



Israeli Collective Memory

Dr. Oren Meyers

Course Number:

Semester: Spring 2010

Class Time: Monday, 3-6

Class Location: Terrace building, room
1006

Office Hours: Monday, 11-12

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Course Description:

The course deals with the ways in which societies shape their shared perceptions of the past through various cultural agents, and especially the mass media – the press, television, documentary and feature movies etc. Within this context, the course focuses on the construction of the Jewish and Israeli pasts and their pivotal role in the construction of a national Israeli identity.

Course Requirements:

1. The students will read all the mandatory assigned readings marked with an asterisk (*) from week to week in preparation for classroom discussions. All mandatory readings are scanned in the TUT system. Upon request, the students will submit to the lecturer (via email) brief responses to the readings.
2. The students (either on their own or in couples) will choose **one additional reading** from the syllabus, or a different relevant reading dealing with collective memory research he/she/they located on their own and will present it in class. A choice of reading that does not appear on the list is welcomed, but it requires my approval. Students will choose their readings by the second meeting (March 1, 2010). **Students' presentations will be circulated via email prior to our meeting, till Sunday evening.**
3. A final take-home exam will be distributed at the end our last meeting (May 31, 2010). The exam will be designed to test the students' knowledge and understanding of the reading material, the lectures and class discussions. **The students will submit their exams by June 21, 2010.**

Final Grade:

Attendance and active participation in class discussion, reading reports: 15%

Class presentation of a selected reading: 10%

Take home exam: 75%



Course Outline and Reading List

Introduction: The fundamentals of collective memory research

* Erll, A. 2008. Cultural memory studies: An introduction. In A. Erll & A. Nunning (eds.) *Cultural Memory Studies: An International and Interdisciplinary Handbook*. Mouton De Gruyter, 1-15.

* Zelizer, B. 1995, June. Reading the past against the grain: The shape of memory studies. *Critical studies in mass communication*, 214-239.

Zerubavel, Y. 1995 *Recovered Roots: collective Memory and the Making of Israeli National Tradition*. University of Chicago Press, 3-12.

Connerton, Paul. (1989). *How societies remember*. Cambridge University Press.

Gillis, J.R. 1994. Memory and Identity: The History of a Relationship. In *Commemorations: The Politics of National Identity*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 3-24.

Between individual and collective memories

* Lomsky-Feder, E. 2004. Life Stories, War, and Veterans: On the Social Distribution of Memories. *Ethos*, 32 (1), 82-109.

Schuman, H, Vinitzky-Seroussi, V. & Vinokur, A. D. 2003. Keeping the Past Alive: Memories of Israeli Jews at the Turn of the Millennium. *Sociological Forum*, 18.1: 103-136.

Schuman, H. and Scott, J. 1989. Generations and Collective Memories. *American Sociological Review*, 54 (June), 359-381.

Vinitzky-Seroussi & Ben-Ari, E. (2000). A knock on the door: Managing Death in the Israeli Defense Forces. *The Sociological Quarterly*, 41(3): 391-411.

Changing and competing memory versions

* Shapira, A. 1996. Historiography and Memory: Latrun, 1948. *Jewish Social Studies*, 3 (1), 20-61.

* Zerubavel, Y. 1995. The Multivocality of a National myth: Memory and Counter-Memories of Masada. *Israel Affairs*, 1 (3), 110-128.



Hariman, R. & Lucaites, J. L. 2003. Public Identity and Collective Memory in U.S. Iconic Photography: The Image of "Accidental Napalm." *Critical Studies in Media Communication*, v.20, n.1, pp. 33-66.

Schwartz, B. 1991. Social Change and Collective Memory: The Democratization of George Washington. *American Sociological Review*, 56 (2), 221-236.

Schwartz, B. 1998. [Postmodernity and Historical Reputation: Abraham Lincoln in Late Twentieth-Century American Memory](#). *Social Forces*, 77(1), 63-103.

Vinitzky-Seroussi, V. 2002. Commemorating a Difficult Past: Yitzhak Rabin's Memorials. *American Sociological Review*, 67 (1), 30-51.

White, G. M. 2004. National subjects: September 11 and Pearl Harbor. *American Ethnologist*, v.31, n.3, pp. 293-310.

Memory and Historiography

* Nora, P. 1996. *Realms of Memory: Rethinking the French Past*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1997, 1-23.

* White, H. 1980. The value Narrativity in the Representation of Reality, in W. J. T. Mitchell (ed.) *On Narrative*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1-25.

* Zinn, H. 1997. *A People's History of the United States*. New York: New Press, pp. 3-16

Schwartz, B. 1997. Collective Memory and History. *The Sociological Quarterly*, 38(3): 469-496.

Wertsch, J. V. 1994. Introduction: Historical Representation. *Journal of Narrative and Life History*, 4 (4), 247-255.

National/global identities and collective memory

* Ashuri, T. (2007). Television tension: Collective versus cosmopolitan memory in a co-produced television documentary. *Media, Culture & Society*, 29, 31-51.

* Hobsbawm, E. 1983. Introduction: Inventing Tradition. in E. Hobsbawm & T. Ranger (Eds.), *The Invention of Tradition*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1-14.

* Kimmerling, B. 1995. Academic history caught in the cross-fire: The case of Israeli-Jewish historiography. *History & Memory*, 7 (1), 41-65.



* Zerubavel, Y. 1995. *Recovered Roots: collective Memory and the Making of Israeli National Tradition*. University of Chicago Press, 13-36.

Fracscina, F. 2003. The New York Times, Norman Rockwell and the new patriotism. *Journal of Visual Culture*, v.2, n.1, pp. 99-130.

Liebman, C. S. and Don-Yehiya, E. 1983. *Civil Religion in Israel: Traditional Judaism and Political Culture in the Jewish state*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1-24, 123-153.

Meyers, O. 2002. Still Photographs, Dynamic Memories: An Analysis of the Visual Presentation of Israel's History in Commemorative Newspaper Supplements. *The Communication Review*, 5 (3), 179-205.

West, E. 2002. Selling Canada to Canadians: collective memory, national identity, and popular culture. *Critical Studies in Media Communication*, vl.19, n.2, pp. 212-229.

Zertal, I. 2000. From the People's Hall to the Wailing Wall: A Study in Memory, Fear and War. *Representations*, 69, 96-126.

Memory and trauma

* Brog, M. 2003. Victims and Victors: Holocaust and Military Commemoration in Israel Collective Memory. *Israel Studies*, 8 (3), 65-99

* Lavie, A. Right of remembrance. *Ha'aretz's weekend supplement*, August 27, 2004.

* Meyers, O. & Zandberg E. 2002. The Soundtrack of Memory: *Ashes and Dust* and Holocaust Commemoration in Israeli Popular Culture. *Media Culture & Society*, 34 (2), 389-408.

* Nossek, H. 1994. The Narrative Role of the Holocaust and the State of Israel in the Coverage of Salient Terrorist Events in the Israeli Press. *Journal of Narrative and Life History*, 4 (1-2).

* Woodstock, L. 2001, v.21, n.4. Hide and Seek: The Paradox of Documenting Suicide. *Text and Performance Quarterly*, 247-260.

Andrews, A. 2003. Grand national narratives and the project of truth commissions: a comparative analysis. *Media Culture & Society*, 25 (1), 45-65.

Lomsky-Feder, E. 2004, v.25, n.3. The Memorial Ceremony in Israeli Schools: Between the State and Civil Society. *British Journal of Sociology of Education*, 291-305.

Meyers, O., Zandberg, E. & Neiger, M. (2009, v.59, n.3). Prime Time Commemoration: An Analysis of Television Broadcasts on Israel's Memorial Day for the Holocaust and the Heroism. *Journal of Communication*, 456-480.

Resnik J. 2003, v.9, n.2. "Sites of memory" of the Holocaust: Shaping National Memory in the Education System in Israel. *Nations and Nationalism*, 297-317.

Zandberg, E. 2006, v.28, n.4. Critical Laughter: Humor, Popular Culture and Israeli Holocaust Commemoration. *Media, Culture & Society*, 561-579.

Non-commemorative memory

Schudson, M. 1997, v.2, n.1. Lives, Laws and Language: Commemorative versus Non-Commemorative Forms of Effective Public Memory. *The Communication Review*, 3-17.

Media Memory

* Edy, J. A. 1999, v.49. Journalistic Uses of Collective Memory. *Journal of Communication*, 71-85.

* Zelizer, B. 2008. Why memory's work on journalism does not reflect journalism's work on memory. *Memory Studies* v.1,n.1, 79-87.

Carlson, M. 2007, v.8, n.2. Journalistic authority and the memorializing discourse around Mary McGrory and David Brinkley. *Journalism*, 165-183.

Edy, J. A. & Daradanova, M. (2006). Reporting through the lens of the past. *Journalism*, 7.2, 131-151.

Gans, R.M. 2002. The Newseum and collective memory: narrowed choices, limited voices, and rhetoric of freedom. *Journal of Communication Inquiry*, v.26, n.4, 370-390,

Kitch, C. 2002, v.36, n.1. Anniversary Journalism, Collective Memory, and the Cultural Authority to Tell the Story of the American Past. *Journal of Popular Culture*, 44-67.

Meyers, O. 2007, v.57, n.4. Memory in Journalism and the Memory of Journalism: Israeli Journalists and the Constructed Legacy of *Haolam Hazeh*. *Journal of Communication*, 719-739.

Schudson, M. 1992. *Watergate in American Memory: How We Remember, Forget, and Reconstruct the Past*. New York: Basic Books, 103-126.

Tenenboim Weinblatt, K. 2008, v.9, n.1. Fighting for the Story's Life: Non-closure in Journalistic Narrative. *Journalism*, 31-51.

Conclusion, circulation of take home exam