

# Introduction to Hebrew Literature

## (Hebrew Studies 301/ Jewish Studies 301)

University of Wisconsin- Madison

Van Hise 574 MWF 1:20-2:10

Fall 2009

Prof. Philip Hollander

1342 Van Hise

Hebrew & Semitic Studies

Email: [phollander@wisc.edu](mailto:phollander@wisc.edu)

Office Phone: 262-2698

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

**Course Overview:** In this course students will continue to develop their Hebrew linguistic skills through the reading, discussion, and written analysis of unadapted Hebrew poetry and prose that will be provided with accompanying glossaries. Through expansion of their vocabulary and increased familiarity with Hebrew grammar and syntax, students will better grasp Hebrew as demonstrated by enhanced reading comprehension, improved writing, and more effective Hebrew listening and speaking skills. Simultaneously students will gain a basic knowledge of twentieth century Hebrew literature, the work of fourteen of its most prominent writers, and the cultural context in which this literature was produced first in East Europe and later in pre-state Palestine and Israel.

**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: 40%* - This is an intensive writing class, and students will be asked to write something for every class. Assignments will vary throughout the semester. Examples include responses to short answer questions, short essays, and summaries of class discussion. To achieve a higher grade, students will have the opportunity to correct their work and resubmit it for a higher grade within a week after it is returned. Late assignments will not be accepted, but the lowest 10% of grades will be dropped at the end of the semester.

*Take-Home Final: 30%* - Students will be asked to write two to three short essays comparing and contrasting literary works read over the course of the semester. A paper copy of the final will be due by 12:05PM on December 22<sup>nd</sup>. 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. Since such participation proves integral to improved Hebrew speaking, non-participating students should be prepared to be called on.

*Lecture Summaries (1 Page): 10% each* - Students will be asked to write a one-page summary of two lectures sponsored by the Center for Jewish Studies. More information about CJS lectures can be found on the Center's website (<http://jewishstudies.wisc.edu/>). The October 28<sup>th</sup> lecture to be delivered by Avinoam Lourie is mandatory.

### **Disability Policy:**

Students registered with disabilities at McBurney Disability Resource Center will receive accommodations with the presentation of the proper forms. Please meet with me during office hours or by appointment to arrange these accommodations within the first two weeks of class.

### **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 Sept. 18 on the eve of the Jewish New Year and on Sept. 28th to allow for Yom Kippur observance.

### **Recommended Texts:**

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:** Primary readings for the class will be posted on *Learn@UW*. Students will be asked to print out these materials and bring them to class.

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

**September 2** Introduction

**September 4 & 9** Yehuda Amichai “On Yom Kippur”

Reading:

Band, Ora, Ed. Reader: Modern Hebrew Prose and Poetry. West Orange: Behrman House Publishers, 1990, 14.

**East European Hebrew Literature**

**September 11- 16** Y. L. Peretz “If Not Higher Than This”

Reading:

חומסקי, מיכל. שער לספרות: פרקי-קריאה ללומדי עברית. תל אביב: הוצאת עם עובד, 16-20.

**September 18** CLASS CANCELLED EREV ROSH HASHANAH

**September 21- 23** Hayyim Nachman Bialik “On the Slaughter”

Reading:

ביאליק, חיים נחמן. השירים. אור יהודה: דביר, 2004, 249.

**September 25** Saul Tchernichowsky “They Say: There's a Land”

Reading:

טשרניחובסקי, שאול. שירים ובלדות. תל אביב: הוצאת עם עובד, 1990, 254-253.

**September 28** CLASS CANCELLED YOM KIPPUR

**September 30- October 5** S. Y. Agnon “On the Slaughter”

Reading:

Band, Ora, Ed. Reader: Modern Hebrew Prose and Poetry. West Orange: Behrman House Publishers, 1990, 163-167.

**Pre-State Hebrew Literature**

**October 7** Leah Goldberg “Pine”

Reading:

מירוז, אורה. מטעמה של ספרות: שיעור בספרות עם מורה או בלעדין. תל אביב: הוצאת אוניברסיטת תל אביב- היחידה ללימודי עברית, 1997, 79.

**October 9-14** Natan Alterman “The Silver Platter”

Reading:

אלתרמן, נתן. הטור השביעי: ספר ראשון תש"ג-תשי"ד. תל אביב: הוצאת הקיבוץ המאוחד, תשל"ה, 154-155.

**October 16-19** Hayyim Guri “Here Our Bodies Are Cast”

Reading:

גורי, חיים. השירים. כרך א. ירושלים: מוסד ביאליק, 1998, 93-94.

**Israeli Literature**

**October 21-26** Yehuda Amichai “Rain on the Battlefield,” “The Smell of Gasoline Goes Up My Nose,” & “Jews in the Land of Israel”

Reading:

עמיחי, יהודה. שירים 1948-1962. ירושלים: הוצאת שוקן, תשל"ז, 21-22.

עמיחי, יהודה. שירים. כרך ב. ירושלים: הוצאת שוקן, 2002, 247-248.

**October 28-November 4** Aharon Megged “Memorial”

Reading:

Band, Ora, Ed. Reader: Modern Hebrew Prose and Poetry. West Orange: Behrman House Publishers, 1990, 63-77.

**November 6-11** Dahlia Ravikovitch “End of the Fall” and “Lying on the Water”

Reading:

רביקוביץ, דליה. כל השירים עד כה. תל אביב: הוצאת הקיבוץ המאוחד, 1995, 128-129 ו 279-280.

**November 13-18** Yonah Wallach “Absalom” and “Hebrew”

Reading:

וולך, יונה. תת הכרה נפתחת כמו מניפה: מבחר השירים 1963-1985. ישראל: הוצאת הקיבוץ

המאוחד. ספרי סימן קריאה, 1992, 26 ו 180-182.

**November 20-30** Yaakov Shabtai “Departure”

Reading:

שבתאי, יעקב. הדוד פרץ ממריא. תל אביב: הוצאת הקיבוץ המאוחד, 1985, 157-163.

**November 27** NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING RECESS

**December 2-7** Meir Wieseltier “Take Poems, And Don't Read” & “Daddy and Mommy Went to the Movies, Ilana Sits Alone in the Arm Chair and Browses a Gray Book”

Reading:

ויזלטיר, מאיר. קח. תל אביב: מפעלים אוניברסיטאיים, 1973, 5.

Band, Ora, Ed. Reader: Modern Hebrew Prose and Poetry. West Orange: Behrman House Publishers, 1990, 140-141.

**December 9 -11** Etgar Keret “Breaking the Pig”

Reading:

קרת, אתגר. געגועי לקיסינג'ר תל-אביב: זמורה, ביתן, 1994, 7-9.

**December 14** Conclusions