

COURSE: HEBREW STUDIES 402  
SURVEY OF MODERN HEBREW LITERATURE  
Spring 2012

Instructor: Professor Rachel F. Brenner  
1354 Van Hise,  
262-6102  
Classes: M.W.F 1:20-2:10  
Office Hours: W.F 1:15-2:15  
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**Please note:** This course is conducted in Hebrew

LOVE OF THE LAND OF ISRAEL:  
From Dispersion to Return

The history of the love of the land:  
excerpts from Midrash and Aggadah,  
Yehuda Halevi,  
HaRamban,  
Rabbi Nachman of Braslav  
The Zionist idea: Herzl  
The revival of the Hebrew language: Herzl and Ben-Yehuda  
The return to the land: Katzenelson, and Rachel

**Objectives:** We shall focus on developing the skills of reading Hebrew texts and writing analytically about them. Discussion of the main ideas as they arise from the materials constitutes an important part of the course. Our literary examination of the story of Jewish Dispersion and Return will be reinforced with students' oral presentations of news from Israel and from the Jewish world.

**Requirements:**

This is an intensive writing course **in Hebrew**. There will be written work assigned each session. The graded assignment will be graded and returned the following class. There is a possibility to correct the assignment if the grade is B- and below. The correction should be handed in within a week. You should make good use of the dictionaries. **Students should not seek outside help with their homework assignment.** They may discuss the content with their classmates, but **they are expected to do their work independently.** There is always an opportunity to ask for help before class, from 1:00 to 1:20, since I am in class well ahead of time to answer any questions that may arise.

There will be a number summarizing short essays and one long final essay assigned in the course of the term, lecture reports and news/current issues presentations. Each student is expected to give a short presentation on selected topic and hand in the written version of the presentation.

Grading (the distribution is subject to change)

Written assignments - 35%

Short essays - 15%

Lecture reports - 15%

Final essay - 20%

Presentation 5%

Participation - 10%

Required dictionaries: Multi Dictionary: Bilingual Learners Dictionary

Oxford English-Hebrew Dictionary

Other materials will be supplied in class. **The cost is \$ 25.** Please make the check to the Dept. of Hebrew and Semitic Studies

Attendance and active participation in class on regular basis are very important components of the final grade. Our classes start **exactly at 1:20** and students are expected to be **on time**. Please inform me about any unavoidable lateness or absence ahead of time. Electronic devices can be used **only** as aids in your presentation. **In case you miss a class, you are responsible for the material taught. Please make arrangements ahead of time with a classmate to receive the notes, the assignment, and the materials distributed in class.**

**PLEASE NOTE: All electronic devices should be turned off before the beginning of class**

The students will attend and write special assignments relating to the lectures:

Wednesday, March 14, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

Sanford J. Ettinger Lecture

"Golda Meir: Woman and Leader"

Pnina Lahav, Professor of Law at Boston University

at the Vandenberg Auditorium in the Pyle Center, 702 Langdon St., Madison

Wednesday, May 2, 2012 at 7:30 p.m.

56th Annual Lecture-A Free Public Lecture

"'You Must Not Add Anything to What I Command You': Paradoxes of Canon and Authorship in Ancient Israel."

Bernard M. Levinson, Professor at University of Minnesota

AT & T Lounge in the Pyle Center, 702 Langdon St., Madison

At least one of the Symposium lectures

## The Question of Zionism: A Symposium on the Left and Its Relationship to Israel

**April 19, 2012 | 9:30–5:00 pm | Location TBA\***

In recent decades, sympathy toward Israel among Leftists in Europe and the United States has given way to hostility. Perceived in its early years as a vital experiment in socialist democracy, Israel is now typically viewed by radicals and even many progressives as a colonialist power. What explains this shift in opinion? Does it reflect larger changes in the politics of the Left or, rather, changes in Israel? Does hostility toward Israel and Zionism have ramifications beyond the Left itself? These questions will frame a day-long symposium that features three internationally renowned scholars of socialist history, theory, and politics. Each will deliver a lecture and participate in a concluding roundtable discussion.

\* More information about the conference will be added to this website in the coming months.

This symposium is free and open to the public. For more information, please contact [Tony Michels](#), Mosse Professor of American Jewish History.

### **Tentative Schedule**

**9:30 Welcome and opening remarks**

*Tony Michels (University of Wisconsin–Madison)*

**9:45 Does the Left Have a Zionist Problem?**

*Mitchell Cohen (Baruch College and Graduate School, City University of New York)*

**11:00 Break**

**11:15 Israel, the Left, and the Crisis of the Late 1960s**

*Moishe Postone (University of Chicago)*

**12:30 Lunch**

**2:00 Left Hostility to Israel: Sources, Consequences, and Alternatives**

*Barbara Epstein (University of California, Santa Cruz)*

**3:15 Break**

**3:30 Concluding Roundtable**

*Mitchell Cohen, Moische Postone, Barbara Epstein, and Chad Goldberg (University of Wisconsin–Madison)*