

Israeli Media

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(Middle Eastern Studies, 685:495:05, SCILS, 04:567:473:03)

Course Description

This course will focus on the Israeli media's construction and representation of Israeli identity. The course will open with a concise review of the history and development of various Israeli media. Having established the historical background, the course next will examine the major issues regarding the media's representation of collective identities in Israeli society. The course will focus on cinema, television, pop music, and news-media, and also will look at other media. The most important issues to be discussed include national identity and ethnicity, religion, history and collective memory and their (re-)presentation in the Israeli media.

Course Requirements

1. Full attendance in class, current preparation of class readings and participation in class discussion (10% of the final grade).
2. Presentation – designed to draw on the readings and class discussions, and to analyze relevant case studies (35% of final grade).
3. A Take-Home Final Exam: The final will be in the form of an essay question that will encompass all the readings done during the term and will integrate issues raised in class discussions. (55% of the final grade)

Course Outline

1. *On the history of Israeli media*

Dan Caspi & Yehiel Limor, *The in/outside: the media in Israel* (Cresskill, NJ: Hampton, 1999), pp. 63-123.

Oren Meyers, "Israeli journalism during the state's formative era: Between ideological affiliation and professional consciousness". *Journalism History*, 2005, Vol. 3(2), pp. 88-98.

Tasha G. Oren, *Demon in the Box* (Rutgers University Press, 2004), pp. 17-69.

2. *Media and National Identity in Israel*

Benedict Anderson, *Imagined Communities* (London, 1991), pp. 1-36.

Eric Hobsbawm, "The Nation as Invented Tradition", in Anthony D Smith, John & Hutchinson, (Eds.) Nationalism (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1994), pp. 76-83.

- Nurit Gertz, "From Jew to Hebrew: The Zionist 'Narrative' in the Israeli Cinema of the 1940s and 1950s", *Israel Affairs*, 4(3-4), pp. 175-199, 1998.
- Yaacov Yadgar, "From the particularistic to the universalistic: National narratives in Israel's mainstream press, 1967-1997", *Nations and Nationalism* 8(1), pp. 55-72, 2002

3. *Israeli Media and Collective Memory*

- Pierre Nora, "Introduction" in *Realms of Memory*, edited by Pierre Nora and Lawrence D. Kritzman (New-York, 1996).
- Anton Kaes, "History and Film: Public Memory in the Age of Electronic Dissemination" *History and Memory* 2, (Fall, 1990), pp.111-129.

- Nurit Gertz, "The Early Israeli Cinema as Silencer of Memory", *Shofar: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Jewish Studies* 24(1), pp. 67-80, 2005.
- Oren Meyers and E. Zandberg, "The sound-track of memory: Ashes and Dust and the commemoration of the holocaust in Israeli popular culture." *Media, Culture & Society* 24(3) (2002), p. 389.
- Hillel Nossek, "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) (1994)

4. *Israeli Popular Culture and Jewish Religion*

- Dan Urian, "To catch the sky: The Jewish identity of Israelis", *Journal of Modern Jewish Studies* 3(1) (2004), pp. 33-49.
- Jonathan Cohen, "Politics, alienation and the consolidation of group identity: The case of synagogue pamphlets", *Rhetoric & Public Affairs* 3(2), 2000.
- Tasha G. Oren, *Demon in the Box* (Rutgers University Press, 2004), pp. 137-155.

5. *The Arab "Other" in the Israeli Media*

- Ella Shohat, *Israeli cinema: East/West and the politics of representation* (University of Texas Press, 1989).
- Yaacov Yadgar "Between 'the Arab' and 'the Religious Rightist': 'Significant Others' in the Construction of Jewish-Israeli National Identity". *Nationalism and Ethnic Politics* 9(1), pp. 52-74, 2003.
- Avraham, E. (2003). "Press, Politics, and the Coverage of Minorities in Divided Societies: The Case of Arab Citizens in Israel." *The Harvard International Journal of Press/Politics* 8(4) (2003), pp. 7-26.

6. *Ashkenazim, Mizrahim and the Israeli Media*

- Dan Urian, "Mizrahi and Ashkenazi in the Israeli Theatre", *Arabic & Middle Eastern Literature* 4(1) (2001), pp. 19-36.
- Eli Avraham, *Behind media Marginality: how media routines distort the coverage of social groups and places*. (Lexington, 2003) chapters 1-3.

Ella Shohat, *Israeli cinema: East/West and the politics of representation* (University of Texas Press, 1989).

7. *Gender, Sexuality and the Israeli Media*

Nurit Gertz, "Space and Gender in the New Israeli and Palestinian Cinema." Prooftexts 22(1) (2002), pp. 157-185.

Hanna Herzog, "Women and the media more than a looking glass: women in Israeli local politics and the media", *Harvard International Journal of Press\Politics* 3(1), pp. 26-47.

Amit Kama, "From Terra Incognita to Terra Firma: The Logbook of the Voyage of Gay Men's Community into the Israeli Public Sphere". *Journal of Homosexuality*. 38(4) (2000), p. 133.

8. *Globalization, Americanization, and Israeli Media*

Uri Ram, "Glocommodification: How the Global Consumes the Local - McDonald's in Israel." Current Sociology 52(1) (2004), pp. 11-31.

Maoz Azaryahu, "McIsrael? On the "Americanization of Israel"." *Israel Studies* 5(1) (2000), pp. 41-64.

9. *Sports and Identity in Israel*

Y. S. Carmeli and I. Bar "A Game of Three Cities: Negotiating Jewish Identity in Israel's Football Fields." *International Journal of Comparative Sociology* 44(1) (2003), pp. 51-79.

H. Kaufman "Jewish Sports in the Diaspora, Yishuv, and Israel: Between Nationalism and Politics." *Israel Studies* 10(2) (2005), pp. 147-167.

10. *News Media and Public Discourse in Israel*

Tamar Liebes "Displacing the news: The Israeli talkshow as public space." *Gazette* 61(2): (1999)113-125.

Yaacov Yadgar, "The Media and the Public Sphere: Reflections in the Wake of the Rabin Assassination". *Journal of Modern Jewish Studies* 1(2) (2002). pp. 150-166

Yoram Peri, "The Rabin Myth and the Press: Reconstruction of the Israeli Collective Identity." *European Journal of Communication* 12(4) (1997), pp. 435-458

Yaacov Yadgar, "A disintegrating ritual: The reading of the Deri verdict as a media event of degradation." *Critical Studies in Media Communication* 20(2) (2003): 204.