

Professor Harvey Goldberg
Religion, Culture and Identities in Israel
Tu 8:30am-10:25am &
Th 9:35am-10:25am
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Spring Semester 2008
JST 3930, Sect 0411
(Also listed under Anthro-9625,
Religion-6953, and Sociology-1761)
Office Hours: Tu-Thu- 4th period
in Turlington B378

Religion, Culture and Identities in Israel

Israel is a society that grew largely on the basis of Jewish immigrant populations of various backgrounds from Europe, the Middle East, and elsewhere. The immigrants brought with them different languages, cultures, and political and religious ideologies. After the state was established, there was some hope that this would result in a national amalgam, but the immigrants interacted with the veteran population and its institutions, and with one another, in a variety of ways that produced its current multicultural texture. The course will discuss the history of immigration, the various policies of immigrant settlement, the way that the social sciences conceptualized and studied immigration, and the ongoing debates about culture, religion and identity. Special attention will be paid to the interaction between identities defined by ethnicity and those growing out of diverse religious experiences and ideologies, including how emerging differences have made an impact upon and are contested within the Israeli public sphere today.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS (to be completed on dates outlined in Calendar, below)

Two mid-term tests (20% each)
An exercise relating to demography (20%)
A final exam-paper (40%)

REQUIRED READINGS

Required Text: Oz, Amos, 1993. In the Land of Israel. San Diego: Harcourt Brace [ordered at Goerings Book Store]

Articles and chapters from books: these items are on electronic reserve- **Ares** [they may appear in Ares in a different alphabetical order from the list below]

Bernstein, Deborah, 1984. "Conflict and Protest in Israeli Society: The Case of the Black Panthers of Israel," Youth and Society 16(2):129-152.

Bilu, Y. and E. Ben-Ari, 1992. "The Making of Modern Saints: Manufactured Charisma and the Abu-Hatseiras of Israel," American Ethnologist 19:29-44.

Bram, Chen, 2006. "Commemoration and the Holocaust experience of Caucasus Jews: Between binary alternatives and multiplicity." Paper presented at the Annual meeting of the Association of American Anthropologist, San Jose, CA, November 19.

Cohen, Erik, 1968. "Social Images in an Israeli Development Town," Human Relations 21:163-76.

Deshen, Shlomo and Walter P. Zenner, 1982. "Introduction: The Historical Ethnology of Middle Eastern Jews," Jewish Societies in the Middle East: Community, Culture and Authority. Washington, DC: University Press of America, 1-34.

Doleve-Gendelman, Tsili, 1987. "The Symbolic Inscription of Zionist Ideology in the Space of Eretz Israel: Why the Native Israeli is called Tsabar." In Harvey E. Goldberg (ed.) Judaism Viewed from Within and from Without: Anthropological Studies. Albany: SUNY Press, 257-284.

El-Or, Tamar and Gideon Aran, 1995. "Giving Birth to a Settlement: Maternal Thinking and Political Action of Jewish Women on the West Bank," Gender and Society 9(1):60-78.

Forte, Tania, 2001. "Shopping in Jenin; Women, Homes, and Political Persons in the Galilee," City and Society 12(2):211-243

Gabriel, Ayala, 1992. "Rage and Grief: Collective Emotions in the Politics of Peace and the Politics of Gender in Israel," Culture Medicine, and Psychiatry 16:311-335.

Goldberg, Harvey, 1977. "Introduction: Culture and Ethnicity in the Study of Israeli Society," Ethnic Groups 1:163-186.

_____, 2001. "Ethnic and Religious Dilemmas of a Jewish State: A Cultural and Historical Perspective. In Akira Usuki (ed.) State Formation and Ethnic Relations in the Middle East. Osaka: Japan Center for Area Studies, National Museum of Ethnology, 47-64.

_____, forthcoming. "Conceptual and Pragmatic Aspects of Binarism: Examples from Israeli Society."

Levy, Andre, 1997. "To Morocco and Back: Tourism and Pilgrimage among Moroccan-born Israelis. In E. Ben-Ari, E. and Y. Bilu (eds.) Grasping Land: Space and Place in Contemporary Israeli Discourse and Experience. Albany: SUNY Press, pp. 25-46.

Lewis, Arnold, 1985. "Phantom Ethnicity: 'Oriental Jews' in Israel's Society." In Alex Weingrod (ed.) Studies in Israeli Ethnicity: After the Ingathering. New York: Gordon and Breach, pp. 133-158.

Remennick, Larissa, 2004. "Language Acquisition, Ethnicity and Social Integration among former Soviet Immigrants of the 1990s in Israel," Ethnic and Racial Studies 27(3): 431-454.

Sered, Susan, 1997. "Women and Religious Change in Israel: Rebellion or Revolution," Sociology of Religion 58(1):1-24.

Willis, Aaron, 1992 "Redefining Religious Zionism: Shas' Ethno-Politics," Israel Studies Bulletin 8(1):3-8, slightly revised version on web:

http://www.geocities.com/alabasters_archive/shas_zionism.html

Willner, Dorothy, 1969. Nation Building and Community in Israel (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1969), pp. 117-124.

Zohar, Zvi, 1996. "Traditional Flexibility and Modern Strictness: Two Halakhic Positions on Women's Suffrage." In Harvey E. Goldberg (ed.) Sephardi and Middle Eastern Jewries: History and Culture in the Modern Era. Bloomington and New York: Indiana University Press and the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, pp. 119-33.

ADDITIONAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON ISRAELI SOCIETY:

Israel government statistical yearbook: <http://www.cbs.gov.il/> and detailed sites therein
Haaretz daily (English version of Hebrew paper): <http://www.haaretz.com/>

Jerusalem Post (English language daily): <http://www.jpost.com/>

CALENDAR, TOPICS AND READINGS

- Jan 8-10 (1) *Jewish History after emancipation: religious, ethnic and secular identities*; Goldberg, "State Formation"; Oz, 191-217.
- Jan 15-17 (2) *Cultural Variation among Jews: Europe, the Middle East and Elsewhere*; Doshen and Zenner; Oz, 3-23.
- Jan 22-24 (3) *Ethnic and Religious Patterns in the pre-state period*; Doleve-Gendelman; Zohar
- Jan 29-31 (4) *Mass Immigration - through 1967*; Statistics on Immigration from the Statistical Yearbook of the Government of Israel. **1st mid-term test on Jan. 29**
- Feb 5-7 (5) *Forms of settlement and subdued identities in the first generation*: Willner; Cohen; Oz, 25-48.
- Feb 12-14 (6) *Awakening Ethnicity: some cultural expressions*: Goldberg, "Introduction."
- Feb 19-21 (7) *Religion and Identity in the Aftermath of the Six-Day War*; El-Or and Aran; Oz, 101-123. **Exercise relating to demography due on Feb. 19**
- Feb 26-28 (8) *Critical revision in the study of Israeli society*: Bernstein; Lewis,
- Mar 4-6 (9) *Evolving forms of Middle Eastern Religiosity*: Bilu and Ben-Ari; Willis. **2d mid-term test on March 4**
- Mar 18-20 (10) *Developments in the realms between Nationalism and Religion*; Gabriel; Oz, 49-73.
- Mar 25-27 (11) *Changing components of cultural identities*: Levy, Kaplan
- Apr 1-3 (12) *Immigration from the Soviet Union and its successor states*: Remennick; Bram; Oz, 219-241
- Apr 8-10 (13) *Arabs in Israel*; Forte; Oz, 75-84, 155-180.
- Apr 15-17 (14) *Liberal forms of Jewish Identity, and Review*: Goldberg, "Conceptual and Pragmatic"; Sered; Oz, 125-153
- April 22 **Final Essay due**