

Hebrew 302 - Introduction to Hebrew Literature

Instructor: Bilha Mirkin
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Classes: Tuesday & Thursday 1:00pm - 2:15pm
Office Hours: Thursday 12:00 - 12:50pm or by appointment

Welcome to Hebrew 302. I hope you enjoyed your break and are eager and enthusiastic to continue this quest together.

The following are guidelines for the work we will be doing in this course. If, at anytime, you have a need to discuss any aspect of the course with me, I will be happy to do so.

302 Texts

- 1.) Reading Packet - To be purchased at Bob's Copy Shop, 616 University Avenue.
- 2.) The New Bantam-Megiddo Dictionary (or any other English-Hebrew, Hebrew-English Dictionary).

I. Reading Assignments

- 1.) The readings for this class are interesting and challenging. All readings are assigned in advance and need be prepared at home. Be ready to discuss the texts in Hebrew. Make good use of the glossaries and vocabularies which are provided, and your dictionary.
- 2.) Reading preparation and class participation are an important element of the course.
- 3.) You need to memorize the vocabulary lists and the vocabulary which our discussions generate.

II. Written Assignments

- 1.) Written assignments consist of 1page writings, routine homework, and essays.
 - a.) I will assign specific 1 page assignments. Topics are on pages 5-6. Each entry will be given a grade for contents and a grade for accuracy of language. Absence from class is not an excuse for missing an entry. All entries must be numbered, dated and titled.
 - b.) Routine written homework consists of answering textual and comprehension questions. Your answers need to be written in full sentences, every 2nd line, new vocabulary highlighted, ready to hand in at my request or put in your folder.
 - c.) Essays (khibur): There are 4 essays assigned throughout the semester. See pages 5-6. These are more comprehensive writings assigned at the completion of a unit.
- 2.) All assignments should have margins, your name, date, title of the assignment and written on alternate lines of ruled paper. This is essential for effective comments and corrections. Several pages must be stapled together.

IN ALL YOUR WRITTEN WORK YOU SHOULD MAKE EXTENSIVE USE OF NEW VOCABULARY AND HIGHLIGHT IT. YOU SHOULD ALSO INCLUDE "MILOT KISHUR" IN YOUR WRITINGS. USE A DIFFERENT COLOR HIGHLIGHTER FOR THEM. THEY CAN BE FOUND ON PAGES 8-11 IN YOUR READER.

3.) All assignments will be kept in a 2-pocket folder. The assignment folder is a great help in keeping constant track of your progress. A complete assignment folder is required in order to complete this course. Do not keep any material other than your assignments in this folder. I will collect your folders several times during the semester and at the end of the semester.

4.) An assignment is completed only after you have successfully corrected all the errors that you made. Corrections include: contents, revisions, spelling and grammar.

III. Speaking assignments

One of the goals this semester is to improve your speaking and discussion abilities. We will conduct the discussions of the readings in Hebrew.

1.) Every student has to actively participate in class. In order to succeed in this goal, you need to prepare in advance (at home) the readings assigned and be comfortable with the vocabulary. You also need to volunteer your opinions and thoughts.

2.) We will discuss current events and topics of the day.

3.) On the last day of class you will present skits based on the last reading.

IV. Vocabulary quizzes will be given three times during the semester

V. Attendance

Since a major portion of the grade for this course is determined by class preparation and participation, attendance in this class is mandatory. If you have a justifiable reason for being absent from a class, be sure to discuss this with me.

VI. Grades

The grading in this course is based on the grades of the: Assignments, essays, quizzes, oral grade, as well as on class preparation and participation.

We are fortunate to have an Israeli film Festival in February, I expect you to attend. The Center for Jewish Studies sponsors lectures which I encourage you to attend. I'll forward details as they become available.

This promises to be a great semester. Let's work hard and have lots of success and fun!!

Syllabus, homework assignments and useful expressions. (pp.1-11)

Introduction to Hebrew literature (pp. 12 - 17)

UNIT 1 Savyon Liebrecht (pp. 18 -39)

Short Story, "The Engagement Party of Hayuta"

Deals with the attitude of Israelis toward the Holocaust and Holocaust survivors.

Background readings and movie "The Summer of Aviya"

UNIT 2 Amnon Shamush (pp. 40 - 91)

a.) Background readings

b.) Story, "Pictures from Elementary School"

c.) Story, "Between 2 Cities"

The two stories deal with the absorption of "eastern" immigrant in Israel.

d.) Poem, "Anna and I" followed by movie "Sallah Shabati"

UNIT 3 Poems from the Passover Hagadah - The celebration of freedom. (pp. 92-109)

UNIT 4

a.) Chapter 22 in Genesis "The Binding of Isaac" The Story of the Akkeda. (pp110 - 144)

An artistic, psychological, and ideological reading of the text.

b.) Yehuda Amichai (pp. 145 - 166)

Poem, "The Hero of the Akedah" (The Binding)

An aesthetic analysis of the text which raises the question of the role and responsibility of politicians and parents for sending young people to their deaths in wars. The poem is based on the biblical story of Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son. The unit ends with the movie "Late Summer Blues"

UNIT 5 Peace Poems (pp. 167 - 183)

We read and sing seven poems which were put to music in celebration of Israel's Independence Day.

UNIT 6 The Pain of War (pp. 184 - 192)

a.) Story, "Ups and Downs" by Lea Kohn

b.) Story "Returning to Israel and serving in the Army"

GRAMMAR REVIEW (PP.193-206)

All of these units weave together a tapestry which represents prominent writers and the most prominent concerns of Israeli society.