of Israeli Shoah commemoration." *Above the Death Pits, Beneath the Flag: Youth Voyages to Poland and the Performance of Israeli National Identity*. New York, Oxford: Berghahn Books, p. 30-55. **Overseas Library 940.53 F312; ERESERVE**

Azaryahu, Maoz. 1996. "Mount Herzl: The Creation of Israel's National Cemetery." *Israel Studies* 1(2): 46-74. **[E-JOURNAL](#)**

Azaryahu, Maoz. 1992. "War Memorials and the Commemoration on the Israeli War of Independence, 1948-1956." *Studies in Zionism* 13(1): 57-77. **ERESERVE**

Sivan, Emmanuel. 1999. "Private Pain and Public Remembrance in Israel." *War and Remembrance*, edited by Jay Winter and Emmanuel Sivan. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Pp. 177-204. **Main Library D421 W36; ERESERVE**

Halbwachs, Maurice. 1992. "The Collective Memory of the Family." *On Collective Memory*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press. pp. 54-83. **Overseas Library 306.4 H157; ERESERVE**

Abu El-Haj, N. 2001. *Facts on the Ground- Archaeological Practice and Territorial Self-Fashioning in Israeli Society*. Chicago and London: The University of Chicago Press. Introduction. **Main Library DS 111.1 A28 2001; ERESERVE (chapter 1 p. 1-21, chapter 7 p. 163-200).**

Peri, Yoram. 1999. "The Media and Collective Memory of Yitzhak Rabin's Remembrance." *Journal of Communication* 49(3): 106-124. **[E-JOURNAL](#)**

Yifat Gutman. 201. "Transcultural Memory in Conflict: Israeli-Palestinian Truth and Reconciliation", *Parallax*, 17:4, 61-74. **[E-JOURNAL](#)**