

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

M. R. Cohen, Under Crescent and Cross: The Jews in the Middle Ages, Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1994

D. Yanow, "From what Edah are you? Israeli and American meanings of "Race-Ethnicity" in social policy practices." Israel Affairs 5(2+3): 1999.

Week 2. Modernisation , Colonialism and the Jews.

N. Stillman, "Middle Eastern and North African Jewries confront Modernity", in H. Goldberg (ed.) Sephardi and Middle Eastern Jewries, Indiana 1996.

Schroter Daniel J., "Orientalism and the Jews of the Mediterranean", Journal of Mediterranean Studies, 4/2, 1994.

A. Khazoom, "The Great Chain of Orientalism: Jewish Identity, Stigma Management, and Ethnic Exclusion in Israel". American Sociological Review 68, 2003.

Week 3. Zionism and the Jews of Arab countries

Y. Tsur, "Carnival fears: Moroccan immigrants and the ethnic problem in the young State of Israel." Journal of Israeli History 18(1) , 1997.

Y. Shenhav, "What do Palestinians and Jew-from-Arab-Lands Have in Common? Nationalism and Ethnicity Examined Through the Compensation." Hagar: Studies in Culture, Polity and Identities 1 (1): 2000

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

M. Lissak, (2003). "The Demographic-Social Revolution in Israel in the 1950s: The Absorption of the Great Aliyah." Journal of Israeli History 22(2):

M. Lissak, Images of Immigrants: Stereotypes and Stigmata. David Ben-Gurion: Politics and Leadership, R. Zweig (ed.) 1991

D. Bernstein "Immigration transit camp; The formation of dependent relations in Israeli society", Ethnic and Racial Studies, 11 (3) 1981.

Week 5. The development Towns

E. Cohen, "Development Towns, the Social Dynamics of `Planted` Urban communities in Israel" in S.N. Eisenstadt, R. Bar Yosef and H. Adler (eds.), Integration and Development in Israel. Jerusalem 1970.

S. Spilerman, J. Habib, "Development Towns in Israel, The Role of Community in Creating Ethnic Disparities in Labor Force Characteristics" American Journal of Sociology, 81/4, JAN 1976.

Week 6. The Sephardic protest

M. Etzioni, The Wadi Salib Riots in Retrospect. Studies on North African Jewry, 1991

E. Cohen, 1972. "The Black Panthers and Israeli Society", Jewish Journal of Sociology 14, 1972.

Week 7 The ethnic gap in the second generation

E. Ben-Rafael, (1982). The Emergence of Ethnicity. Cultural Groups and Social Conflict in Israel. London, Greenwood Press

Y. Cohen, and Y. Haberfeld (1998). "Second-generation Jewish immigrants in Israel: have the ethnic gaps in schooling and earnings declined?" Ethnic and Racial Studies 21 (3): 507-528

H. Goldberg, "The Changing Meaning of Ethnic Affiliation." Jerusalem Quarterly 44 , Fall 1987.

M. Inbar, and C. Adler, Ethnic Integration in Israel, New Jersey, 1977.

Week 8 New ethnic groups – Russians and Ethiopians

S. Kaplan, and H. Salamon, "Ethiopian Jews in Israel: A Part of the People or Apart from the People?" in U. Rebhun and C. I. Waxman (Eds.) Jews in Israel: Contemporary Social and Cultural Patterns.. Boston, Brandeis University Press, 2003.

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

Week 9 Oriental Music

Regev, Moshe Popular Music and National Culture in Israel, 2004

Week 10 Ethnicity and politics

Herzog, H. Political Ethnicity as a Socially Constructive Reality: The Case of Jews in Israel. Ethnicity, Pluralism and the State in the Middle East I. C. U. P. Milton J. Esman and Itamar Rabinovich, 1988: 140-151

Week 11 Multi cultural and The ethnic identity

B.Z. Eliash, "Ethnic Pluralism or Melting Pot", Israel Low Review, 1983.

Week 12 The Shas party

Y. Peled, "Towards a redefinition of Jewish nationalism in Israel? The enigma of Shas", Ethnic and Racial Studies, 21 (July 1998) Pp. 703-727.

S. Deshen, (2005). "The emergence of the Israeli Sephardi ultra-Orthodox movement." Jewish Social Studies 11 (2): 77-101

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

Smooha, S. (2003). Jewish Ethnicity in Israel: Symbolic or Real? Jews in Israel: Contemporary Social and Cultural Patterns. U. Rebhun and C. I. Waxman. Boston, Brandeis University Press: 45-80