

Readings in Contemporary Hebrew Literature (Hebrew Studies 534/ Jewish Studies 534)

University of Wisconsin- Madison

Van Vleck B231 MW 2:30-3:45

SPRING 2011

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Course Overview: Sephardic and Oriental Jews and their descendants compose nearly half of the State of Israel's Jewish population. Nevertheless the study of the history and culture of Israeli Jews frequently focuses almost exclusively on the contributions of Ashkenazi Jews from Eastern and Central Europe. As a corrective to this distortion, this course's focus this semester will be the portrayal of Sephardic and Oriental Jewish experience in both the Diaspora and the State of Israel. Students will read poems and short stories, and view films representing Sephardic and Oriental Jewish life in the Land of Israel and select Diaspora locations. This exploration will advance student understanding of the State of Israel, the Sephardic and Oriental Jews who contribute to its diverse social fabric, and Hebrew culture. 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: 25% - 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 Sephardic and Oriental Jews.

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 2:45PM on May 12th. Final grades will be reduced by ten percent for every day late.

Attendance: 10% - 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: 10% - Each student will be asked to prepare a 5-10 minute Hebrew talk on some aspect of Sephardic and Oriental Jewish history, culture, or politics. 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.

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 April 18th, Passover eve, and April 20th and April 25th, the second and sixth days of Passover, 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 Laudén 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: Primary readings for the class, as well as the four films that will be screened, 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):

January 19 General Introduction

Reading: Sergio DellaPergola, "Sephardic and Oriental' Jews in Israel and Western Countries: Migration, Social Change, and Identification," *Studies in Contemporary Jewry* 22 (2007): 3-43.

Oriental Jews and the State of Israel: Alternative Metanarratives

January 24 Sallach Shabbati

צפייה: סלאח שבת. במאי אפרים קישון. 1964. די.וי.די. חברת סיסו. 2007.

January 26 Sallach Shabbati (continued)

January 31 Turn Left at the End of the World

צפייה: סוף העולם שמאלה. במאי דורון נשר. 2004. די.וי.די. חברת סיסו. 2007.

February 2 Turn Left at the End of the World (continued)

Sephardic and Oriental Jews – Before the State of Israel

February 7 "Ha-Akarah" by Yitzhak Shami

קריאה: יצחק שמי, שישה סיפורים (תל אביב: ספרית תרמיל, 1983), 119-128.

February 9 "Ha-Akarah" by Yitzhak Shami (continued)

February 14 "Iyah" by Shimon Ballas – Part I

קריאה: שמעון בלס, "איה", במאה שנה מאה יוצרים: אסופת יצירות עבריות במזרח במאה העשרים, ערך סמי שלום שטרית, כרך א' (תל אביב: בימת קדם לספרות, 1998), 76-87.
Recommended Viewing: Forget Baghdad. Dir. Samir. 2002. DVD. AFD. 2006.

February 16 "Iyah" by Shimon Ballas – Part I (continued)

February 21 "Iyah" by Shimon Ballas – Part II

קריאה: שמעון בלס, "איה", במאה שנה מאה יוצרים: אסופת יצירות עבריות במזרח במאה העשרים, ערך סמי שלום שטרית, כרך א' (תל אביב: בימת קדם לספרות, 1998), 101-87.

February 23 "Iyah" by Shimon Ballas – Part II (continued)

February 28 "Mishel Ezra Safra U-banav" by Amnon Shamosh – Part I

קריאה: אמנון שמוש, אחותי כלה (רמת גן: מסדה, 1974), 130-117.

March 2 "Mishel Ezra Safra U-banav" by Amnon Shamosh – Part I (continued)

March 7 "Mishel Ezra Safra U-banav" by Amnon Shamosh – Part II

קריאה: אמנון שמוש, אחותי כלה (רמת גן: מסדה, 1974), 145-131.

March 9 "Mishel Ezra Safra U-banav" by Amnon Shamosh – Part II (continued)

March 14 & 16 SPRING BREAK

Portraying Oriental Jewish Life in Israel

March 21 Erez Biton Selected Poems

קריאה: ארז ביטון, תמביסרת: ציפור מרוקאית (תל אביב: הוצאת הקיבוץ המאוחד, 2009), 71-68, 64, 66, 12, 19.

March 23 Erez Biton Selected Poems (continued)

March 23 MID-SEMESTER PAPER DUE

March 28 Roni Someck Selected Poems

קריאה: רוני סומק, גן עדן לאורז: מבחר 1996-1976 (תל אביב: עמודים לספרות עברית, 1996), 117, 77-75.

March 30 Roni Someck Selected Poems (continued)

April 4 Ronit Matalon "Nataalkah"

קריאה: רונית מטלון, זרים בבית (תל אביב: הוצאת הקיבוץ המאוחד, 1992), 16-7.

April 6 Ronit Matalon "Nataalkah" (continued)

April 11 Shimon Adaf "Rohav Ha-Olam"

קריאה: שמעון אדף, "רוחב העולם", בתהודות זהות: הדור השלישי כותב מזרחית, ערך מתי שמואלוף, נפתלי שם-טוב, וניר ברעם (תל אביב: עם עובד, 2007), 36-20.

April 13 Shimon Adaf "Rohav Ha-Olam" (continued)

April 18 EREV PASSOVER - CLASS CANCELLED

April 20 PASSOVER - CLASS CANCELLED

April 25 PASSOVER - CLASS CANCELLED

Alternative Metanarratives of Oriental Jewish Life in Israel

April 27 Sh'chur

צפייה: שחור. במאי שמואל הספרי. 1994. די.וי.די. חברת נ. מ. סי. 2006.

May 2 Bikkur HaTizmoret

צפייה: ביקור התזמורת. במאי ערן קולירין. 2007. די.וי.די. חברת סוני. 2008.

May 4 Conclusions