

COURSE: HEBREW STUDIES 402
SURVEY OF MODERN HEBREW LITERATURE
Spring 2013

Instructor: Professor Rachel F. Brenner
1354 Van Hise,
262-6102
Classes: M.W.F 11.00-11.50
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, 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:

One of the Israeli films screened at the Israeli Film Festival, Feb. 3-7.
See the program below.

Wednesday, March 6, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.
Sanford J. Ettinger Free Public Lecture
at the Vandenberg Auditorium in the Pyle Center, 702 Langdon St., Madison
"The Erosion of the American Jewish Consensus over Israel"
Professor Dov Waxman
Associate Professor of Political Science, Baruch College and Graduate Center
of the City University of New York (CUNY)

Wednesday, May 1, 2013 at 7:30 p.m.
57th Annual Free Public Lecture
in the Pyle Center, Room 325 & 326, 702 Langdon St., Madison
"My God is YHWH": The Stories of Elijah in the Book of Kings."
Professor Steven L. McKenzie
Professor of Hebrew Bible/Old Testament
Rhodes College in Memphis, Tennessee

A Celebration of Israeli Film at the 10th Annual Israeli Film Festival: February 3-7

The 10th annual Israeli Film Festival (IFF) begins on February 3rd. The festival aims to educate and expose the UW community to Israeli topics through film and discussion. Films will be screened nightly. The festival will be further supplemented through speakers, dialogue and opportunities for action.

The IFF will focus on a range of subjects that affect Israel from minority rights (including LGBT and foreign workers), the Holocaust, and the religious/secular divide. The Israeli Film Festival aims to help students and community members to gain a deeper understanding of various aspects of Israeli life. All films are free and will be screened at UW Hillel (611 Langdon St).

The schedule is as follows:

Sunday February 3rd

Hummus For Two: With all their disagreements, one of the few things Israelis and Palestinians see eye-to-eye on is their love for hummus. A creamy paste made of chickpeas, it is a national culinary favorite. This film is an amusing, fascinating and certainly look at the Humus of Jerusalem and it is more delicious than your usual oppositional perspective. (2pm)

Noodle: When the Chinese woman working in Israel for Miri Kalderon, an Israeli flight attendant, is suddenly deported for overstaying her work visa, her lack of Hebrew-language skills makes it impossible for her to convince the Israeli authorities that she has a young child with her. Miri, twice-widowed because of the ongoing Arab-Israeli wars, has been going through the motions of living, somehow detached from a real connection to life itself. Her decision to help reunite the child—nicknamed "Noodle"—with his mother, now back in Beijing, ends up helping her, not just the boy and his mother, in ways Miri herself could not have expected. (3:30pm)

Melting Away: This film details the life of a transgender individual and their relationship with their family. To supplement, Rainbow Jews and Co. – a UW Hillel student group for the LGBT community and its allies - will be leading a discussion about new families and identities in the Jewish and secular communities on campus. (8pm)

Monday, February 4th

Strangers No More: Strangers No More is a film about Bialek Rogazim, a school in Southern Tel Aviv and the absorption of foreign workers' children. We will have a local professor and African Storyteller supplement the film with a lecture. During the lecture, we will also be screening several short films made by Israeli-Ethiopian high school students. (8pm)

Tuesday, February 5th

The Flat and Adam Resurrected: Two films about personal identity journeys following World War Two. (8pm)

Amy Rebhun, a UW student will speak about her grandfather's experience as a Holocaust survivor. Zac Pestine will read a blog entry from when he toured the concentration camps in Poland. There will be a discussion format featuring Dr. Gideon Greif, an Israeli Holocaust speaker who has done research for Yad VaShem, the Israeli Holocaust Remembrance Museum.

Wednesday, February 6th

Ameer Got His Gun: The story of an Israeli Arab Muslim who chooses to enlist in the IDF. This film is about individuals and their families that have been affected by the Israeli/Palestinian conflict. Prior to the film, there will be a discussion relating to this unique community and the situation surrounding them. (8pm)

Thursday, February 7th

Haredim: This film concentrates on the struggle for women's higher education within the religious community in Israel. (7pm)

The Dreamers: A documentary about two Haredi women trying to express themselves creatively while operating within strict confines of the Ultra-Orthodox movement. (7:30pm)

Gil Cohen Magen, an Israeli photographer, will display his series of photo essays on the Hasidic Jewish communities in Israel.

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Contact Eden Hazani Zion, UW Hillel's Israel Fellow, with questions or to get involved. She can be reached at ezion@uwhillel.org or at 608-256-8361.