

Readings in Contemporary Hebrew Literature (Hebrew Studies 533/ Jewish Studies 533)

University of Wisconsin- Madison

Van Hise 574 MW 2:30-3:45

FALL 2011

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Office Hours: MW 3:45-4:45 or by appointment

Course Overview: Born out of armed struggle and at war with many of its neighbors, the State of Israel now maintains one of the largest and most sophisticated militaries in the world. Various factors, including mandatory military service and required reserve military service, have led the military to assert significant influence on Israeli society and its members. Through viewing of films and the reading of poetry, prose, and oral testimony, related to the topic of Israeli military service, this course will explore the changing Israeli perception of the military and its values, as well as this changing perception's relationship to broader changes in Israeli society. Simultaneously students will develop greater fluency in the Hebrew language. Students will strengthen their reading skills through the reading of unadapted Hebrew texts that will be accompanied by vocabulary lists. Hebrew listening and speaking skills will be developed through participation in class discussion, oral presentations, and the viewing of Hebrew films. Completion of Hebrew homework assignments and papers in Hebrew will improve student writing skills.

Attendance, Tardiness, and Preparedness Policy: Students are expected to attend **every** class and to arrive **on time**. Attendance will be taken every class and students with more than three undocumented absences will be penalized. Please notify the instructor of any expected tardiness or absence. In addition, students should **always** bring assigned readings to class for reference and be prepared to discuss them. Such preparedness will be an important component of the participation grade.

Breakdown of Grades (approximate):

Regular Homework Assignments: 20% - Students will be required to complete short written assignments pertaining to assigned literary and filmic texts (usually one per week). Students will usually be required to provide short responses to questions testing comprehension and analysis. Evaluation of these assignments will be based upon the quality of student comprehension and analysis, as well as proper Hebrew linguistic usage. **Students are expected to employ dictionaries prior to**

submission to help insure proper spelling and usage. Students are also expected to check graded work in order to learn from their mistakes and achieve improved writing skills. Late assignments will not be accepted. Lowest 10% of grades will be dropped.

Midterm Paper: 20% - Students will be asked to write a two-page paper treating literary representation of the Israel military and its war and peacetime roles.

Take-Home Final: 25% - Students will be asked to write one to two short essays related to the course's theme. In these essays students will be asked to compare and contrast works read and viewed over the course of the semester. A paper copy of the final will be due by 12:25PM on December 22nd. Final grades will be reduced by ten percent for every day late.

Attendance: 5% - Class attendance proves integral to student success. This portion of the grade is meant to reward those who take this responsibility seriously and penalize those with more than three undocumented absences.

Participation: 10% - Students will be expected to exhibit their linguistic comprehension through participation in class discussion or through the asking of questions.

Oral Presentation #1: 10% - Each student will be asked to prepare a 5-10 minute Hebrew talk related to the Israeli military and various Israeli wars and their relationship to Israeli society. Available online Hebrew newspapers [Haaretz (www.haaretz.co.il), Yediot Ahronot (www.ynet.co.il), and Maariv (www.nrg.co.il)] can assist in topic selection. Presentation guidelines will be provided at the beginning of the semester.

Oral Presentation #2: 10% - During our discussion of the First Intifada, student pairs will be assigned the oral testimony of a single soldier who served in the Israeli military during the First Intifada. After reading the soldier's transcribed testimony, each pair will orally present a summary of his experience and point to important issues raised by his experience. These presentations will serve as the basis for a broader discussion of the Intifada and the Israeli military. **Presentations will take place on October 31st and November 2nd, and students will have the opportunity to prepare in advance.**

Disability Policy:

Students registered with disabilities at McBurney Disability Resource Center can receive accommodations with the presentation of the proper forms. Disabled students should meet with me during office hours or by appointment to arrange these accommodations.

Code of Academic Integrity:

All students are expected to conduct their academic work according to university standards. Students should be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and do their best to avoid it. To learn more on what constitutes academic misconduct see (<http://students.wisc.edu/saja/pdf/UWS14.pdf>).

Food, Drink, and Cell Phone Policy:

Students are asked to refrain from eating and drinking during class. Cell phones should be turned off before class.

Jewish Holidays: Class will be cancelled on September 28th, Rosh Hashanah eve, to accommodate student holiday travel, preparation, and observance.

Recommended Dictionaries:

These dictionaries will assist in improvement of student writing and are worth the investment.

Edna Lauden and Liora Weinbach, eds. Multi Dictionary Bilingual Learners Dictionary Hebrew-Hebrew-English English-Hebrew. Tel Aviv: Ad Publishers, 1993.
A. Kahane, ed. The Oxford English-Hebrew Dictionary. New York: Oxford, 1998.

Accessing Course Materials: Class readings, as well as assigned films, will be posted on *Learn@UW*. Students will be asked to either bring copies of written materials, or computers upon which they can access these materials, to class.

Course Schedule: (Tentative schedule subject to change with due notice):

Introduction

September 5 *General Introduction*

Background Reading: Reuven Gal, *A Portrait of the Israeli Soldier* (New York, Greenwood Press, 1986), 30-45 & 76-96

September 7 *Waltz With Bashir* directed by Ari Folman

צפייה: ואלס עם באשיר. במאי: ארי פולמן. 2008. די.וי.די. חברת סוני. 2009.

September 12 *Waltz With Bashir* directed by Ari Folman (continued)

צפייה: ואלס עם באשיר. במאי: ארי פולמן. 2008. די.וי.די. חברת סוני. 2009.

Independence and The Military Ethos

September 14 *"MaGash HaKesef"* by Natan Alterman

קריאה: נתן אלתרמן, *הטור השביעי*, כרך א' (תל אביב: הקיבוץ המאוחד, תשל"ה), 5-154.

September 19 *"Lo Eshkach Zot Reay"* by Natan Alterman and *"Tfilah"* by Hayyim Guri

קריאה: נתן אלתרמן, *עיר היונה* (ישראל: הוצאת מחברות לספרות, 1958), 170.

חיים גורי, *השירים*, (ירושלים: מוסד ביאליק, 1998), 83.

September 21 *"Le-nishmat Re'ah"; "Dvar ha-hayyalim ha-aforim"; "Kita ba-aretz"* by Ayin Hillel

Reading: Esther Raizen, Ed., *No Rattling of Sabers: An Anthology of Israeli War Poetry* (Austin: Texas UP, 1995), 9-19.

September 26 *Ayin Hillel* (continued)

September 28 CLASS CANCELLED - EREV ROSH HASHANAH

Challenging the Military Ethos

October 3 "*Shivah Mehem*" by Natan Shaham

קריאה: נתן שחם, האלים העצלים (מרחביה: ספרית פועלים, 1949), 30-48.

October 5 "*Shivah Mehem*" (continued)

October 10 "*Elohim merachem al yeldei ha-gan*"; "*Re'ach Benzoin Oleh BeAfi*"; "*Ani rotzeh lamut al mitati*" by Yehuda Amichai

קריאה: יהודה עמיחי, שירים 1962-1948 (ירושלים: שוקן, 1977), 95, 21, 14.

October 12 "*Geshem bi-sdeh krav*"; "*Kinot al ha-meitim ba-milhamah*" (4-5);

"*Huleikat: ha-shir ha-shlishi al Diki*" by Yehuda Amichai

קריאה: יהודה עמיחי, שירים 1962-1948 (ירושלים: שוקן, 1977), 21.
יהודה עמיחי, שירי יהודה עמיחי (ירושלים: שוקן, 2003), כרך ג', 106-107.
יהודה עמיחי, שירי יהודה עמיחי (ירושלים: שוקן, 2003), כרך ה', 14.

War, the Military, and Survival: The Yom Kippur and Lebanon Wars

October 17 "*Hesed neurav*" and "*Al ha-nechonut le-hakravah*" by Yehoshua Ben-Yosef

קריאה: יהושע בן-יוסף, קולות ברמה: שירי מלחמת יום-הכיפורים (תל אביב: דביר, 1976), 31, 13.

October 19 "*Ve-samachta*"; "*Al ha-bazelet ba-golan*"; "*Al ha-nisim ve-al ha-niflaot*"

by Yehoshua Ben-Yosef

קריאה: יהושע בן-יוסף, קולות ברמה: שירי מלחמת יום-הכיפורים (תל אביב: דביר, 1976), 16, 31, 29.

October 24 "*Misdar ha-noflim*" by Hayyim Hefer and "*Shir ha-kasheh*"; "*Ud mutzal me-esh N"t*"; "*Yadi li-shalom ha-galil mushetet*" by Rami Ditzanny

Reading: Esther Raizen, Ed., *No Rattling of Sabers: An Anthology of Israeli War Poetry* (Austin: Texas UP, 1995), 56.

קריאה: רמי דיצני, משירי מדור נכות הרוח (ירושלים: דומינו, 1984), 14, 9-11, 52-53.

October 26 Rami Ditzanny (continued)

MIDTERM PAPER DUE

The First Intifada

October 31 *Soldiers Experiencing the Intifada (Oral Testimony) - Group Presentations*

קריאה: רולי רוזן ואילנה המרמן, עורכים, *משוררים לא יכתבו שירים: במדים בארץ ישמעאל: סיפורים ותעודות* (תל אביב: עם עובד, 1990).

Background Reading: Benny Morris, *Righteous Victims: A History of the Zionist-Arab Conflict, 1881-2001* (New York, Vintage Press, 2001), 561-610.

November 2 *Soldiers Experiencing the Intifada (Oral Testimony) - Group Presentations* (continued)

November 7 *Ehad Mi-shelanu* directed by Uri Barabash

צפייה: אחד משלנו. במאי: אורי ברבש. 1989. די.וי.די. הד ארצי. 2004.

Background Reading: Reuven Gal, *A Portrait of the Israeli Soldier* (New York, Greenwood Press, 1986), 97-114.

November 9 *Ehad Mi-shelanu* directed by Uri Barabash (continued)

November 14 "Neilon"; "Matarah dmut"; "Yamim kmo ha-yom" by Etgar Keret

קריאה: אתגר קרת, *צינורות*, (תל אביב: עם עובד, 1992), 90-86, 136-134.

November 16 "Droch u-netzor"; "Lo bnei adam"; "Si'ur memuna" by Etgar Keret

קריאה: אתגר קרת, *געגועי לקיסינג'ר*, (תל אביב: הוצאת זמורה ביתן, 2001), 50-47.

אתגר קרת, *צינורות*, (תל אביב: עם עובד, 1992), 17-13, 121-119.

Women in the Military

November 21 "Mi yishpot et Flora" by Shulamit Gilboa

קריאה: ירון אביטוב ורן יגיל, עורכים, *הקשב: אנתולוגיה של סיפורי צבא* (ירושלים: כרמל, 2005), 341-332.

Background Reading: Reuven Gal, *A Portrait of the Israeli Soldier* (New York, Greenwood Press, 1986), 46-57.

November 23 CLASS CANCELLED THANKSGIVING EVE

November 28 "Mi yishpot et Flora" by Shulamit Gilboa (continued)

November 30 *Karov LaBayyit*

צפייה: קרוב לבית. במאיות: ורדית בילו ודליה הגר. 2005. די.וי.די. 2007.

December 5 *Karov LaBayyit*

December 7 "Ata Af Pa'am Lo Yachol Lada'at" by Taub, Gadi.

קריאה: גדי טאוב, *מה היה קורה אם היינו שוכחים את דוב* (תל אביב: הוצאת הקיבוץ המאוחד, 1993), 159-141.

December 12 "Ata Af Pa'am Lo Yachol Lada'at" by Taub, Gadi (continued)

December 14 *Conclusions; Review for Final Paper*