

Between Past and Present: The Shaping of Israel's Collective Memories

Dr. Oren Meyers

Course Number: 702.2285

Semester: Spring 2017

Class Time: Thursday, 12:00-3:00

Class Location:

Office Hours: Upon request

Location: Rabin Building, room # 8044

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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: news outlets, television, documentary and feature movies and more. Within this context, the course focuses on the construction of Israeli collective memory, as a reflection of ongoing negotiations and debates over Israeli identities, cultures and ideologies.

Course Requirements:

1. Class readings:

Upon the lecturer's request, students will read mandatory assigned readings marked with an asterisk (*) in preparation for classroom discussions. All mandatory readings are scanned in the Moodle system. Upon request, students will email the lecturer brief responses to the readings.

2. Elaboration assignment:

Each student will choose one of the assigned mandatory readings and prepare a short presentation that provides information that *was not* discussed in the reading, but is relevant for a better understanding of it. For example: the students can discuss the (personal/political/intellectual) biographies of the authors of the articles, or of individuals discussed in them; students can elaborate on the historical events discussed in the articles, or the popular culture that characterized the era addressed in the article etc. **Students will inform me about their choice of their elaboration topic by March 23, 2017.**

3. Class presentation of additional readings:

Each student will choose one additional reading from the syllabus, or a different relevant reading dealing with collective memory research s/he has located on his/her own and will present it in class. **Students will inform me about their choice of reading by March 9, 2017.**

Please note: most additional readings *are not* scanned in Moodle and you will have to locate them in the library. A choice of reading that does not appear on the list is welcomed, but it requires the lecturer's approval. **Student presentations will be circulated prior to our meeting, till Tuesday evening.**

4. Final assignment:

4.a. Undergraduate students will write a take-home exam, to be distributed at the end our last meeting. Students taking the exam will be requested to answer three (out of five) comprehensive essay questions that will test the students' knowledge and understanding of the readings, the lectures and class discussions. **Undergraduate students will submit their take-home exams by June 15, 2017.**

4.b. Graduate students will write a short research paper (up to 10 pages). They will first discuss the topic of their research paper with me; next, they will submit a short research proposal, by April 20, 2017. **Graduate students will submit the final research papers by June 29, 2017.**

Final Grade:

Attendance and active participation in class discussion, submission of reading reports: 10%
 Elaboration assignment: 10%
 Class presentation of a selected reading: 10%
 Take home exam/research paper: 70%

Course Outline and Reading List**Introduction: The fundamentals of collective memory research**

* Olick, J.K., Vinitzky-Seroussi, V. & Levy, D. (2011). Introduction, in: J.K. Olick, V. Vinitzky-Seroussi & D. Levy (Eds.) *The Collective Memory Reader*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 3-39.

* Zelizer, B. 1995, June. Reading the Past Against the Grain: The Shape of Memory Studies. *Critical studies in mass communication*, 214-239.

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.

Between personal 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.

Maltby, S. 2016. Media-Remembering the Falklands War: Subjectivity and Identification. *International Journal of Communication*, 10, 642–659.

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.

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

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.

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

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

Between Memory and Historiography

* Nora, P. 1989. Between Memory and History: Les Lieux de Mémoire. *Representations*, 26, 7-24.

* Shavit, A. (2013). Housing Estate, in *My Promised Land: The Triumph and Tragedy of Israel*. New York, NY: Spiegel & Grau, 135-174.

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

National/global identities and collective memory

* Feige, M. (1999). Rescuing the Person from the Symbol: "Peace Now" and the Ironies of Modern Myth. *History & Memory*, 11 (1), 141-168.

* Gabel, I. (2013). Historical memory and collective identity: West Bank settlers reconstruct the past. *Media, Culture & Society*, 35(2), 250-259.

* Katriel, T. (forthcoming). Commemorating the Twentieth Century: The Holocaust and Nonviolent Struggle in Global Discourse. In H. Hazan & A. Goldberg, (Eds.) *Marking Evil: Holocaust Memory in the Global Age*.

* 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.

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

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.

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

* Keret, E. 2004. Shoes, in *Gaza Blues*. London : David Paul, 59-63.

* Keret, E. 2004. Siren, in *The Bus Driver Who Wanted to Be God & Other Stories*, New York, Toby Press, 57-60.

* Khoury, E. (2006). *Gate of the Sun*. Archipelago Books. TBA.

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

* Meyers, O. Neiger, M., & Zandberg, E. (2011, v.14, n.2). Structuring the Sacred: Media Professionalism and the Production of Mediated Holocaust Memory. *The Communication Review*, 123-144.

* 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.

Paige, L.G. & Jones, S. (2012, v.5, n.2). Remediation and remembrance: "Dancing Auschwitz" Collective Memory and New Media. *Journal for Communication Studies*, 107-131.

Zandberg, E. 2014. "Ketchup is the Auschwitz of tomatoes": Humor and the collective memory of traumatic events. *Communication, Culture & Critique*, 1-16.

Media and Memory

* Nossek, H. & Berkowitz, D. (2006). Telling “our” story through news of terrorism. *Journalism Studies*, 795), 691-707.

* Neiger, M., Meyers, O., & Zandberg, E. 2011. On Media Memory – editors' introduction, in: Neiger, M., Meyers, O. & Zandberg, E., (Eds.) *On Media Memory: Collective Memory in a new Media Age*. London: Palgrave MacMillan, 1-26.

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

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.

Kitch, C. (2003, v.4, n.2) "Mourning in America": ritual, redemption, and recovery in news narrative after September 11. *Journalism Studies*, 213-224.

Sonnevend, J. (2013, v.14, n.3). Counter revolutionary icons. *Journalism Studies*, 336-354.

Watson, B. R. & Chen, M. S. 2015: @Todayin1963: Commemorative journalism, digital collective remembering, and the March on Washington. *Journalism Studies*, DOI: 10.1080/1461670X.2015.1019549

Conclusion, circulation of take home exam