Syllabus

JEWS AND FOOD IN THE 20TH CENTURIES - 33751

Last update 07-07-2015

HU Credits: 4

Degree/Cycle: 2nd degree (Master)

Responsible Department: Jewish History and Contemporary Jewry

Academic year: 1

Semester: Yearly

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Anat Helman

Coordinator Email: anathelman85@gmail.com

Coordinator Office Hours: Tuesdays 17:00-18:00

Teaching Staff:
Dr. Anat Helman
Course/Module description:
Sociologists and anthropologists have been studying food for over a century, and lately historians have joined them too. The course investigates different Jewish communities during the 20th century, focusing on the various social and political roles of food in these groups.

Course/Module aims:
Tracing the roles that food played in Jewish cultural systems during the 20th century. After supplying some theoretical and comparative tools, it explores case studies from Europe, Muslim countries, USA and Israel, attempting to identify the manners in which food structures religious, ethnic, social, gender and national Jewish identities.

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:
Summarize influential theories in the field; criticize historical studies on the topic; explain the main features of Jewish food cultures and independently interpret specific patterns; compare, in their final papers, the Jewish case with other case studies.

Attendance requirements(%): 100

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: The seminar is conducted as a round-table discussion, in which all students present their conclusions of the weekly reading. At the end of the year a short final paper of a comparative nature will be submitted.

Course/Module Content:
Introduction
1. Theoretical background:
Sociology of food
Food and Taboo
Biology and psychology
Appetite and technology
2. Historical comparisons:
Adopting food patterns
Gender
Nationalism
3. Jews and food in Europe:
Issues of kashrut
Holocaust
Contemporary Jewish identities

4. Sephardim and Jews from Muslim countries:
Sefardi heritage
The heritage immigrates
Community's borders

5. USA:
From Dixie to NY
Secularism and kashrut
More issues of kashrut

6. Israel:
The Zionist Yishuv
Early statehood
From the mangal to the poorhouse
Ethiopian and Russian Israelis
Humus, Israeliness, and cosmopolitanism

7. Concluding essays

Required Reading:
* Jessamyn Neuhaus, “The Joy of Sex Instruction: Women and Cooking in Marital
* Cara De Silva, In Memory’s Kitchen: Reflections on a Recently Discovered Form of Holocaust Literature, Food and Judaism, Leonard J. Greenspoon, Ronals A. Simkins, and Gerald Shapiro (eds.), (Omaha NE, 2005), 105-118.
* Eve Jochnowitz, Flavors of Memory: Jewish Food as Culinary Tourism in Poland, Southern Folklore Quarterly, 55/3 (1998), 224-237.
* Ted Merwin, The Delicatessen as an Icon of Secular Jewishness, Jewishness: Expression, Identity, and Representation, Simon J. Bronner (ed.), (Oxford and
* Dan Tamir, Motives for Introducing Species: Palestine's Carp as a Case Study, Environment and History 16 (2010): 73-95. Doi: 10.3197/096734010X485300

Deborah Golden, "Nourishing the Nation: The Uses of Food in Israeli Kindergartens", *Food and Foodways*, 13/3 (2005), 181-199.
Mary Gluck, "The Budapest Coffeehouse and the Making of Jewish Modernity" at

Nir Avieli, "The collective and the individual in contemporary kibbutz dining rooms", Hagar, 10/2 (2012), 107-137.

Course/Module evaluation:
End of year written/oral examination 0 %
Presentation 0 %
Participation in Tutorials 0 %
Project work 90 %
Assignments 0 %
Reports 0 %
Research project 0 %
Quizzes 0 %
Other 10 %

Additional information:
Meeting during office hours should be pre-scheduled by email: anathelman85@gmail.com

Under graduate (BA) students cannot attend the course