

Fall 2013

Tu, Th 5:35-6:55

122 Davison

Time, History, and Memory

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Office Hours: Tuesday 4:30-5:30, Wednesday 3:00-4:00
131 Davison Hall

Welcome to our class on “Time, History, and Memory”! This semester we will explore the relations between our social (familial, occupational, religious, ethnoracial, cultural, national) environment and the way we think about time and remember the past. In so doing, we will cover many fascinating topics such as the social dynamics of remembering and forgetting, the social construction of ancestry and descent, and the politics of race.

There are two required books for this course: *Time Maps* by Eviatar Zerubavel (ISBN 0-226-98153-3) and *Ancestors and Relatives* by Eviatar Zerubavel (ISBN 978-0-19-933604-3). They have both been ordered through the University’s bookstores (the Douglass one as well as the Barnes & Noble by the train station). All the other required course readings are posted on the course website on sakai.rutgers.edu. Students are expected to read all the required material prior to the class for which it is assigned.

The course’s learning goals are to help students gain (a) an understanding of the way our social environment impacts the way we think about time and remember the past, both of which are often falsely assumed to be strictly psychologically or biologically based; (b) an ability to use sociological concepts to think about a wide variety of topics ranging from nostalgia through genealogical engineering to narrative construction; and (c) an improved understanding of major intellectual debates over community, identity, nationhood, and race. By the end of the course, students are expected to be able to review disciplinary literature, synthesize information and ideas from multiple sources to generate new insights, and produce a well-written paper. In addition, they will also be able to demonstrate multicultural sensitivity as well as global awareness.

The course assignments include (a) a midterm exam on October 10, (b) a 10-page term paper due on December 5, and (c) a final exam. Each of these assignments will count for

one third of your final course grade, and no extra credit will be permitted. Late assignments will be penalized, so make sure that your work is submitted on time. No late papers or make-up exams will be permitted without a valid written excuse such as documentation from your doctor or dean.

Class attendance (including arriving on time and staying until the end of the class period) is required. Students are expected to attend all classes. If you expect to miss a class, please use the University absence reporting website <https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/> to indicate the date and reason for your absence. Poor class attendance will affect the grade.

It is acceptable to use other people's ideas in your written work as long as you give credit to the original author. You act professionally and ethically when you do this, and it is considered dishonest to pass others' ideas or words as your own. Such behavior constitutes plagiarism and can result in failure in the class and potentially dismissal from Rutgers. Students are required to follow current Rutgers' Academic Integrity Policy as indicated in the website http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/files/documents/AI_Policy_9_01_2011.pdf. For further information on how to avoid plagiarism in your work, see http://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/rul/lib_instruct/instruct_document.shtml. To give credit to the original author of ideas you present and protect yourself from charges of dishonesty, always cite in your text the sources you used and list all of them in a bibliography at the end of your written assignment.

The Department of Sociology encourages the free exchange of ideas in a safe, supportive, and productive classroom environment. To facilitate such an environment, students and faculty must act with mutual respect and common courtesy. Behavior that distracts students and faculty during class is therefore not acceptable. Such behavior includes cell phone use, surfing the internet, checking email, text messaging, listening to music, reading newspapers, and leaving early without informing your instructor beforehand. If a student engages in disruptive behavior, the instructor, following the University Code of Student Conduct, may direct the student to leave class for the remainder of the class period.

The Rutgers Sociology Department strives to create an environment that supports and affirms diversity in all manifestations, including race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religion, age, social class, disability status, region/country of origin, and political orientation. We also celebrate diversity of theoretical and methodological perspectives and seek to create an atmosphere of respect and mutual dialogue. We have zero tolerance for violations of these principles.

The best way to reach me is by email. Please write "Soc 393" in the subject line so I can recognize your email quickly. Please remember to also sign your name in the email.

September 3 INTRODUCTION

Eviatar Zerubavel, *Time Maps: Collective Memory and the Social Shape of the Past* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2003), pp. 1-2, 8-10.

September 5 THE SOCIAL FOUNDATIONS OF MEMORY I

Maurice Halbwachs, *The Social Frameworks of Memory*, in Lewis A. Coser (ed.), *Maurice Halbwachs on Collective Memory* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1992 [1925]), pp. 37-40.

Eviatar Zerubavel, *Social Mindscapes: An Invitation to Cognitive Sociology* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1997), pp. 81-92, 100-01.

September 10 THE SOCIAL FOUNDATIONS OF MEMORY II

Eviatar Zerubavel, "Easter and Passover: On Calendars and Group Identity," *American Sociological Review* 47 (1982): 284-89.

Michael Frisch, "American History and the Structures of Collective Memory: A Modest Exercise in Empirical Iconography," *Journal of American History* 75 (1989): 1133-43.

Barry Schwartz, "The Reconstruction of Abraham Lincoln," in David Middleton and Derek Edwards (eds.), *Collective Remembering* (London: Sage, 1990), pp. 83-97, 101-04.

E. Zerubavel, *Social Mindscapes*, pp. 92-100.

September 12 PLOTLINES AND NARRATIVES I

Kenneth J. Gergen and Mary M. Gergen, "Narratives of the Self," in Theodore R. Sarbin and Karl E. Scheibe (eds.), *Studies in Social Identity* (New York: Praeger, 1983), pp. 254-73.

Peter J. Bowler, *Theories of Human Evolution: A Century of Debate, 1844-1944* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1986), pp. 50-52.

E. Zerubavel, *Time Maps*, pp. 11-15.

September 17 PLOTLINES AND NARRATIVES II

E. Zerubavel, *Time Maps*, pp. 16-20.

Thomas DeGloma, "Awakenings: Autobiography, Memory, and the Social Logic of Personal Discovery," *Sociological Forum* 25 (2010): 519-540.

September 19 PLOTLINES AND NARRATIVES III

Bowler, *Theories of Human Evolution*, pp. 41-42, 213-23.

Stephen J. Gould, *Wonderful Life: The Burgess Shale and the Nature of History* (New York:

W. W. Norton, 1989), pp. 29-35.

Peter J. Bowler, *Life's Splendid Drama: Evolutionary Biology and the Reconstruction of Life's Ancestry, 1860-1940* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1996), pp. 424-28.

E. Zerubavel, *Time Maps*, pp. 20-23.

September 24 PLOTLINES AND NARRATIVES IV

Mircea Eliade, *The Sacred and the Profane: The Nature of Religion* (New York: Harcourt, Brace & World, 1959 [1957]), pp. 68-72, 77-80, 104-07.

Eviatar Zerubavel, *The Seven-Day Circle: The History and Meaning of the Week* (New York: Free Press, 1985), pp. 83-86.

E. Zerubavel, *Time Maps*, pp. 23-25.

September 26 THE SOCIAL MARKING OF TIME

Henri Hubert, "A Brief Study of the Representation of Time in Religion and Magic," in *Essay on Time* (Oxford: Durkheim Press, 1999 [1905]), pp. 50-56, 61-63, 72-76.

E. Zerubavel, *The Seven-Day Circle*, pp. 107-08, 113-20, 133-38.

October 1 THE SOCIAL MARKING OF THE PAST

W. Lloyd Warner, *The Living and the Dead: A Study of the Symbolic Life of Americans* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1959), pp. 129-35.

E. Zerubavel, *Time Maps*, pp. 25-34.

October 3 SOCIOLOGY AND GENEALOGY

Mark D. Shriver and Rick A. Kittles, "Genetic Ancestry and the Search for Personalized Genetic Histories," *Nature Review: Genetics* 5 (2004): 611-18.

Eviatar Zerubavel, *Ancestors and Relatives: Genealogy, Identity, and Community* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2011), pp. 3-11.

October 8 ANCESTRY AND DESCENT

Hugh Baker, *Chinese Family and Kinship* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1979), pp. 26-28, 71-74, 88-91.

María E. Martínez, *Genealogical Fictions: Limpieza de Sangre, Religion, and Gender in Colonial Mexico* (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2008), pp. 46-52.

E. Zerubavel, *Ancestors and Relatives*, pp. 15-30, 118-21.

October 10 MIDTERM EXAM

October 15 MICRO-KINSHIP

Edward E. Evans-Pritchard, *The Nuer: A Description of the Modes of Livelihood and Political Institutions of a Nilotic People* (London: Oxford University Press, 1940), pp. 105-07, 195-202.

E. Zerubavel, *Ancestors and Relatives*, pp. 31-38.

October 17 MACRO-KINSHIP

Charles Darwin, *The Origin of Species* (New York: Sterling, 2008 [1859]), pp. 440-50.

Luigi L. Cavalli-Sforza and Francesco Cavalli-Sforza, *The Great Human Diasporas: The History of Diversity and Evolution* (Reading, MA: Addison-Wesley, 1995 [1993]), pp. 66-70.

Richard Dawkins, *River out of Eden: A Darwinian View of Life* (New York: Basic Books, 1995), pp. 5-12.

E. Zerubavel, *Ancestors and Relatives*, pp. 38-46.

October 22 MESO-KINSHIP

Rogers Brubaker, "Ethnicity, Race, and Nationalism," *Annual Review of Sociology* 35 (2009): 21-35.

E. Zerubavel, *Ancestors and Relatives*, pp. 46-52, 121-22.

October 24 THE SOCIAL CONSTRUCTION OF RELATEDNESS I

Israel Gershoni and James P. Jankowski, *Egypt, Islam, and the Arabs: The Search for Egyptian Nationhood, 1900-1930* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1986), pp. 165-68.

Dorothy Nelkin and Susan Lindee, *The DNA Mystique: The Gene as a Cultural Icon* (New York: W. H. Freeman, 1995), pp. 58-60, 66-72.

Werner Sollors, *Neither Black Nor White Yet Both: Thematic Explorations of Interracial Literature* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1997), pp. 112-29.

E. Zerubavel, *Ancestors and Relatives*, pp. 53-59.

October 29 THE SOCIAL CONSTRUCTION OF RELATEDNESS II

Barbara K. Rothman, *Recreating Motherhood* (New York: W. W. Norton, 1989), pp. 15-20.

Morgan Clarke, "The Modernity of Milk Kinship," *Social Anthropology* 15 (2007): 287-304.

E. Zerubavel, *Ancestors and Relatives*, pp. 59-65.

October 31 THE SOCIAL CONSTRUCTION OF RELATEDNESS III

Mary C. Waters, *Ethnic Options: Choosing Identities in America* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1990), pp. 16-26, 64-68.

Cavalli-Sforza and Cavalli-Sforza, *The Great Human Diasporas*, pp. 121-25.

Mara Loveman, "Is 'Race' Essential?" *American Sociological Review* 64 (1999): 891-98.

Richard Dawkins, *The Ancestor's Tale: A Pilgrimage to the Dawn of Civilization* (Boston: Mariner, 2005), pp. 307-10.

Kenneth M. Weiss and Jeffrey C. Long. "Non-Darwinian Estimation: My Ancestors, My Genes' Ancestors," *Genome Research* 19 (2009): 703-10.

E. Zerubavel, *Ancestors and Relatives*, pp. 65-75.

November 5 THE POLITICS OF DESCENT I

Yael Zerubavel, "Trans-Historical Encounters in the Land of Israel: On Symbolic Bridges, National Memory, and the Literary Imagination," *Jewish Social Studies* 11 (2005): 115-35.

E. Zerubavel, *Ancestors and Relatives*, pp. 77-86.

November 7 THE POLITICS OF DESCENT II

Jared Diamond, *The Third Chimpanzee: The Evolution and Future of the Human Animal* (New York: HarperCollins, 1992), pp. 23-25.

Morris Goodman, "Epilogue: A Personal Account of the Origins of a New Paradigm," *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution* 5 (1996): 269-85.

E. Zerubavel, *Ancestors and Relatives*, pp. 86-94.

November 12 THE POLITICS OF DESCENT III

Werner Sollors, *Beyond Ethnicity: Consent and Descent in American Culture* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1986), pp. 66-75, 81-101.

France W. Twine, *Racism in a Racial Democracy: The Maintenance of White Supremacy in Brazil* (New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 1998), pp. 122-33.

E. Zerubavel, *Ancestors and Relatives*, pp. 95-103.

November 14 GENEALOGICAL ENGINEERING

Martínez, *Genealogical Fictions*, pp. 54-58.

E. Zerubavel, *Ancestors and Relatives*, pp. 105-14.

November 19 THE SOCIAL CONSTRUCTION OF HISTORICAL CONTINUITY I

David Hume, *A Treatise of Human Nature* (1739), Book 1, Part 4, Section 6.

Bernard Lewis, *History: Remembered, Recovered, Invented* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1975), pp. 71-76.

- Fred Davis, *Yearning for Yesterday: A Sociology of Nostalgia* (New York: Free Press, 1979), pp. 64-67, 101-08.
 Shils, *Tradition*, pp. 63-73.
 E. Zerubavel, *Time Maps*, pp. 37-46.

November 21 THE SOCIAL CONSTRUCTION OF HISTORICAL CONTINUITY II

- Harold Garfinkel, "Passing and the Managed Achievement of Sex Status in An Intersexed Person," in *Studies in Ethnomethodology* (Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall, 1967), pp. 128-31.
 Lewis, *History*, pp. 83-87.
 Gershoni and Jankowski, *Egypt, Islam, and the Arabs*, pp. 143-49, 154-58.
 Charlotte Linde, *Life Stories: The Creation of Coherence* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1993), pp. 151-58.
 Yael Zerubavel, *Recovered Roots: Collective Memory and the Making of Israeli National Tradition* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1995), pp. 160-67, 216-21.
 Vered Vinitzky-Seroussi, *After Pomp and Circumstance: High School Reunions as Autobiographical Occasions* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1998), pp. 113-27.
 E. Zerubavel, *Time Maps*, pp. 46-54.

November 26 THE SOCIAL CONSTRUCTION OF HISTORICAL DISCONTINUITY I

- Arnold van Gennep, *The Rites of Passage* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1960 [1909]), pp. 74-82, 91-96.
 Y. Zerubavel, *Recovered Roots*, pp. 13-36, 229-31.
 Nicole E. Isaacson, "The 'Fetus-Infant': Changing Classifications of *In Utero* Development in Medical Texts," *Sociological Forum* 11 (1996): 467-70, 472-76.
 Eviatar Zerubavel, "Language and Memory: 'Pre-Columbian' America and the Social Logic of Periodization," *Social Research* 65 (1998): 315-28.
 E. Zerubavel, *Time Maps*, pp. 34-36, 82-100.

December 3 THE SOCIAL CONSTRUCTION OF HISTORICAL DISCONTINUITY II

- Y. Zerubavel, *Recovered Roots*, pp. 221-28.
 E. Zerubavel, *Time Maps*, pp. 101-10.

December 5 CLASS PRESENTATIONS

December 10 CLASS PRESENTATIONS