

Department of Sociology & Anthropology, BGU

Course: Re-thinking Migration: Diasporas, Returns, Transnationalism

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Course Description: Spurred by dramatic improvements in communications and transportation, by the 1990s several migration-oriented scholars urged a paradigmatic shift from the emigration/immigration dichotomy to diaspora. At the same time, several ethnic and racial minorities, immigrants and refugees throughout Europe and North America have also adopted the rubric of diaspora. What does "diaspora" convey that makes it the term of choice for articulating interests and identity? This course examines the key oppositions and terminologies that have vexed the anthropology of migration for decades. Through readings and discussions, using the lenses of comparative ethnography as well as grand theory, we will interrogate, destabilize, and evaluate the meanings and uses of:

Immigration, emigration; repatriation, exile;
Home and homeland;
Hosts, returnees, newcomers;
Ethnic groups, diasporas, transnationalism.

At the course's end we will consider migrating futures—the utopias of easy global flows and satisfying returns, and the dystopias of forced displacement caused by ethnic conflict, famine, and war.

Course Requirements:

The course will be taught as a **seminar**, which means that students are expected to come to class having read the assigned materials, ready and willing to participate in the discussion.

- 1) Attendance is **mandatory**. Class participation, which is not the same thing as attendance, counts for **20%** of the final grade.
- 2) A 5-7 page critical book review of a full-length ethnography dealing with some aspect of migration is due at the end of the first semester. Please confer with the course instructor when making your book selection. The book review counts for **30%** of the final grade.
- 3) A final seminar paper based on original field research of 12-20 pages, inclusive of bibliography, is due at the end of the summer, **NO LATER THAN 1 September 2008**, and counts for **50%** of the final grade. Late papers will not be accepted.

Course Outline First Semester:

- 21-10 INTRODUCTION
Migration in the popular imagination
Migration in law
Ideal types and everything in-between
הגירה, עליה, ירידה, גלות, תפוצה ועוד
- 28-10 CLASSIC MODELS
Migration and the nation-state
People and cultures come in national/natural units
Read: #1 Malkkii 1992, "National Geographic"
Recommended: Benedict Anderson (1991) *Imagined Communities*;
Ernest Gellner (1983) *Nations and Nationalism*.
- 04-11* Push-Pull Factors of Migration
Read: #2 Lee 1966, "A Theory of Migration" pp. 47-47.
- 11-11 What Happens to the Immigrants?
Theories of acculturation, assimilation and absorption/קליטה
Read: #3 Bar-Yosef 1967, "Desocialization and Resocialization"
Recommended: Zwingmann and Pfister-Ammende 1973 *Uprooting and After*; Grinberg and Grinberg 1989 *Psychological Perspectives on Migration and Exile*.
- 18-11 FROM MIGRANTS TO ETHNICS
Neither one nor the other, but both: "A new Polish-American society"
Read: #4 Thomas and Znaniecki 1984, "Organization of the Immigrant"
- 25-11 (Re)Structuring Tradition in Arab Detroit and Little Odessa
Read: #5 Rasmussen 2000 "The Sound of Culture" and #5a Markowitz 2001 "A Bat Mitzvah among Russian Jews in America"
- 02-12 Annual Meetings of the American Anthropological Association
Class cancelled: Use this time to browse the library for your migration ethnography!!
- 09-12 UNEXPECTED RESULTS, CHANGING EXPECTATIONS
Symbolic ethnicity with or without community?
Read: #6 Gans 1979, "Symbolic Ethnicity"
- 16-12 Renaissance of ethnicity and questions of citizenship
Read: #7 Heisler 2000, "The Sociology of Immigration"
- 23-12 CHANGING THE PARADIGM: FROM ETHNICITY TO DIASPORA
Theorizing Diaspora
Read: #8 Safran 1991, "Diasporas in Modern Societies" and #8a Clifford 1994, "Diasporas"
- 30-12 Typologizing Diasporas: Victim, labor, imperial, and trade diaporas
Read: #9 Cohen 1997, *Global Diasporas*, pp. 28-29, 31-33, 57-67, 83-85, 180-187
- 06-01 The centrality of origins, or the solar system model
Read: #10 Levy 2005, "A Community that is Both..."

13-01 Semester Summary
Critical book review due

Course Outline Second Semester

Week

- 1 Diasporas and the Myths of Homeland
Read: #11 Al-Rasheed 1994, "The Myth of Return" and #11a Markowitz 2004, "The Home(s) of Homecoming"
- 2 Celebrating Movement
Read: #12 Rapport and Dawson 1998, "Home and Movement"
- 3 Diasporic Consciousness and the Wandering Jew
Read: #13 Boyarin & Boyarin 1993
Recommended: Zygmunt Bauman 1989 *Modernity and the Holocaust*.
- 4 Diasporas Without a Homeland: THE CASE OF THE GYPSIES
Film
- 5 Orphans of the World
Read: #14 Selections from Michael Stewart's 1997, *The Time of the Gypsies*
- 6 THE BLACK DIASPORA
Read: #15 Scott 1991, "That Event, This Memory"
Recommended: Paul Gilroy 1993 *The Black Atlantic*.
- 7 (M)Otherlands
Read: #16 Lake 1995, "Toward a Pan-African Identity"
- 8 Comparative Horrors
Why Diaspora is not (always) cause for celebration
Read: #17 Holsey 2004; #17a Kugelmass 1995, "Bloody Memories"
- 9 DIASPORA INTERRUPTED: TRANSNATIONALISM
Read: #18 Glick Schiller, et al 1995, "From Immigrant to Transmigrant"
- 10 Borderlands and Circuitry
Read: #19 Rouse 1991, "Mexican Migration"
- 11 WORKER MIGRATION
Filipinas: A Global Network of Care
Read: #20 Constable 2004, "Changing Filipina Identities"
Recommended: Rhacel Parrenas 2001. *Servants of Globalization: Women, Migration and Domestic Work*.
- 12 REPATRIATION

How exceptional is Israel? The archetype and prototype of
Diaspora and Return

Read: #21 Anteby-Yemini 2004, "Promised Land"

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What Have We Learned? How Will We Use That Knowledge?
Mini-presentations

SEMINAR PAPER DUE BY SEPTEMBER 1 2008