Ethnicity in the Jewish people and in the State of Israel

Dr. Avi Picard

The course will examine the interactions and relationships between the various Jewish ethnic groups in Israel: communities from the Middle East, North Africa and Europe. The course will deal with the roots of ethnic groups, the influences of modernization and nationalism and their encounters in Israel. This will include the Zionist movement’s attitudes toward “negation of the Diaspora,” the melting-pot approach during the early years after Independence, the “Sephardic” protest, the identity struggle, ethnic politics and the emergence of the Shas Party, the Russian and Ethiopian immigrations.

Students will be required to submit a written paper, and there will be a final exam at the end of the semester.

Week 1. Introduction

Week 2. Modernisation, Colonialism and the Jews.

Week 3. Zionism and the Jews of Arab countries
E. Meir-Glitzenstein, "From Eastern Europe to the Middle East: The Reversal in Zionist Policy vis-à-vis the Jews of Islamic Countries", The Journal of Israeli History, vol. 20/1, Spring 2001
Week 4 The mass immigration and the ‘melting pot’ policy

Week 5 The development Towns

Week 6 The Sephardic protest

Week 7 The ethnic gap in the second generation

Week 8 New ethnic groups – Russians and Ethiopians

Week 9 Oriental Music
Regev, Moshe Popular Music and National Culture in Israel, 2004
**Week 10 Ethnicity and politics**

**Week 11 Multi cultural and The ethnic identity**

**Week 12 The Shas party**

**Week 13 Concluding discussion – Is there an ethnic identity in Israel**