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

Dr. Oren Meyers

Course Number: 702.2285
Class Time: TBA
Class Location: TBA

Office Hours: Tuesday, 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. 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. Class presentations:
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 s/he/they located on their own and will present it in class. 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. Students will choose their readings by the second meeting. Students' presentations will be circulated prior to our meeting.

3. Final assignment:
3.a. Undergraduate students will write a take-home exam, to be distributed at the end our last meeting. Students taking the exam will be asked 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 the last day of class.
3.b. Graduate students will write a short research paper (up to 10 pages). They will first discuss the topic of their research paper with the lecturer and next submit a short research proposal, by April 14, 2016. Graduate students will submit the final research papers by the end of June.

Final Grade:
Attendance and active participation in class discussion, submission of reading reports: 10%
Class presentation of a selected reading: 10%
Take home exam/research paper: 80%
Course Outline and Reading List

Introduction: The fundamentals of collective memory research


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


Between personal and collective memories


Changing and competing memory versions


**Between Memory and Historiography**


**National/global identities and collective memory**


**Memory and trauma**


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**Non-commemorative memory**


**Media and Memory**


**Conclusion, circulation of take home exam**