Class Description

Studying in Israel provides a unique opportunity to learn Qualitative Research Methods in a new site - Israel. We often think about the experience of the stranger as an unpleasant one: we try to avoid being strangers by locating ourselves among people and objects that we know – to create a sense of security. From the perspective of Qualitative Research Methods, however, the stranger’s point of view is a very fertile one. The stranger can see things that the subjects can not. More important still, the strangers see things in a critical way.

This course will provide you with a toolbox that will help you collect, document and understand reality, specifically, the rich and complicated reality of Israel. We will read classical materials in class, and we will think and implement those materials against the challenging reality that will knock on our class windows. As it is crucial to share not only knowledge but experience, some class meetings will take place "out there," and each student will conduct a small fieldwork. This course provides a unique opportunity for undergraduate students to gain experience in developing and conducting independent original research. For students in Anthropology (and other disciplines), the course is a first training opportunity in the world of fieldwork.

Grading and Assessment

1. All reading must be completed before class. Come prepared to talk about questions motivating the author, the central argument, the type of evidence used and how it affects the analysis, and with whom the author allies or argues.

2. There will be two course assignments:

   - Each student will be responsible to present and discuss in class one text from the class reading. The students will choose their materials for presentation by the second meeting.

   - Each student will conduct ethnographic field work during the semester and write a final paper of 8-10 pages summarizing the findings of that fieldwork. Details will follow in class.

Required Reading


It is hard to overestimate the importance of the internet, or its contribution to the build up of contemporary knowledge of the world around us. Albeit it needs to be used wisely. This means that one must be selective and careful when relating to internet-based sources, identifying and distinguishing opinions from facts, and journalism from academics. Most importantly, one should make clear reference to internet sources, allowing the reader the opportunity to consult these resources as and if required. Please also note that the ‘world-wide web’ – www – exists in many languages. Many sources about Israel in English, for instance, will be aimed at tourists or readers living primarily in English-speaking regions of the world. Sources might differ when reading them in other languages. Use the internet critically.

Camera and a voice recorder will be useful

**Entering the Field of Qualitative Research**


**Entering (your) Field**

Exercise in Visual Anthropology: Loving Sofia by Ohad Itach, Israel 2011

**Entering (your) Field**


**Visual Anthropology - Introduction**


Session 5

Oct. 5

Visual Anthropology


Maarten Hasselt van Dinet (2007) Tribal Tattoo Designs Mundurucu Publisher

Exercise in Visual Anthropology: Nanook of the North: A Story Of Life and Love In the Actual Arctic (1922), documentary film by Robert J. Flaherty.

Session 6

Oct. 9

Visiting Roni Levit studio – the creator of Carta Israel

Session 7

Oct 26

The Borders of the self, the borders of the Field


http://www2.pfeiffer.edu/~lridener/DSS/Simmel/STRANGER.HTML


Exercise in Visual Anthropology: Border by Eran Riklis

Session 8

Nov. 2

The Life Story Interview


Jane Jorgenson, Tracy Sullivan(2010) Accessing Children's Perspectives Through Participatory Photo Interviews in Qualitative Social Research Vol 11 no. 1


Exercise in Visual Anthropology: To See if I’m Smiling – Tamar Yarom (The story of 6 fighters in the Israeli Army, Documentary).

Session 9

Nov. 9

Visual Interaction


Digital anthropology
Exercise in Visual Anthropology: The 17 Victim/ David Ofeg

Question of research - Ethnographies from and about Israel


Steinberg, Pnina "Jewish Voyages: The Construction of National and Diasporic Route and Time" (work in progress)


Exercise in Visual Anthropology: "Have you ever shot somebody?" by Michal Aviad

Interpretation of (Israeli) Cultures

Geertz Clifford (1973) The Interpretation of Cultures, Basic Books 2000 paperback


http://books.google.com/books?id=RwTFT4zABgwC&dq=grasping+land&printsec=frontcover&source=bl&ots=TtRlzlOE_F&sig=nZcPdFrmTFTq7BJAuercKdUwrRc&hl=iw&sa=X&oi=book_result&resnum=1&ct=result#PPP1,M1


Participate observation in Humus place. Guest: Ofra Tene

Ethnography of the "small things"

Goffman Erving (1959) The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life University of Edinburgh Social Sciences Research

**Exercise in Visual Anthropology**: Divorce Iranian Style / Directed by Kim Longinotto, Ziba Mir-Hosseini

**Urban Anthropology**


**Exercise in Visual Anthropology**: Ashdod 1961

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