

Anthropology R5B  
Reading and Composition in Anthropology || Fall 2014

Instructor: Olesya Shayduk-Immerman  
Office: Stephen`s Hall (please, send an email  
for the details)  
Class: 111

Email: [osi@berkeley.edu](mailto:osi@berkeley.edu)  
Mailbox: 99

Office Hours: Thursday 3-5pm

**Jews, Judaism and the State of Israel:  
Anthropological Questions and Political Projects**

The goal of the course is an anthropological investigation of the issues of Judaism and Jewishness. Reading Asad`s “Two European Images of non-European Rule” we will call into question whether academic knowledge can be truly apolitical. The class will explore how various socio-political contexts provoke particular scholarly questions and discussions throughout history and, conversely, how certain political projects become possible through these academic questions and discussions. We will keep these questions in mind while reading texts about Jews, Jewishness, Judaism and the State of Israel. We will consider contradictory narratives on the same facts within the largely discussed topics in the Jewish field sites such as the basis of Jewish identity; the role of the “Jewish body” in Jewish history, culture and state building; the role of religion; the role of Holocaust for Jews and non-Jews; the authenticity of Rabbinical Judaism; and a spectrum of questions on the state of Israel. Considering various approaches to these topics we will unavoidably discuss such central anthropological categories as religion, culture, politics, race, and nationalism.

• **Course Goals:**

The course is designed to teach students how to get intellectual pleasure from critically engaged reading and writing. It will provide frequent occasions for students to explore the expression capacity of scholarly language and to experience how writing extends thought.

• **Materials**

Students are expected to buy two books:

El-Haj, Nadia Abu. *The Genealogical Science: The Search for Jewish Origins and the Politics of Epistemology*. University Of Chicago Press, 2012

Feige, Michael. *Settling in the Hearts: Jewish Fundamentalism in the Occupied Territories*. Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 2009.

The rest can be found through the Berkeley electronic resources. Some materials you will find on bcourse.

• **Policies:**

To receive a passing grade in participation, you are expected to be ready to discuss the assigned readings, e.g. bring questions, comments, and comparisons to share with our student colleagues.

It is imperative for you to complete the assigned reading before coming to class. Peer reviews will be the part of the participation grade as well.

Attendance is mandatory. You are allowed two unexcused absences during the semester. Any additional absence will have to be substituted by a written response to the text of the day (2 pages).

No cheating will be tolerated. Plagiarism will be punished with a failing grade for the assignment and potential further disciplinary action. Please see the UC Berkeley library's guide to proper citation styles (<http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/instruct/guides/citations.html>) to avoid accidentally committing plagiarism through misattribution or failure to properly cite your sources.

- **Statement on Accommodation:**

If you are sponsored by the Disabled Students Association, please have their office contact me with information on what type of accommodation I should provide.

- **Evaluation of the Course:**

Class Participation (including peer-reviewing): 25%

Six close-reading responses (1 page): 10%

Essay 1 (3 pages): 10%

Essay 2 (5 pages): 15%

Essay 3 (8 pages): 20%

Essay 4 (10 pages): 20%

- **Course Schedule:**

1 week

Wednesday, September 3

Introduction

What does it mean to be Jewish?

2 week

Monday, September 8

Lerner PI, J. (forthcoming). "Russians in the Jewish state: blood, identity and national bureaucracy". *Ethnologie Francaise* 45(2) (special issue on 'Everyday Israel'). (in French and English) (On bcourse)

Wednesday, September 10

Spector, Scott. "Forget Assimilation: Introducing Subjectivity to German-Jewish History."

*Jewish History* 20, no. 3/4 (2006): 349–61 (On bcourse)

Video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yPIBriWWD-w>

Paper 1 due: first impressions of the topic, deadline – the end of September 12

Race and body in construction of Jewishness

3 week

Monday, September 15

Efron, John M. *Medicine and the German Jews: A History*. 1st ed. Yale University Press, 2001 (On oskicat in electronic form) Introduction

Wednesday, September 17

El-Haj, Nadia Abu. *The Genealogical Science: The Search for Jewish Origins and the Politics of Epistemology*. University Of Chicago Press, 2012 (In the book) Introduction

4 week

Monday, September 22

El-Haj, Nadia Abu. *The Genealogical Science: The Search for Jewish Origins and the Politics of Epistemology*. University Of Chicago Press, 2012 (In the book)

Wednesday, September 24

El-Haj, Nadia Abu. *The Genealogical Science: The Search for Jewish Origins and the Politics of Epistemology*. University Of Chicago Press, 2012 (In the book)

5 week

Monday, September 29

El-Haj, Nadia Abu. *The Genealogical Science: The Search for Jewish Origins and the Politics of Epistemology*. University Of Chicago Press, 2012 (In the book)

Wednesday, October 1

El-Haj, Nadia Abu. *The Genealogical Science: The Search for Jewish Origins and the Politics of Epistemology*. University Of Chicago Press, 2012 (In the book)

### Scholarship and Politics

Monday, October 6

Asad, Talal. "Two European Images of Non-European Rule \*." *Economy and Society* 2, no. 3 (1973): 263–77. (On bcourse)

### Holocaust-centered Judaism

6 week

Wednesday, October 8

Rapaport, Lynn. "The Holocaust in American Jewish Life." In *The Cambridge Companion to American Judaism*, edited by Dana Evan Kaplan. Cambridge University Press, 2005 (On bcourse)

Novick, Peter. *The Holocaust in American Life*. Mariner Books, 2000. (On oskicat in electronic form) Introduction, p.1-15

7 week

Monday, October 13

Brown, Wendy. *Tolerance as Museum Object in Regulating Aversion: Tolerance in the Age of Identity and Empire*. Princeton University Press, 2008 (on bcourse)

### Observance of Judaism as a Form of Jewish Existence

Wednesday, October 15

Boyarin, Daniel. *Border Lines: The Partition of Judaeo-Christianity*. University of Pennsylvania Press, 2006. (On oskicat in electronic form) Introduction

Paper 2 due Deadline: the end of October 17

8 week

Monday, October 20

Boyarin, Daniel. *Border Lines: The Partition of Judaeo-Christianity*. University of Pennsylvania Press, 2006. (On oskicat in electronic form)

Wednesday, October 22

Boyarin, Daniel. *Carnal Israel: Reading Sex in Talmudic Culture*. Berkeley, Calif.: University of California Press, 1995. (On oskicat in electronic form)

9 week

Monday, October 27

Boyarin, Daniel. *Carnal Israel: Reading Sex in Talmudic Culture*. Berkeley, Calif.: University of California Press, 1995. (On oskicat in electronic form)

Wednesday, October 29

Boyarin, Daniel. *Carnal Israel: Reading Sex in Talmudic Culture*. Berkeley, Calif.: University of California Press, 1995. (On oskicat in electronic form)

### Evolution of Judaism in Israel

10 week

Monday, November 3

Hacker, Daphna. "Inter-Religious Marriages in Israel: Gendered Implications for Conversion, Children, and Citizenship." *Israel Studies* 14, no. 2 (2009): 178–97. (On bcourse)

Wednesday, November 5

Kravel-Tovi, Michal. "Rite of Passing: Bureaucratic Encounters, Dramaturgy, and Jewish Conversion in Israel." *American Ethnologist* 39, no. 2 (2012): 371–88 (On bcourse)

11 week

Monday, November 10

Feige, Michael. *Settling in the Hearts: Jewish Fundamentalism in the Occupied Territories*. Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 2009. (In the book)

Wednesday, November 12

Feige, Michael. *Settling in the Hearts: Jewish Fundamentalism in the Occupied Territories*. Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 2009. (In the book)

Paper 3 due: Deadline – the end of November 14

12 week

Monday, November 17

Feige, Michael. *Settling in the Hearts: Jewish Fundamentalism in the Occupied Territories*. Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 2009. (In the book)

Wednesday, November 19

Feige, Michael. *Settling in the Hearts: Jewish Fundamentalism in the Occupied Territories*. Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 2009. (In the book)

Judaism in the USSR

13 week

Monday, November 24

Slezkine, Yuri. *The Jewish Century*. Princeton University Press, 2004. (On oskicat in electronic form)

Wednesday, November 26

Slezkine, Yuri. *The Jewish Century*. Princeton University Press, 2004. (On oskicat in electronic form)

14 week

Monday, December 1

To be announced

Wednesday, December 3

To be announced

RRR week

December 8

**Due date of final paper to be announced.**