

ANT4960/ANG6930 Seminar in Jewish Anthropology

Fall 2015

Thursdays 9:30-12:45

201 Walker Hall

Instructor: Jack Kugelma

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Hours: Wednesday 1-3:00 PM

This course is a seminar. It is intended 1.) to introduce students to a selection of ethnographies of contemporary Jewish communities and the various methodologies for studying them along with a critical appraisal of the various texts examined. 2.) It is also to introduce students to the techniques of fieldwork within American Jewish community.

Seminar participants each take responsibility for reviewing four books from the list and selecting appropriate chapters for distribution. All participants are required to read them, write one-page summaries to be handed in at the appropriate class in order to be prepared for discussion.

The second part of the seminar is research and presentation. Within the first two weeks participants should select a topic in consultation with the instructor. The projects are generally based on field work and may involve a strong visual component. The projects will be presented to the seminar in the final weeks of the semester.

There is no need to have any prior knowledge of Jews, Jewish culture, Judaism or ethnographic methods to take this seminar.

Objectives:

To introduce students to the depth and breadth of Jewish anthropology

To engage in the study of Jewish society within a variety of cultural contexts

To foster critical reading and analytical skills

To encourage students to try to do ethnographic writing

To teach techniques of documentary photography

Requirements:

Attendance and Participation: This seminar is designed to be highly participatory; students are expected to engage actively in class discussions at every meeting. Accordingly, attendance and participation in all aspects of this class are mandatory. Timely, thorough and careful reading of each day's assignment is a crucial element of participating thoughtfully and openly. **Come to class with at least two prepared questions about the readings**, and ready to engage in further discussion. Bring the reading with you to each class. In order to participate fully you must be present in both body and mind. Regular and lively participation by all students will make this class more interesting, entertaining, and valuable. Informed questions along with active discussions of class materials will factor into the evaluation of your participation grade. Because

attendance has a direct impact on your participation, more than two unexcused absences will result in a lowering of your grade.

Suggested Texts:

Eyal Ben-Ari and Yoram Bilu, *Grasping Land: Space and Place in Contemporary Israeli Discourse and Experience*

Matti Bunzl, *Symptoms of Modernity: Jews and Queers in Late Twentieth-Century Vienna*

Sarah Bunin Benor, *Becoming Frum: How Newcomers Learn the Language and Culture of Orthodox Judaism*

Yoram Bilu, *The Saints' Impresarios: Dreamers, Healers, and Holy Men in Israel's Urban Periphery*

Yoram Bilu, *Without Bounds: The Life and Death of Rabbi Ya'akov Wazana*

Aomar Boum, *Memories of Absence: How Muslims Remember Jews in Morocco*

Marcy Brink-Danan, *Jewish Life in 21st-Century Turkey: The Other Side of Tolerance*

Alanna E. Cooper, *Bukharan Jews and the Dynamics of Global Judaism*

Ayala Fader, *Mitzvah Girls: Bringing Up the Next Generation of Hasidic Jews in Brooklyn*

Jackie Feldman, *Above the Death Pits, Beneath the Flag: Youth Voyages to Poland and the Performance of Israeli National Identity*

Harvey Goldberg, ed. *The Life of Judaism*

Henry Goldschmidt, *Race and Religion among the Chosen Peoples of Crown Heights*

Sascha Goluboff, *Jewish Russians: Upheavals in a Moscow Synagogue*

Samuel Heilman and Menachem Friedman, *The Rebbe: The Life and Afterlife of Menachem Mendel Schneerson*

Esther Hertzog, Orit Abuhav, Harvey Goldberg and Emanuel Marx, eds. *Perspectives on Israeli Anthropology*

Shaul Kellner, *Tours that Bind: Diaspora, Pilgrimage, and Israeli Birthright Tourism*

Jack Kugelmass, *The Miracle of Intervale Avenue: The Story of a Jewish Congregation in the South Bronx*

Erica T. Lehrer, *Jewish Poland Revisited: Heritage Tourism in Unquiet Places*

Barbara Myerhoff, *Number Our Days*

Don Seeman, *One People, One Blood: Ethiopian-Israelis and the Return to Judaism*

Additional Note: Please read and be familiar with the University of Florida's definition of and policy regarding plagiarism as described in the Code of Student Conduct. The first of many pages that outline students' responsibilities and obligations can be found at the following UF website. Please read it carefully:

<http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/students.html>. Intentional plagiarism of any source will result in a failing grade for the course. If you do not understand plagiarism or what constitutes it, please ask.

If you have a disability that requires special arrangements (e.g., note- and/or test-taking), please register with UF's Office of Students with Disabilities and contact the instructor **within the first two weeks of class**. Every effort will be made to accommodate those with registered disabilities.