

## Assignment Instructions

**BLOGS:** You should complete blogs during the course of your travel. **A strong blog will connect several sites/events/experiences with the themes, questions and issues raised in required readings.** The blog should be about a day (or at least most of a day) of travel. Alternately, consider focusing on a theme and pull together several course elements (i.e. Holocaust, LGBTQ issues, Archeology and contemporary politics, cultural diversity in Israel, Religion and public life). **Thematic blogs are more interesting and have more potential for a stronger grade** as they are more likely you to prompt you to make original arguments use critical thinking. **Please include relevant photos and or short videos.**

**Grading:** Half of each blog grade is based on readings, half is based on critically engaging the site and placing that discussion in the context of the learning you are doing through traveling. **If there are no readings for a particular site / topic, do outside research** (and speak to Profs who may have reading suggestions). **Photographs, videos, or audio clips are essential to a strong blog.**

- **Extra Blogs for Participation:** Anyone, including students completing Research paper may blog for extra participation (video or text blog). Please email Professor Butler at the end of the course summarizing any extra work you have done that should receive extra credit.
- **Deadlines:** Blogs are due 72 hours after the day of travel you are blogging about. If you are blogging about May 10, the blog is due online by 9pm on May 13. *Every extra day adds a 5% late penalty.*
- **Length:** Recommended length is according to course level. 3850: 500-750 words. 5850: 750-1000 words
- **Content:** Half of the content should be based on the readings relevant to the sites for that day and any outside research (part of this can and should be prepared in advance). Half of your material will be based on actually visiting the site and seeing it for yourself. This will allow you to discuss details you hadn't known, and integrate your discussion within what you are learning throughout the course. You will be graded on comprehension, clear, well organized writing, critical reading and writing skills, original analysis, integrating your discussion within the context of course materials, lectures, travel, course questions/themes.
- **Tone:** An academic blog may be somewhat less formal but you still must demonstrate real critical thinking, seriously addressing the material, illustrate your ability to integrate readings, lectures, what you are seeing. Show how you are thinking about the site or sites in terms of the course materials, questions and themes.
- **Work before you fly:** You are strongly advised to prep your blogs (video or text) before you leave. Choose the sites you are most interested in. Prepare the relevant required readings and any necessary outside research. Write the first few pages of the blog or script for your video so that all you need to do while traveling is respond to what you are seeing that day.