

Introduction to Hebrew Literature (Hebrew Studies 301/ Jewish Studies 301)

University of Wisconsin- Madison
110 Social Work MWF 1:20-2:10
Fall 2012

Prof. Philip Hollander
1342 Van Hise
Hebrew & Semitic Studies
Email: phollander@wisc.edu
Office Hours: F 11-1 or by appointment

Course Overview: In this course students develop their Hebrew reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills as they work to achieve Hebrew fluency. Through the reading of both adapted and unadapted Hebrew literary and expository texts students improve their reading skills (students will be provided with glossaries to assist them in this process); through in-class discussion of written and filmic texts, as well as discussion of course topics and current events students will improve their Hebrew listening and speaking; through composition of Hebrew diaries, written responses to comprehension and analytical questions about assigned texts, and completion of exercises pertaining to reviewed and newly introduced aspects of Hebrew linguistic usage, students will improve their Hebrew writing skills. Topics that will be covered this semester include Zionism and the Diaspora, the changing relationship between the individual and the collective in Israeli society, the Israeli military, the Holocaust and its impact on Israeli society, and Jewish ethnic division in 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):

Student Diary: 20% - Students will be asked to purchase notebooks that they will employ as Hebrew diaries. Students will be expected to write at least ten sentences weekly. Diaries can chronicle personal experiences, treat events on campus or in the world, respond to class material read or viewed at home, or expand upon issues raised in class. These diaries will be collected on a regular basis for review, and will be evaluated on the basis of compositional skill and improvement over the course of the semester.

Regular Homework Assignments: 25% - In addition to diary composition, students will be required to complete short written assignments pertaining to assigned literary and filmic texts (usually one per week) and linguist structures reviewed or introduced in class (usually one per week). Assignments pertaining to assigned written and filmic texts will usually involve short full-sentence responses to questions testing comprehension and analysis. These assignments will be evaluated based upon proper Hebrew linguistic usage and display of effective comprehension and analysis of assigned. **Students are expected to employ dictionaries prior to submission to help insure proper spelling and usage. Returned assignments should be reviewed to prevent recurrent errors in linguistic usage.** Late assignments will not be accepted, and the lowest 10% of grades will be dropped. Additionally, improvement in writing will be taken into consideration when calculating this part of the grade.

Take-Home Final: 25% - Students will be asked to write a two page essay comparing and contrasting literary and filmic works read over the course of the semester. A paper copy of the final will be due by 5PM on December 21th. 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 develop their linguistic comprehension through vocal participation in class discussion or through the asking of questions. **Students will be expected to speak at least once per class. Text messaging or surfing the internet during class will lead to lower grades.**

Oral Presentation: 10% - Each student will be asked to speak to the class in Hebrew for 2-5 minutes about a topic of his/her choice. Students can tell something about themselves or speak about some aspect of Israeli life. Topics should be discussed with the instructor before their presentation and approved. A list of approved topics will be posted in the NEWS section of the course's Learn@UW site. Copies of a written list with 5-10 relevant Hebrew vocabulary words related to the selected topic should be distributed to other students in the class prior to the presentation.

Grading Guidelines: For fuller information about grading for the reading and viewing comprehension assignments, diaries, oral presentations, and the final please consult the grading guidelines posted on the course's Learn@UW site.

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 or silenced before class. **Students will be penalized for texting or composing and checking email during class.**

Jewish Holidays: Class will be cancelled on September 17th for the Rosh Hashanah holiday, on September 26th for the Yom Kippur fast, on October 1st for the Sukkot Holiday, and on October 8th for the Shmini Atzeret holiday.

Recommended Texts:

These dictionaries will assist in improvement of student writing and are worth the investment. Results provided by Google Translator and Morphix.co.il frequently prove difficult to properly employ.

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 will be posted on *Learn@UW*. Students will be asked to print out and bring relevant material to class. Films, vocabulary lists for readings, question sets, assignments, and other relevant materials will be found on *Learn@UW* as well.

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

September 5 Introduction

Zionism and the Diaspora

September 7 *Zionist Pioneering - A. D. Gordon (biographical sketch)*

קריאה: נירה שניאן, פרקי קריאה בתולדות העם והארץ. אישים (ירושלים: משרד החינוך, 1977), 49-48.

September 10 *Diary Collection Day*

September 12

September 14 *Diaspora's Continuing Pull - "Oren" by Le'ah Goldberg*

קריאה: לאה גולדברג, שירים, כרך ב' (תל אביב: ספרית פועלים, 1973), 143.

September 17 **CLASS CANCELLED** Rosh Hashanah

September 19 *Diary Collection Day*

September 21

Zionism – Between Individual and Collective

September 24 *Pressure to Conform – “Ha-maryoneta” by Dahlia Ravikovitch*
קריאה: דליה רביקוביץ, הספר השלישי (תל אביב: ליון-אפשטיין, 1969), 4-63.

September 26 CLASS CANCELLED Yom Kippur

September 28 *Diary Collection Day*

October 1 CLASS CANCELLED Sukkot

October 3

October 5 *The Ability to Adapt: “Dvarim she-ba-teva adam” by David Shahar*
קריאה: דויד שחר, *על החלומות*, ערכה גליה ירדני (ירושלים: הרשות המשותפת לחינוך ציוני המחלקה לחינוך ולתרבות יהודיים בגולה, 2002), 7-14.

October 8 CLASS CANCELLED Shmini Atzeret

October 10 *The Ability to Adapt: “Dvarim she-ba-teva adam” by David Shahar (continued)*
קריאה: דויד שחר, *על החלומות*, ערכה גליה ירדני (ירושלים: הרשות המשותפת לחינוך ציוני המחלקה לחינוך ולתרבות יהודיים בגולה, 2002), 14-17.

October 12 *Diary Collection Day*

October 15

Societal Demands – The Military

October 17 *The Israel Defense Forces – Introduction*
קריאה: דינה בהר וחנה משלר, *מעבירת קלה לרגילה* (ירושלים: אקדמון, 1984), 87-88.

October 19 *Diary Collection Day*

October 22

October 24 *Self-sacrifice – “Elifelet” by Natan Alterman*
Reading: Lyrics on Learn@UW

October 26 *Diary Collection Day*

October 29

October 31 *War, Politics and the Finality of Death – Yosef Cider’s “Beaufort” - Part 1*
צפייה: בופור. במאי: יוסף סידר. 2007. די.וי.די. קינו אינטרנצ'ונל. 2008. - חלק א'

November 2 *War, Politics and the Finality of Death – Yosef Cider’s “Beaufort” -*
(continued)
צפייה: בופור. במאי: יוסף סידר. 2007. די.וי.די. קינו אינטרנצ'ונל. 2008. - חלק ב'

November 5 *War, Politics and the Finality of Death – Yosef Cider’s “Beaufort” -*
(conclusion)
צפייה: בופור. במאי: יוסף סידר. 2007. די.וי.די. קינו אינטרנצ'ונל. 2008. - חלקים ג' וד'

November 7 *Diary Collection Day*

The Holocaust and the Return of the Diaspora

November 9 *Painful Pasts and New Beginnings – “Yad va-shem” by Aharon Megged*
(Part 1)
קריאה: אהרון מגד, ארבעה סיפורים (ירושלים: המחלקה לחינוך ולתרבות בגולה של ההסתדרות הציונית העולמית), 71-80.

November 12

November 14 *Diary Collection Day*

November 16 *Israeli Society: Between Cultural Memory and Cultural Amnesia - “Yad va-shem” by Aharon Megged (Part 2)*
קריאה: אהרון מגד, ארבעה סיפורים (ירושלים: המחלקה לחינוך ולתרבות בגולה של ההסתדרות הציונית העולמית), 80-90.

November 19

November 21 CLASS CANCELLED THANKSGIVING EVE

November 23 THANKSGIVING BREAK

November 26 *Diary Collection Day*

November 28 *Memorable Holocaust “Testimony” – Dan Pagis “Katuv be-ipparon ba-karon hatum”*
קריאה: דן פגיס, כל השירים (ירושלים: מוסד ביאליק, 1991), 135.

November 30

Ashkenazim and Mizrahim - Jewish Ethnic Divisions in Israel

December 3 *Acculturation or Alienation? - "Ve-lakahat Lecha Isha" directed by Ronit and Shlomi Elkabetz*

צפייה: ולקחת לך אישה. במאים רונית ושלומי אלקבץ. 2004. די.וי.די. חברת גלובוס. 2005.

December 5 *Diary Collection Day*

December 7

December 10 *Integration vs. Segregation - "Shir kniyah ba-dizengof" by Erez Biton*

קריאה: ארז ביטון, *מנחה מרוקאית* (תך אביב: עקד, 1976) 43-42.

December 12 *Diary Collection Day*

December 14 *Conclusions*

December 21 5PM Final Papers Due *Papers will Be Accepted Early*