

## Courses 2015-2016

### General and Interdisciplinary Studies

**Dr. Lior Ben David**

#### **Mexican-Indians: Between Ethnocide and Multiculturalism**

The course examines various aspects and contexts of "the Indian question" and the interactions between "Indians" and other social groups, both in colonial and Post-independence Mexico. We will discuss the massacre of some indigenous groups, which took place during the Spanish conquest of the country, and will see how this conquest fits into the broader historiographical debate on the genocide of indigenous peoples in the New World and into Raphael Lemkin's perceptions of the term "genocide". The relations and "contact zones" between Indians and colonial institutions of power in New Spain will enable us to observe the inherent tensions between the ambitions to Christianize and "civilize" the natives and the desire to dispossess and exploit them. We will also deal with questions of modernization, civilization and genocide from a comparative perspective, while examining the repression and deportation of some Indian populations in northern Mexico and the Yucatán peninsula throughout the 19th century vis-a-vis the extermination of Indians at the same time in Argentina, in a campaign known as "the conquest of the desert".

In the first half of the 20th century we will discuss the attitudes of revolutionary Mexico towards its Indian populations in various arenas such as education, land reform, anthropology, criminology, law and arts; and will scrutinize the official policy of "Indigenismo", which has been described by many of its critics as an ethnocide under the guise of assimilation. At the end of that century we will turn to the Zapatista uprising in Chiapas and explore how it was connected, among other things, to the official recognition of Mexico in "the multicultural composition" of the nation.

### General History

**Dr. Amir Teicher**

**Weimar Republic**

The Weimar Republic (1918-1933) was founded in Germany following the First World War. It was the first attempt of the German society to establish a democratic regime; it ended after 15 years with Hitler's rise to power. In the past decades, historians and culture researchers examined Weimar as modernity's "lost paradise" - a unique historical epoch that shaped the contours of the social legislation, the welfare state, the wonders of technological innovation and consumerism characteristic of 20th century Western societies.

The course will address the republic's complex history, including the social tensions, political dramas and economic catastrophes that ran throughout its short history. We will discuss the following themes: the crisis of WWI, technological innovations, the "New Woman", Bauhaus architecture, crime and serial killers, artistic currents (Dada, Expressionism, the New Objectivity), cinema, shop windows, political campaigns, inflation, the Nazi movement, and Hitler's rise to power. We will analyze photos, movie excerpts, caricatures, drawings, financial reports, speeches and party programs.

**Dr. Yael Sternhell**

### **African-American History**

This seminar will focus on major issues in the history of African-Americans from emancipation until today. Among other topics we will discuss migration, community building, incarceration, freedom struggles, and the creation of modern black culture. We will study a range of primary sources, including films and music, and engage with the central debates among historians on the nature of the black experience over the last 150 years.

### **Jewish History**

**Dr. Joel Zisenwine**

### **"The Realization of the Unthinkable": "The Final Solution" and the Murder of Jews during the Holocaust- Development, Perpetrators and Victims**

The course will discuss the development of the "Final solution" policy, which led to the extermination of European Jewry. Throughout the semester we will examine several attitudes within the Nazi regime and German society that shaped the murderous process. The conduct of those involved in various aspects of mass murder will be observed as well. In addition, the course will address the Jewish

victims and their experiences at the murder sites. Some of the main scholarly approaches that shaped research and historiography of the “Final Solution” will be presented. The seminar will be based on primary sources and studies from the Holocaust period and afterwards.

## **Middle Eastern and African History**

**Dr. Bruce Maddy-Weitzman**

### **Minorities and the State in the Middle East**

The post-World War I territorial states that emerged on the ruins of the Ottoman Empire and out of French North Africa were based on a particularly doctrine of state nationalism which emphasized Arab and Turkish ethnicity. Minority ethno-linguistic and religious communities were expected to assimilate into the dominant, “enlightened” polities being fashioned, or face the consequences. This course will examine the efforts by Middle Eastern states to subsume their minorities into this dominant paradigm, and the various responses of the subordinate groups. Special attention will be devoted to the Kurds and Berbers, the two largest ethno-linguistic communities in the region, particularly in light of their newly assertive identity movements in recent years.

## **Cultural Studies**

**Dr. Taghreed Yahia-Younis**

### **Ethnic Groups and Cultural Encounters**

The course observes encounters between ethnic groups; examines various models of relations amongst them mainly from a cultural perspective, while addressing different political, economic and social contexts that affect them; challenges and opportunities that are infused in these encounters.

**Dr. Yifat Gutman**

### **Multiculturalism, Transculturalism, and Intercultural Relations**

How might encounters between cultures that take shape in global and local processes explain phenomena such as: the wave of popular protest and revolutions

around the world; the proliferation of discourses such as human rights; the global expansion of the art market and museum chains like the Guggenheim, the transfer of architectural models and their agents between countries, as well as other “culture industries;” and the wide distribution of symbols, icons, and “global memories”? What kind of transcultural interactions and dynamics shape the processes of the formation and reception of practices and discourses in particular cases? The seminar will introduce theoretical traditions in the study of encounters between cultures and examine central issues such as translation, diffusion, import, and distribution as well as the transformations that take place in the travel and examine its agents. In addition, the concepts multicultural, transcultural, identity and belonging will be discussed in light of contemporary social and political processes.

## **History and Philosophy of Science and Ideas**

**Dr. Snait Gissis**

### **“Race”, “Nation” and Racism**

This seminar is the first of two to discuss the process of forming the category of race and "race" as a subject of science, and the establishment of corresponding "nationality" as a category and as an object of biology and sociology, from the late 18th century to the second decade of the 21st century. The two seminars will emphasize the role that Life Sciences, theories of evolution, and medical practice and later on genetics played in the 'west'.

## **Sociology and Anthropology**

**Dr. Anastasia Gorodzeisky**

### **Attitudes Towards Out-group Populations**

The course provides a theoretical and conceptual framework for understanding anti-foreigner sentiment and ethnic antagonism. The course covers a range of social science theories dealing with racial and ethnic prejudice: the classical prejudice theory and symbolic racism, the theory of ethnic antagonism in the context of split labor markets and the ‘competitive threat’ theoretical model. By doing so, the course aims to enhance the students understanding of social processes that underline the discrimination and social exclusion of minority groups.