

Ben Gurion University of the Negev
Department of Sociology and Anthropology

Commemorating Shoah and Genocide: Comparative Social Perspectives (in English)

102.1.0074

Elective B.A. course – Spring semester 2024
Thursdays 12-14

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The memory of the past plays a central role in the collective work of culture. The course will examine changing forms of Holocaust and genocide testimony, representation and commemoration. Among the subjects to be studied are: the debate over uniqueness and comparison of Holocaust and genocides, commemorative sites and ceremonies, Holocaust tourism and museums, the Holocaust in digital media, and the politics shaping commemoration of Holocaust and genocide in Israel and elsewhere. Students will participate in a trip to a Holocaust museum, summarize and present articles in class, and write an empirically-based final paper, which will be presented at an early stage of research in class and submitted at the end of the semester.

Skills - The course is designed to:

- Improve reading comprehension and oral skills in the English language.
- Develop a critical and comparative view of the role of present-day politics in remembering traumatic pasts – as expressed through discourse, monuments, museums and ceremonies.
- Raise awareness of the challenges of the commemoration of the difficult past in a digital age.
- Apply theoretical perspectives (from articles and class discussion) to present-day commemorations and narratives of the Shoah and genocide.

Requirements and grading:

- Required attendance and active participation in class and in one excursion to a Holocaust museum. Students are expected to read all assigned articles or podcasts before class and be prepared to discuss them. All class discussions will

be held in (slow, intermediate) English. Students will upload written responses to questions on 4 of the readings (in English or Hebrew) in the course of the semester. Responses should be uploaded to Moodle by 1 pm the day before class. In addition, students will be expected to pose questions (in writing and orally) to fellow students, when they present their outlines in class during the final weeks of the semester (15%).

- A 15-minute presentation in English (with power point) of one article in class in the course of the semester. The article can later be incorporated in the literature for the final paper. Instructions for presentation will be provided (10%).
- Research paper on one of the sites or practices of memory/commemoration of the Holocaust/genocide. Following my approval of the subject early in the semester, towards the end of May, students will turn in a 4-page preliminary paper (in English or Hebrew) and present a short (10-15 minute) discussion of their paper in English in class during the final month of the course (15%). The final paper (in English or Hebrew) will be turned in in mid-August (60%).

Class materials and required readings:

There will be changes in readings. The final version is the one in that appears in the Moodle unit for that week. For each week, one (or sometimes two short) article(s) from the list will be designated * as required.

Lesson number	Date	Topic	Required (*) and elective readings
1	29.2.24	Introduction: Holocaust and genocide	סגל - ג'נוסייד Oron – Genocide (definitions) *The Yad Vashem Law (1953). *Sanford, V. (2009). WHAT IS AN ANTHROPOLOGY OF GENOCIDE?
2	7.3.24	Individual and collective memory	*Assmann, A. - Memory - Individual - Collective
3	14.3.24	The Holocaust as a global memory	*Levy and Sznajder - Cosmopolitan Memory of the Shoah

			Rothberg – Multidirectional Memory - p. 1-28.
4	28.3.24	The politics of Holocaust memory in Israel	*Friedlander - Memory of the Shoah in Israel באור - המטס מעל אושוויץ* Lustick - Four Constructions
5	4.4.24	Holocaust and the politics of identity in Germany	Ozyurek - Muslim minorities, Germany, Holocaust memory Moses – TBA
6	11.4.24	Holocaust, memory and politics in contemporary Poland	Watch film of Yael Bartana, "Wall and Tower". יעל ברתנא - חומה ומגדל קישור לאתר אינטרנט * Zulewska - Polish- Israeli relations on current Shoah memory laws יאן גרוס - שכנים - עמ' 43-29, 133-134
	Trip to Holocaust museum - date TBA	Holocaust museums	*Goldberg, Amos. 2012. The 'Jewish Narrative' in the Yad Vashem Global Holocaust Museum. Journal of Genocide Research, 14(2), 187–213. James Young. 1993. The Texture of Memory: Holocaust Memory and Meaning, New Haven: Yale University Press, pp. ??.
7	25.4.24	Witnessing, trauma, and intergenerational transmission	*Kidron - Comparing Jewish- Israeli and Canadian- Cambodian legacies of trauma *Choose two interactive English-language testimonies – one of a Holocaust survivor and one of a genocide survivor from the Iwitness (USC) website. Vamik – Transgenerational Transmissions and Chosen Traumas Pinchevski - Trauma and Media

8	9.5.24 Tentative date	Shoah, colonialism, Naqba	*Bashir, Bashir and Amos Goldberg, TBA Dirk Moses, The Holocaust Catechism, TBA
9	16.5.24	VR, AR, and Holocaust/genocide memory	*Shandler - Holocaust Memory in a Digital Age – podcast קישור לאתר אינטרנט Feldman, J. & Norma Musih. 2023. "Selfies in Auschwitz: Popular and Contested Representations in a Digital Generation", <i>Memory Studies</i> 16 (2): 403-420.
10	23.5.24	Social media and curators of Holocaust memory	Ebbrecht-Hartmann & Henig, #Uploading Holocaust Kansteiner - Holocaust in 21st Century *Benzaquen - Holocaust Testimony on Social Media
11	30.5.24	Presentation and discussion of student papers	
12	6.6.24	Presentation and discussion of student papers	
13	13.6.24	Presentation and discussion of student papers	
14	20.6.24	Summary & conclusion	
	15.8.24		Final papers due

מאגר ביבליוגרפיה - מאמרי חובה ומאמרי רשות (גם לעבודות)

המאגר כולל מאמרי חובה ומאמרי רשות (להצגה בכיתה או כמקורות לעבודות), גם כאלו שאינם מופיעים בסילבוס.

- Aarons, Victoria and Alan L. Berger. (2017). *Third-Generation Holocaust Representation: Trauma, History, and Memory*, Northwestern University Press, Alexander, Jeffrey. The Social Construction of "Holocaust" and Other Mass Murders, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-558b9FIQIY>
- Assmann, Aleiada. (2006). Memory, Individual and Collective, In R.E. Goodin & C. Tilly (Eds.), *The Oxford handbook of contextual political analysis* (pp. 210-224). New York: Oxford University Press
- Assmann, Jan. (2006). "Introduction: What is 'Cultural Memory'?" in J. Assmann, *Religion and Cultural Meaning*, Stanford University Press, Stanford, pp.1-30.
- Bar-On, Dan. 'Multigenerational Perspectives on Coping with the Holocaust Experience: An Attachment Perspective for Understanding the Developmental Sequelae of Trauma across Generations', *International Journal of Behavioral Development*, 22, 1998: 315-338.
- Benzaquen, Stephane. (2015). Post, Update, Download: Social Media and the Future of Auschwitz Remembrance In: *Auschwitz Heute - Dzisiaj – Today*. Memorial book project of the BPB (Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung), Berlin: Hentrich & Hentrich, pp.135-148.
- David, Lea. (2020). The Emergence of the 'Dealing With the Past' Agenda: Sociological Thoughts on its Negative Impact on the Ground. *Modern Languages*, 19 (1):1–14. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.3828/mlo.v0i0.321>
- Ebbrecht-Hartmann, T. (2021) "Commemorating from a distance: the digital transformation of Holocaust memory in times of COVID-19." *Media, Culture & Society* 43:6, 1095-1112. doi:10.1177/0163443720983276
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- Henig, L./ Ebbrecht-Hartmann, T.PI (2022) "Witnessing Eva Stories: Media witnessing and selfinscription in social media memory." *New Media & Society*. 24:1, 202-226. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1461444820963805>
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- Irwin-Zarecka, Iwona. 1994. *Frames of Remembrance: the dynamics of collective Memory* New Brunswick: Transaction Publishers
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