

**Prof. Zerubavel**  
**Spring 2016**  
**SAS Honors 01:090:294:02**  
**History Majors & Minors**  
 Time: *M/W 2:50-4:10pm*

*Location:* At the Bildner Center, R. 206  
 12 College Avenue  
*Email:* [Yaelzeru@rci.rutgers.edu](mailto:Yaelzeru@rci.rutgers.edu)  
*Office hour:* Wednesday, 1:30-2:30pm  
 or by appointment

## **“How Societies Remember?”**

(Tentative Syllabus)

How do societies establish their collective identities? How do they remember their origins and publicly share important turning points in their history? How are new traditions invented to memorialize recent events and what makes their memorialization successful? How are collective memories transformed over time? What is the role of memorials and museums? What is the meaning of “homeland” for diasporic communities and what is “heritage tourism”? How are wars commemorated? What is the impact of traumatic memory on survivors and their children? These are some of the questions that we will address in this seminar as we explore cultural memory and the ways in which it is created, transmitted, contested, and reshaped. Readings for the course represent a wide range of cross-cultural examples that highlight the interplay between local, national, and global trends. We will have an onsite trip to the 9/11 memorial site where students will be able to make their own observations and analysis of a more recent site of memory.

Students’ research projects are an important component of the course. Each student will choose a topic related to cultural memory early on in consultation with me. Work will be structured and developed during the course of the semester, leading from a brief proposal and preliminary bibliography to a short paper and culminating in students’ presentations and a final paper. Learning from one’s own research and others will give you a direct experience of the richness and diversity of the field of collective memory.

### **Learning Goals:**

- S1: Communicate complex ideas effectively
- U: Evaluate and critically assess sources and use the conventions of attribution and citation correctly
- V: Analyze and synthesize information and ideas from multiple sources to generate new insights
- Learn key concepts and analytical approaches in memory studies
- Learn how to plan and pursue independent research
- Produce well-written, original papers based on research and readings

### **Course Requirements:**

- (1) **Attendance** in class and assigned screenings is required. In case of sickness, students must notify the instructor and provide medical documentation.
- (2) **Readings and class participation:** Students are expected to come prepared to discuss the assigned readings and participate in class discussions.
- (3) **Research Project:**  
Topic: to be discussed and approved by instructor by February 3.  
Project proposal (2 pages + bibliography) by February 22  
Short Paper (5 pp + bibliography) – by March 28  
Final paper (8-10 pp + bibliography) – by May 6

## **Academic Integrity**

Students are required to follow current Academic Integrity Policy as indicated in the website: <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/integrity.shtml>. **Violations include cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, denying others access to information or material, and facilitating violations of academic integrity.** For further information on how to avoid plagiarism in your work, see [http://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/rul/lib\\_instruct/instruct\\_document.shtml](http://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/rul/lib_instruct/instruct_document.shtml) and take a 20 min. interactive-tutorial on Plagiarism and Academic Integrity at <http://sccweb.scc-net.rutgers.edu/douglass/sal/plagiarism/Intro.html>

## **Grading**

- Attendance, reading assignments and class participation.....30%
- Project proposal (2 pages + bibliography).....15%
- Short paper (5 pages+ bibliography).....25%
- Final paper (8-10 pages + bibliography).....40%

## **Readings**

- All readings are available on the sakai website under “resources” and are ordered alphabetically by author’s last name
- Required Book: Art Spielberg, *Maus*. New York: Pantheon Books, 1973

# **Class Schedule and Assignments**

## **I. Social Processes of Collective Remembrance**

### **• Jan. 20 -- Introduction**

*Review of course plan and goals; key questions and themes in the study of collective memory; discussion of research project.*

### **• Jan. 25 – What is “Collective Memory”**

Maurice Halbwachs, Jeffrey K. Olick et als. eds., *The Collective Memory Reader*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2011, 139-49

Jan Assmann, “Collective Memory and Cultural Identity,” *New German Critique* 65 (Spring-Summer, 1995): 125-33

### **• Jan. 27 – Transmitting Social Memories**

Eviatar Zerubavel, “Social Memories,” in *Social Mindscapes: An Invitation to Cognitive Sociology*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1997, 81-99

Yael Zerubavel, “The Dynamics of Collective Remembering,” in *Recovered Roots: Collective Memory and the Making of Israeli National Memory*. University of Chicago Press, 1995, 3-12

**\*\*\* Research Topic to be discussed and approved by February 3**

- **Feb. 1 – Memory and Invented Tradition**

Eric Hobsbawm, "Introduction," in Hobsbawm and Terence Ranger, eds., *The Invention of Tradition*. Cambridge University Press, 1983, 1-14

Eric Davis, *Memories of State: Politics, History and Collective Identity in Modern Iraq*. Berkley: University of California Press, 2005, 148-75

- **Feb. 3 – National Memory and Collective Identity**

Yael Zerubavel, "Transhistorical Encounters in the Land of Israel: National Memory, Symbolic Bridges, and the Literary Imagination," *Jewish Social Studies* 11:3 (Spring/Summer 2005):115-40

- **Feb. 8 – Social Amnesia**

Aleida Assmann, "Canon and Archive," in Astrid Erll and Ansgar Nünning, eds. *Companion to Cultural Memory Studies*. Berlin & New York: Walter de Gruyter, 2010, 97-107

\*\*\* *Class discussion includes students' selected research topics and project plans*

\*\*\* *Research proposals due Feb. 22*

- **Feb. 10 – Social Amnesia (cont.)**

Maoz Azaryahu, "The Purge of Bismarck and Saladin: The Renaming of Streets in East Berlin and Haifa, a Comparative Study in Culture Planning," *Poetics Today* 13, 2 (Summer 1992): 351-67

Orlando Patterson, "From Slavery and Social Death: A Comparative Study," in Olick, *Collective Memory Reader*, 279-82

- **Feb. 15 – Commemorative Narratives and Plot Structures**

Hayden White, "The Historical Text as Literary Artifact," in *Tropics of Discourse: Essays in Cultural Criticism*. Johns Hopkins University Press, 1978, 81-87

Yael Zerubavel, "The Death of Memory and the Memory of Death: Masada and the Holocaust as Historical Metaphors," *Representations* 45 (Winter 1994): 72-100 [Masada and the Holocaust]

- **Feb. 17 – Counternarratives and their Sites in Time and Space**

Eviatar Zerubavel, "Easter and Passover: On Calendars and Group Identity," *American Sociological Review* 47 (1982): 284-89

Genevieve Zubrzycki, "Oswiecim/Auschwitz: Archeology of a Contested Site and Symbol," in *The Crosses of Auschwitz: Nationalism and Religion in Post-Communist Poland*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2006, 98-140

## ***II. Hybrid Identities, Diasporic Memories and Heritage Tourism***

- **Feb. 22 – The Search for Roots: The Case of Black Atlantic Memory**

\*\*\* *Research proposals due today*

Screening in class excerpts from the mini-series docudrama *Roots*, based on Alex Haley's 1976 bestseller *Roots: The Saga of an American Family* (1977).

- **Feb. 24 – cont.**

Bayo Holsey, "Slavery and the Making of Black Atlantic Memory, *Routes of Remembrance: Refashioning the Slave Trade in Ghana*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2008, 151-95

- **Feb. 29 – Diasporic Memories and and Hybrid Identities**

Stuart Hall, “Cultural Identity and Diaspora,” in Jonathan Rutherford, ed., *Identity, Community, Culture, Difference*. London: Lawrence and Wishart, 1990, 222-37

Susan Pattie, “New Homeland for Old Diaspora,” in Andre Levy and Alex Weingrod, eds. *Homelands and Diasporas: Holy Lands and Other Places*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2005, 49-67

- **Mar. 2 – Heritage Tourism**

David Lowenthal, “Identity, Heritage, and History,” in Gillis, *Commemorations*, 40-57

Paul Basu, *Highland Homecomings: Genealogy and Heritage Tourism in the Scottish Diaspora*. NY: Routledge, 2007, 192-216

- **Mar. 7 – Museums as a Site of Memory**

Kate Fitz Gibbon, “The Elgin Marbles,” in Gibbon, ed., *Who Owns the Past? Cultural Policy, Cultural Property, and the Law*. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 2005, 109-21.

Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett, “Destination Museum,” in *Destination Culture: Tourism, Museums, Heritage*. University of California Press, 1998, 131-76

- **Mar. 9 – Individual meetings on research projects**

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\*\*\* Spring Break \*\*\*

**Reminders: 1) Get a copy and read Art Spielberg’s *Maus***

**2) Short Paper is due on March 28**

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### ***III. Witnessing and Representations of Traumatic Events***

- **Mar. 21 – Testimonies and the Role of the Witness**

Annette Wieviorka, “On Testimony,” in Geoffrey H. Hartman, ed., *Holocaust remembrance: The Shapes of Memory*. Basil Blackwell, 1994, 23-32

Dori Laub, “An Event Without Witness” in Shoshana Feldman and Dori Laub, eds., *Testimony: Crises in Witnessing in Literature, Psychoanalysis and History*, NY: Routledge, 1992, 75-92.

- **Mar. 23 – Traumatic Memory and Postmemory**

Marianne Hirsch, “Mourning and Postmemory: in *Family Frames: Photography Narratives and Postmemory*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1997 (2<sup>nd</sup> printing, 2002), 17-40

Carol A. Kidron, “Toward an Ethnography of Silence: The Lived Presence of the Past in the Everyday Life of Holocaust Trauma Survivors and Their Descendants in Israel,” *Current Anthropology* 50, 1 (2009): 5-19

- **Mar. 28 – Family Memories**

\*\*\* Short Papers are due today

*Screening of film on family suppression and rediscovery of memory*

- **Mar. 30 – Artistic Representation of Postmemory**

\*\* Art Spiegelberg, *Maus*. New York: Pantheon Books, 1973 -- bring your own copy of book to class

- **Apr 4 – Individual meetings about research projects**

- **Apr. 6 – War Monuments**

Jenny Edkins, “War Memorials and Remembrance: The London Cenotaph and the Vietnam Wall,” *Trauma and the Memory of Politics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003, 57-91 only.

- **Apr. 11 – Public Memorials of Traumatic Events**

James E. Young, “Stages of Memory at Ground Zero,” Oren Baruch Stier and J. Shawn Landres, eds. *Religion, violence, Memory and Place*. Bloomington, Ind.: Indiana University Press, 2006, 214-34  
 Marita Sturken, “Pilgrimages, Reenactment, and Souvenirs: Modes of Memory Tourism,” in Marianne Hirsch and Nancy K. Miller, *Rites of Return: Diaspora Politics and the Politics of Memory*. NY: Columbia University Press, 2011, 280-93  
*Segments of documentary film in class*

- **Apr. 13 – no class. Trip to museum visit below.**

**Class trip to Ground Zero and 9/11 Memorial and Museum**  
**(Friday, April 15 – keep the date)**

- **Apr. 18 – Discussion of visit to the 9/11 Memorial Park and Museum**

*Students bring to class their notes from the fieldtrip to the site*

- **Apr. 20 – Food, Dance and Music as Sites of Memory**

Ghassan Hage, “Migration, Food, Memory, and Home –Building,” in Susannah Radstone and Bill Schwarz, eds. *Memory: Histories, Theories, Debates*. NY: Fordham University Press, 2010, 416-27  
 George Lipsitz, “Madri Gras Indians: Carnival and Counter Narrative in Black New Orleans,” in *Time Passages: Collective Memory and American Popular Culture*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1990, 233-53

- **Apr. 25 – Students’ presentations**

- **Apr. 27 – Students’ presentations**

- **May 2 – wrap up**

**\*\*\* Final Paper is due May 6 by noon**