

Readings in Contemporary Hebrew Literature (Hebrew Studies 533/ Jewish Studies 533)

University of Wisconsin- Madison

Social Work 106 MW 2:30-3:45

Fall 2012

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Hebrew & Semitic Studies
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Office Hours: Friday 11-1 or by appointment

Course Overview: This semester this course will explore the history and cultural representation of Israeli Palestinians. Many people believe that since Israel is a Jewish state that all of its citizens are Jewish, but approximately 25% of Israelis actually aren't Jewish. The overwhelming majority of these non-Jewish citizens are Palestinian Israelis. While distinctly Israeli, they feel a close affinity to Palestinians outside Israel, including those living in the West Bank and Gaza, as well as Arabs living throughout the Middle East. What is the place of the Israeli Palestinians minority in Israel? How do they perceive themselves and how are they perceived by Jewish Israelis? Students will read poems, short stories, a novel excerpt, and secondary material and view a film and a television show pertaining to Israeli Palestinians and their cultural representation. This exploration will advance student understanding of Palestinian Israelis, Zionism, Hebrew culture, and Israeli society, while raising questions concerning the future of Israel's Palestinian minority. Simultaneously students will develop greater fluency in the Hebrew language. Students will strengthen their reading skills through the reading of unadapted Hebrew texts that will be accompanied by vocabulary lists. Hebrew listening and speaking skills will be developed through participation in class discussion, oral presentations, and the viewing of Hebrew films and television shows. Finally completion of homework assignments and papers in Hebrew will improve student writing.

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):

Regular Homework Assignments: 20% - Students will be required to complete short written assignments pertaining to assigned literary and filmic texts (usually one per

week). Students will usually be required to provide short responses to questions testing textual comprehension. These assignments will be evaluated based upon proper Hebrew linguistic usage and display of effective comprehension of assigned texts. **Students are expected to employ dictionaries prior to submission to help insure proper spelling and usage. Students are expected to check graded work to prevent recurrent errors in linguistic usage.** Late assignments will not be accepted. Lowest 10% of grades will be dropped.

Midterm Paper: 20% - Students will be asked to write a two-page paper dealing with Palestinian Israelis. Appointments to review drafts can be set.

Take-Home Final: 25% - Students will be asked to write a 3 page essay related to the course's theme. In these essays students will be asked to compare and contrast works read and viewed over the course of the semester. A paper copy of the final will be due by 12:30PM on December 19th. Appointments to review drafts can be set. 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 will be expected to exhibit their linguistic comprehension through participation in class discussion or through the asking of questions. **Students will be expected to speak at least once in every class. Students text messaging or surfing the internet during class will be penalized.**

Oral Presentation: 15% - Each student will be asked to prepare a 5-10 minute Hebrew talk focusing on Israeli Palestinian culture, history, demographics, or geography. Students searching for a topic can make use of available online Hebrew newspapers, such as [Haaretz (www.haaretz.co.il), Yediot Ahronot (www.ynet.co.il), and Maariv (www.nrg.co.il)], or turn to reference librarians for assistance. After arriving at a topic, students will need to get it approved by the instructor in advance of their presentation. A list of approved topics will be posted in News on the course's Learn@UW site. Presentation guidelines will be provided at the beginning of the semester.

Grading Guidelines: For fuller information about grading on homework, the midterm paper, the oral presentation, 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 can receive accommodations with the presentation of the proper forms. Disabled students should meet with me during office hours or by appointment to arrange these accommodations.

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 before 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 Dictionaries:

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 Lauden 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, as well as the film and television show that will be screened over the course of the semester, will be posted on *Learn@UW*. Students will be asked to either bring copies of written materials or computers upon which they can access these materials to class.

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

INTRODUCTION – PALESTINIAN ISRAELIS

September 5 Introduction

September 10 Palestinian Israelis – General Introduction

Reading: Ilan Peleg and Dov Waxman, *Israel's Palestinians: The Conflict Within* (New York: Cambridge UP, 2011), 19-77.

September 12 Palestinian Israelis – General Introduction (continued)

Reading: Ilan Peleg and Dov Waxman, *Israel's Palestinians: The Conflict Within* (New York: Cambridge UP, 2011), 78-130.

PALESTINIANS THROUGH JEWISH EYES

September 17 CLASS CANCELLED Rosh Hashanah

September 19 Moshe Smilansky “Mabrouk”

Reading: Moshe Smilansky, “Mabrouk,” in *Sippurim ivriim me-hayyei haaravim*, ed. Yosef Arikha (Tel Aviv: Am ha-sefer, 1963), 32-41.

September 24 Moshe Smilansky “Mabrouk” (continued)

September 26 CLASS CANCELLED Yom Kippur

October 1 CLASS CANCELLED Sukkot

October 3 Benyamin Tammuz "Taharut Shiyah"

Reading: Benyamin Tammuz, *Mivhar Sippurim* (Jerusalem: Keter, 1990), 53-60.

October 8 CLASS CANCELLED Shmini Atzeret

October 10 Benyamin Tammuz "Taharut Shiyah" (continued)

Reading: Benyamin Tammuz, *Mivhar Sippurim* (Jerusalem: Keter, 1990), 60-64.

October 15 Natan Alterman "Al Zot"

Reading: Hannan Hever ed., *Al Tagidu BeGat: HaNakbah Hapalestinit BaShirah Haivrit 1948-1958* (Israel: Zohrot, 2010), 68-69.

October 17 Natan Alterman "Al Zot" (continued)

PALESTINIAN ISRAELI VOICES - CHRISTIANS

October 22 Chronicle of a Disappearance

Viewing: Chronicle of a Disappearance, directed by Elia Suleiman (1997; Kino Video, 2005.), DVD.

October 24 Chronicle of a Disappearance (continued)

October 29 Anton Shammas *Arabeskot* Chapter 6

Reading: Anton Shammas, *Arabeskot* (Tel Aviv: Am Oved, 1986), 103-110.

October 31 Anton Shammas *Arabeskot* Chapter 6 (continued)

MIDTERM PAPER DISTRIBUTED

November 5 Anton Shammas *Arabeskot* Chapter 6 (continued)

Reading: Anton Shammas, *Arabeskot* (Tel Aviv: Am Oved, 1986), 111-117.

November 7 Anton Shammas *Arabeskot* Chapter 6 (conclusion)

PALESTINIAN ISRAELI VOICES - DRUZE

November 12 Naim Araidi

Reading: Naim Araidi, *Kol ha-onot: mivhar shirim 1972-2006* (Tel Aviv: Gvanim, 2010), 34-5, 41-42, 89, 139.

Background Reading: Robert Betts, *The Druze* (New Haven: Yale UP, 1988), 15-32 & 100-107.

November 14 Naimi Araidi (continued)

MIDTERM PAPER DUE

November 19 Naim Araidi (concluded)

Reading: Naim Araidi, *Kol ha-onot: mivhar shirim 1972-2006* (Tel Aviv: Gvanim, 2010), 46-47.

November 21 CLASS CANCELLED THANKSGIVING BREAK

November 26 Salman Masalha

Reading: Salman Masalha, *Ehad mi-kan* (Tel Aviv: Am Oved, 2004), 15-16, 25, 56-57, 62-63.

November 28 Salman Masalha (continued)

A MUSLIM PALESTINIAN ISRAELI VOICE

December 3 Sayed Kashua's Arab Labor

Viewing: Arab Labor: The Complete First Season. Dir. Roni Ninio and Yaakov Goldwasser. 2007. DVD. Alive Mind, 2009. (Selected Episodes)

December 5 Sayed Kashua's Arab Labor (continued)

December 10 Sayed Kashua's Arab Labor

Viewing: Arab Labor: The Complete First Season, directed by Roni Ninio and Yaakov Goldwasser (2007; Alive Mind, 2009.), DVD. (Selected Episodes)

December 12 DISTRIBUTION AND DISCUSSION OF TAKE-HOME FINAL;
Conclusions

FINAL DUE DECEMBER 19th at 12:30PM – Exams May Be Submitted Early