

## **New York's Evolving Neighborhoods**

**Coordinators:** Marilyn Evans, Florence Tager

NYC is well known globally as the most diverse city but immigration is far from stagnant. This study group focuses on immigrants that reside in Crown Heights, Brooklyn and Kew Gardens, Queens. What do the Hasidic Jews, Caribbeans and Afghans bring to our city culturally and what are their challenges as they work to fold into our society? We explore the relationship between blacks and Jews as it exploded in the Crown Heights riots of 1991 and their aftermath. We also examine the three distinct waves of recent Afghans to the US, those arriving both to escape Soviet invasion and the Taliban, and those receiving special visas for protection as American forces exit.

**Readings:** Coursepack, cost TBD.

**Florence**, Professor Emerita, taught at Medgar Evers College, Crown Heights, for 35 years and was actively involved in the community. Her interest in ethnic diversity also evolved through worldwide travel.

**Marilyn's** varied career included most recently international programs in-country focused on democratic development in hotspot countries, e.g. Afghanistan, Kosovo, Bangladesh, Yemen. These experiences created keen interest in diverse cultures.

### **\* \* \* \* \* Syllabus \* \* \* \* \***

#### **SESSION ONE** – Overview Immigration and Two Neighborhoods

- David A. Gerber, *American Immigration, A Very Short Introduction*, 2011, Chapters 3,5, and Conclusion
- Joseph Berger, *The World in a City, Traveling the Globe Through the Neighborhoods of New York*, 2007, Preface

#### **SESSIONS TWO AND THREE** – Kew Gardens and Afghan-American Immigrants: Their History and Cultural Differences

- Zohra Saed and Sahar Muradi, *One Story, Thirty Stories*, 2010,

- “The Girl with Green Eyes”, Yasmine Delawari Johnson
- “The Irony of Life&Survival of American Dream”, Asadulla Abubakr
- “My Mother”, Kahalida Sethi
- “The Odyssey of Coming to America”, Rameen Javid Moshref
- “The Things They Wait For”, Sahar Muradi
- Sam Petullia, “Afghans in New York Look Back on a Strange Decade”, *the Atlantic*, September 2, 2011
- Joseph Berger, Chapter 9, “Family Ties and Knots in Flushing”
- Adam Stuhlman, “Afghan Finds Many Cultural Barriers in Adjusting to US Life”, *New Hampshire Register*, August 3, 2013
- Ehsan M. Entezar, *Afghanistan 101, Understanding Afghan Culture*, 2007,
- “Power distance”
- “Uncertainty Avoidance”
- “Individualism and Collectivism”
- “Masculinity of the Gender Gap”
- Kirk Semple, “Abuse Often Follows Afghans in America”, *NY Times*, February 27, 2011
- Sharon Otterman, “Balancing Islam and Middle School”, *NY Times*, March 8, 2015
- Hosanna Sadat, “Being Afghan, a Cultural Inquiry in the United States”, *Motion Magazine*, August 25, 2009

#### **SESSIONS FOUR AND FIVE – Crown Heights and its Hasidim, Caribbean and African Americans**

- Edward Shapiro, *Crown Heights: Blacks and Jews and the 1991 Brooklyn Riot*, 2006, pages of two chapters
- Alexis Okeowo, “Crown Heights Twenty Years After the Riots”, *New Yorker Magazine*; “No One Talks About Black Jewish Relationships”, *Jewish Daily Forward*, August 26, 2011
- “A Life Apart”, PBS online article
- “Caribbean Immigrants in the US”, Migration Policy Institute, 2006

#### **SESSION SIX – TBD**