

What do we talk about when talk about Jewish Identity: Explorations into Jewish Collectivity and Pluralistic Education

Syllabus for Summer Course 2019

Faculty

- Prof. Noam Pianko
- Dr. Rani Jaeger
- Mr. Assaf Gamzou

Course Description:

This course will examine new and innovative methods of Jewish Education including the creative and innovative use of Israel’s digital museum resources in the classroom. In addition, the course will examine various approaches to the teaching of Jewish Peoplehood in the classroom in an effort to help teachers understand ways in which to effectively discuss the evolution, differences, and similarities between Israel’s Jewish population and Jewish communities and individuals around the world.

The course will be taught by two leading professors in Jewish Education and Peoplehood: Dr. Rani Jaeger of the Hartman Institute will teach the first part of the course regarding Jewish education. Prof. Noam Pianko of the University of Washington will teach the second part of the course which will explore notions of Jewish collectivity.

Phase 1: Jewish Pluralistic Education

Led by Dr. Rani Jaeger

Jewish learning has profound roots and far reaching implications for the future of the Jewish people in the 21st century. The goal of this course is to describe and discuss core issues in Jewish pluralistic education moving constantly between ideas, methodologies and reflection on both.

The course is built on the notion that “a person is obliged to see himself” before “you shall tell your son”. Thus, every day we’ll be engaged in a learning experience that will then form the basis for our discussions.

Day	Subjects
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July 2nd	<p>9: 15 Opening – framing the week</p> <p>Museum and Education – what is the connection, and where are they now?</p> <p>Havruta: Jewish Education- what are we trying to achieve?</p> <p>13: 15 end of day</p>
July 3rd	<p>9: 15 Frame of the day</p> <p>Identity and Education: Havruta</p> <p>Exhibition Tour: “<i>Let there be laughter: Jewish Humor from around the world</i>”</p> <p>13: 15 end of day</p>
July 4th	<p>9: 15 Frame of the day</p> <p>Tradition- continuity and change: Havruta</p> <p>Exhibition tour: “<i>Hallelujah: Synagogue hall</i>”</p>
July 5th	<p>9: 15 Frame of the day</p> <p>Ritual and PJE: Havruta</p> <p>Shabbat</p> <p>12: 30 end of day</p>
Shabbat	
July 7th	<p>Tel-Aviv day trip:</p> <p><i>The conflicting souls of the first Hebrew City</i></p> <p>(Long day – 9: 15-17: 15)</p>
July 8th	<p>9: 15 Frame of the day</p> <p>Tolerance/Pluralism/Multi-Culturalism- What do they mean and how do they play in Jewish education?</p> <p>Exhibition tour – “<i>Operation Moses: 30 years later</i>”</p> <p>13: 15 end of day</p>
July 9th	<p>9: 15 Frame of the day</p> <p>Halakha and Haggada- ideas and actions in Jewish education</p> <p>Exercise: Leading a tour through the museum</p> <p>Conclusion of 1st phase of course with Dr. Jaeger</p>
Shabbat	
<p>Phase 2: From B’nai Yisrael to Jewish Peoplehood: Historical and Contemporary Models of Jewish Collectivity</p> <p>Led by Prof. Noam Pianko</p>	
July 14th	<p>Collectivity in Jewish History and Sources</p> <p>-What terms/models of Jewish collectivity exist in Jewish sources and pre-modern Jewish history?</p>

	<p>-How are these models similar or different from contemporary notions? What are the key similarities/differences?</p> <p>-Exercise: Artifacts/Museum Texts?</p>
July 15th	<p>Modern Jewish Nationalism: Continuity and Rupture in Jewish Collectivity</p> <p>-How does the emergence of modern Jewish nationalisms build on, and breaks from, earlier Jewish notions of collectivity?</p> <p>-How might different scholars of nationalism (modernists and perennialists) interpret the emergence of modern Jewish nationalism?</p>
July 16th	<p>Peoplehood: An American Innovation</p> <p>-When, how, and why did “Jewish Peoplehood” enter Jewish consciousness?</p> <p>-What role did this concept have against the backdrop of Zionism and American Jewish identity formation?</p> <p>-Exercise: Museum Tour- <i>Exploring Absences in the museum space</i></p>
July 17th	<p>A Critical Examination of Contemporary Peoplehood Pedagogy</p> <p>-What factors lead to the interest in peoplehood pedagogy in the last two decades?</p> <p>-What are the goals of peoplehood education?</p> <p>-What roles does Israel play in peoplehood education?</p> <p>-Exercise: Museum Tour- <i>What are Messages/Narratives?</i></p>
July 18th	<p>Is there a Future for Jewish Peoplehood?</p> <p>-What challenges do collective visions of Jewish identity face today?</p> <p>-What models of Jewish collectivity might be best suited for contemporary realities?</p> <p>-What is at stake in whether or not collectivity remains a critical element of Jewish identity?</p>
End of course	

Evaluation Criteria:

85% - Final Paper

15% - Attendance and participation in lectures, discussions, course activities

Attendance Policy:

Students are required to attend classes and all course activities and excursions. Students are allowed one excused absence. Because this is a short, intensive course more than one absence will significantly affect academic progress in the program.

Select Bibliography:

1. Seymour Fox (Editor), Israel Scheffler (Editor), Daniel Marom (Editor), **Visions of Jewish Education**, Cambridge ,2003
2. David Hartman, **A Heart of Many Rooms: Celebrating the Many Voices within Judaism**, 2001, Jewish Lights
3. Emmanuel Levinas, "Reflections on Jewish Education" in **Difficult Freedom**, Baltimore
4. Franz Rosenzweig, **On Jewish Learning**, N.N Galzer (ed), Schocken 1955
5. Jonathan Sacks, **One People? Tradition, Modernity, and Jewish Unity**, London 1993, pp. 141-168

Faculty Bios:



Prof. Noam Pianko is the Samuel N. Stroum Chair of Jewish Studies and Professor in the Jackson School of International Studies. Pianko also directs the Samuel and Althea Stroum Center for Jewish Studies and serves as the Herbert and Lucy Pruzan Professor of Jewish Studies. He received his Ph.D. in Religious Studies/Judaic Studies from Yale University in 2004 and joined the Jackson School faculty in the fall of that year.

Pianko's research interests include modern Jewish history, Zionism, and American Judaism. His first book, *Zionism and the Roads Not Taken: Rawidowicz Kaplan, Kohn* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2010) uncovers the thought of three key interwar Jewish intellectuals who defined Zionism's central mission as challenging the model of a sovereign nation-state.

His second book, *Peoplehood: An American Innovation* (New Jersey: Rutgers University Press, 2015), won the American Jewish Historical Society's Saul Viener Book prize. The book traces the history of an idea that is deceptively straightforward and enduring. Peoplehood emerged at the beginning of the last century as an American-Jewish innovation calibrated to shape discussions of nationalism, Zionism, and American Jewish identity. In addition to these works, Pianko has published extensively in leading journals.



Dr. Rani Jaeger is a research fellow, faculty member, and head of the recently formed Ritual Center at the Shalom Hartman Institute. In this context he was the co-editor of the *Hitkansut* - a new personal and experiential circle of memory designed to deal with Holocaust remembrance as responsibility passes to our generation. He was one of the founders of the Institute's Be'eri Program for Pluralistic Jewish-Israeli Identity Education.

Rani completed his doctorate at Bar-Ilan University on Jewish-Israeli culture as perceived by the poet Avraham Shlonsky. He was a participant in the first cohort of the [Beit Midrash for Israeli Rabbis](#) and received rabbinical ordination from the Shalom Hartman Institute and HaMidrasha at Oranim in September 2016.

Rani is one of the founders of Beit Tefilah Israeli, a secular synagogue in the heart of Tel Aviv. He spent a year at Paideia, the European Institute of

Jewish Studies in Stockholm, as scholar in residence. Born and raised in Tel-Aviv, Rani is now living in Jerusalem with Inbal and their 4 children



Assaf Gamzou is director of professional development and engagement at The museum of the Jewish People in Tel Aviv, Israel. Former curator of the Israeli Cartoon Museum, he divides his time between the fields of pluralistic Jewish education, Art and pop culture criticism and his family. He recently co-edited with Prof. Ken Koltun Fromm the volume: *Comics and Sacred Texts: Reimagining Religion and Graphic Narratives*. (Jacksonville, University Press of Mississippi, 2018)