

Anth 222.11
**Anthropology of Citizenship and Displacement:
Belonging and Exclusion in the Middle East**

Spring 2008

Professor Ilana Feldman
Office: 502D, 1957 E St.
Tel: 994-7728
Email: ifeldman@gwu.edu
Office hours: Tuesdays 4-6, and by appointment

Course Description: This course is an anthropological exploration of experiences of and ideas about community, belonging, and exclusion. While it is a fundamental feature of communities that some people are identified as belonging and others are designated as outsiders, how these distinctions among people are made, and with what effects, varies considerably. The idea of citizenship is one of the most powerful markers of belonging in the modern world, and it has been the subject of enormous attention in a variety of disciplines. Here we will consider what an anthropological perspective on citizenship can bring to these discussions. In approaching citizenship as more than simply a legal category, anthropologists look for expressions of and contestations over it in a variety of settings – in cultural productions, in formations of space and place, in political articulations, as well as in state elaborations. We will consider each of these settings. We will also pursue related questions about what happens to people when they are uprooted from the places that have defined their community and/or their citizenship. How, that is, are these ideas reconfigured in displacement? The geographical focus of the course will be the Middle East, though materials will be drawn from other areas as well.

Required Texts:

The following texts are available for purchase at the GWU bookstore and are on reserve at Gelman library:

Lila Abu-Lughod, *Dramas of Nationhood: The Politics of Television in Egypt* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2005).

Charles Hirschkind, *The Ethical Soundscape: Cassette Sermons and Islamic Counterpublics* (NY: Columbia University Press, 2006).

Aihwa Ong, *Neoliberalism as Exception: Mutations in Citizenship and Sovereignty* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2006).

Esra Ozyurek, *Nostalgia for the modern : state secularism and everyday politics in Turkey*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2006.

Additional required readings are available through electronic reserves on blackboard.

Course Requirements:

Attendance and Participation: This course is a seminar and in order for it to be successful, we all need to come to class having done the readings and prepared to discuss them. Preparation for discussion includes identifying puzzling aspects of the text, highlighting passages for analysis, and raising questions for debate. If you have to miss class, please let me know beforehand.

Reading Response: For each class, everyone is required to post – through Blackboard – ½- to 1-page reflection papers. You should also read each other's postings before class. Responses should be posted by 9 am on the day of class (to accommodate night-owls and still leave enough time for us all to read the postings). These are not formal papers, but rather are an opportunity for you to react to and reflect on the readings for the week. Raise questions the readings posed for you, think about how they relate to other things we have read, consider how they fit into the course as a whole. These postings are intended to help you in organizing your thoughts about the readings and to create a space for dialogue outside the classroom.

Presentation and Leading Discussion: Each week a student will be responsible for presenting the reading to the class and for helping to lead class discussions. These presentations should be brief – 10-15 minutes. In addition to discussing the readings, presenters should comment on the postings (noting themes in the responses, interesting questions raised). The presentations are not meant to be the final word on anything, but rather to open up class discussion on the texts.

Seminar Paper and Paper Preparation: The seminar paper is something you should be thinking about and working toward throughout the semester. To this end, you will be required to submit a paper topic and tentative bibliography on **March 6**, an abstract on **April 10**, and you will be required to do a presentation on your project on **April 17 or 24**, all before submitting the final paper, which is due **May 1**. The paper should be 15-20 pages.

Your grade for the course will reflect your efforts in fulfilling each of these requirements.

Part One: Framings

January 17 : Introduction

Gershon Shafir, "The Evolving Tradition of Citizenship," in *The Citizenship Debates*, ed. Gershon Shafir (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1998).

January 24: What is Citizenship?

Saskia Sassen, "Foundational Subjects for Political Membership: Today's Changed Relation to the National State," in *Territory, Authority, Rights: From Medieval to Global Assemblages* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2006).

Karl Marx, "On the Jewish Question," (Part 1) in *The Marx-Engels Reader*, ed. Robert C. Tucker, 26-46 (New York: W.W. Norton & Co., 1978).

Susan Bibler Coutin, "Cultural logics of belonging and movement: Transnationalism, naturalization, and U.S. immigration politics," *American Ethnologist* 30, 4 (2003): 508-526.

Seyla Benhabib, "Twilight of Sovereignty or the Emergence of Cosmopolitan Norms? Rethinking Citizenship in Volatile Times," *Citizenship Studies* 11, 1(2007): 19-36.

January 31: Formations of Community

Nikolas Rose, "Community" from *Powers of Freedom: Reframing Political Thought* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999).

David Scott, "Community, Number and the Ethos of Democracy," in *Refashioning Futures: Criticism after Postcoloniality* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1999).

Partha Chatterjee, "Beyond the Nation, Or Within?" *Social Text* 56 (1998):57-69.

James Clifford, "Identity in Mashpee," in *The Predicament of Culture: twentieth-century ethnography, literature, and art* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1988).

February 7 : Displacements and Exclusions

Uday Mehta, "Liberal Strategies of Exclusion," in *Tensions of Empire: Colonial Cultures in a Bourgeois World*, ed. Frederick Cooper and Ann Laura Stoler, 59-86 (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1997).

Hannah Arendt, "The Decline of the Nation-State and the End of the Rights of Man," in *The Origins of Totalitarianism*, 267-302 (New York: Meridian Books, 1951).

Partha Chatterjee, "Religious Minorities and the Secular State: Notes on an Indian Impasse," *Public Culture* 8 (1995):11-39.

João Biehl, "Life of the mind: The interface of psychopharmaceuticals, domestic economies, and social abandonment" *American Ethnologist* 31, 4 (2004): 475-496.

Part Two: Inside, Outside, and on the Boundaries in/of the Middle East

February 14 – Producing belonging: citizens and states

Esra Ozyurek, *Nostalgia for the modern : state secularism and everyday politics in Turkey*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2006.

February 21 – Included or Excluded?: Palestinian Citizens of Israel

Shira Robinson, "Citizenship as a Category of Exclusion: Palestinians Arabs, Israeli Jews, and Utopian Borders," Unpublished paper

Oren Yiftachel, "'Ethnocracy' and Its Discontents: Minorities, Protests, and the Israeli Polity," *Critical Inquiry* 26, 4 (2000):725-56.

Robert Blecher, "Citizens without Sovereignty: Transfer and Ethnic Cleansing in Israel" *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 47, 4 (2005):725-754.

Rhoda Kanaaneh, "Boys or Men? Duped or "made"? Palestinian soldiers in the Israeli military" *American Ethnologist* 32, 2 (2005): 260-275.

February 28 – Refugees, Migrants, and People out of Place

Liisa Malkki, "National Geographic: The Rooting of peoples and the territorialization of national identity among scholars and refugees" *Cultural Anthropology* 7(1) 1992:24-44.

Ilana Feldman, "Home as a Refrain: Remembering and Living Displacement in Gaza" *History and Memory* 18, 2 (2006): 10-47

Ilana Feldman, "Difficult Distinctions: Refugee law, humanitarian practice, and political identification in Gaza" *Cultural Anthropology* 22, 1 (2007): 129-69

Mandana Limbert, "Personal Memories, Revolutionary States, and Indian Ocean Migrations," *MIT-EJMES* Fall 2005

March 6 – Cultural Struggles over Community, Nation, and Heritage

Lila Abu-Lughod, *Dramas of Nationhood: The Politics of Television in Egypt* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2005).

Paper topic and tentative bibliography for seminar paper due

March 13 - No class

March 21 - Spring Break

March 27 – Publics and Counterpublics

Charles Hirschkind, *The Ethical Soundscape: Cassette Sermons and Islamic Counterpublics* (NY: Columbia University Press, 2006).

April 3 – The Problem of Europe

Miriam Ticktin, "Where Ethics and Politics Meet: The Violence of Humanitarianism in France" *American Ethnologist* 33, 1 (2006):33-49.

Peter van der Veer, "Pim Fortuyn, Theo van Gogh, and the Politics of Tolerance in the Netherlands," *Public Culture* 18, 1 (2006): 111-124.

Joan Scott, "Symptomatic Politics: The Banning of Islamic Head Scarves in French Public Schools" *French Politics, Cultural, and Society* 23, 3 (2005):106-127.

Etienne Balibar, "Outline of a Topography of Cruelty: Citizenship and Civility in the Era of Global Violence," in *We, The People of Europe? Reflections on transnational citizenship* (Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 2004)

April 10 – Citizenship and Globalization

Aihwa Ong, *Neoliberalism as Exception: Mutations in Citizenship and Sovereignty* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2006).

Abstract due

April 17 – presentations

April 24 – presentations