

COURSE: HEBREW STUDIES 402  
SURVEY OF MODERN HEBREW LITERATURE  
Spring 2014

Instructor: Professor Rachel F. Brenner  
1354 Van Hise,  
262-6102  
Classes: M.W.F 9:55-10:45  
Office Hours: W.F 1:15-2:15 and by appointment  
[brenner@wisc.edu](mailto:brenner@wisc.edu)

**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. Oral participation is an integral part of the course. We will discuss literary texts, current events, important issues, and films.

**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%  
Special presentation (oral and written) - 10%  
Lecture and film reports - 15%  
Final essay - 20%  
News Presentation – 10%  
Participation - 10%

Materials will be supplied in class. **The cost is \$ 25.**

Attendance on regular basis is an essential component of the final grade. Our classes start **exactly at 9:55** 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 view three films at the Israeli Film Festival in Hillel:

Tuesday, Feb. 11, “Lola”  
Monday, Feb. 17, “Numbered”  
Wednesday, Feb. 19, “Bottle in Gaza”

A class discussion will follow each screening. You will be asked to evaluate the films in writing.

The students will attend the lecture, and write a summary of the presentation and evaluation of the topic presented.

Tobias Lecture: “Anti-Judaism and the History of Thought,” David Nirenberg  
Thursday, April 24, 4:00 p.m.  
Union South (1308 W. Dayton Street)

Special events:

Friday, Feb. 21, Conversation with Racheli and Miki, the Israeli shlichim in Hillel

Wednesday, April 2, at 5pm: A special screening of a segment of the Israeli successful television series, “Arab Labor,” followed by supper and discussion.

