

ANTHROPOLOGY OF ISRAEL

ANTH/35150 /25150; MAPS/CMES 35150; NEHC 35147/25147; JWSC 25149

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This seminar explores the dynamics of Israeli culture and society through a combination of weekly screenings of Israeli fiction and documentary films with readings from ethnographic and other relevant research. Among the (often overlapping) topics to be covered in this examination of the institutional and ideological construction of Israeli identity/ies: the absorption of immigrants; ethnic, class, and religious tensions; the kibbutz; military experience; the Holocaust; evolving attitudes about gender and sexuality; the struggle for minorities' rights; and Arab-Jewish relations.

Course requirements: Two students will together draft 3-5 questions for one session as a basis for leading a discussion. Each student will also submit a question for [at least] three additional sessions. The final assignment is attached at the end of this syllabus.

In addition to the readings accessible on Chalk Library Reserves, participants are expected to view designated (*) films before class (available in Regenstein on four-hour reserve). [M] indicates films from www.maale.co.il

All individual articles are available for download on Chalk Library Reserve.

[NOTE: Instructor reserves the right to make alterations in syllabus as deemed necessary.]

Session I: Introduction: Themes in Constructing Israeli Identity(ies)

In class: Clip from: ***A History of Israeli Cinema (Nadjari, 2009)***

Israel's Decl. of Independence: http://www.knesset.gov.il/docs/eng/megilat_eng.htm

Shapira, A. (2012). "The Emergence of the Zionist Movement." In *Israel: A History*, 3-26. Waltham: Brandeis U. Press.

Almog, O. (2000). "Introduction"; "Idealistic Euphoria." In *The Sabra*, 1-72.

Nordau, Max (1995). "Jewry of Muscle." In Mendes-Flohr, P. et al. (eds). *The Jew in the Modern World*, 547-8.

Grimmeisen, J. (2015). "Halutzah or Beauty Queen?: National Images of Women in Early Israeli Society." *Israel Studies* 20: 27-52.

Avisar, I. (2005). "The National and the Popular in Israeli Cinema." *Shofar* 24:125-143.

<http://www.amara.org/en/videos/bpElvfW2fvW2/en/501951/>

****He Walked through the Fields (Millo, 1967)***

Session II: Multi-Ethnic Israel In class: ***Forget Baghdad (Samir, 2002): interview with Ella Shohat); The Immigrants (Einstein/Zohar)***

Smoocha, S. (2008). "The mass immigrations to Israel: A comparison of the failure of the Mizrahi immigrants of the 1950s with the success of the Russian immigrants of the 1990s." *J. Israeli History* 27: 1-27.

Mizrachi, N. (2012). "Participatory destigmatization strategies among Palestinian citizens, Ethiopian Jews, and Mizrahi Jews in Israel." *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 35: 418-435.

- Koensler, A. (2013). "Frictions as opportunity: mobilizing for Arab-Bedouin ethnic rights in Israel." *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 36:1808-1828.
- Friedman, M. (2017). "Homer of Lod: The Indispensability of Erez Bitton." *Jewish Rev. of Books* 8:39-41.
- Weingrod, A. (1998). "Ehud Barak's Apology: Letters from the Israeli Press." *Israel Studies* 3: 238-252.
- McGonigle, I. (2015). "Genetic citizenship: DNA testing and the Israeli Law of Return." *J. Law and the Biosciences* 2: 469-478.
- Kimchi, R. (2011). "A Turn towards Modernity: The Ideological Innovation of *Sallah*." *Shofar* 29:1-22.
- Talmon, M. (2011). "The End of a World, the Beginning of a New World." In *Israeli Cinema: Identities in Motion*, 340-355.
- ****Sallah (Kishon, 1964); Turn Left at the End of the World (Nesher, 2004)***
- *www.youtube.com/watch?v=5G6f0ztdoCk (Spielberg Film Archive—Ethiopian Exodus)

Session III: The Kibbutz: Evolution of a 'Total Institution'

In class: Clip from ***Inventing Our Life (Freilich, 2011)***

- Spiro, M. (2004). "Utopia and its Discontents: The Kibbutz and Its Historical Vicissitudes." *American Anthropologist* 106:556-568.
- Shapira, A. (2010). "The Kibbutz and the State." *Jewish Rev. of Books* Summer: 1-6.
- Lieblich, A. (2010). "A century of childhood, parenting, and family life in the Kibbutz." *Journal of Israeli History* 29:1-24.
- Ashkenazi, M. (2009). "From Cooperative to Renewed Kibbutz: The Case of Kibbutz 'Galil', Israel." *Middle Eastern Studies* 45:571-592.
- Kedem, E. (2011). "Kibbutz Films in Transition: from Morality to Ethics." In *Israeli Cinema*, 326-339.
- Katriel, T. (1997). "Pioneering Women Revisited in Representations of Gender in Some Israeli Resettlement Museums." *Women's Studies International Forum* 675-87.
- Sosis, R. (2003). "Religious Ritual and Cooperation: Testing for a Relationship on Israeli Religious and Secular Kibbutzim." *Current Anthropology* 44:713-722.
- ****Noa at 17 (Yeshurun, 1981); Children of the Sun (Tal, 2007);***

Kibbutz Degania: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WwsHDSkhdFw>

Kibbutz Degania privatizes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JfmBlkGlu20>

Session IV: Grappling with the Holocaust In class: ***The Little Dictator (Cohn, 2015 [M])***

- Zerubavel, Yael (1994). "The Death of Memory and the Memory of Death: Masada and the Holocaust as Historical Metaphors." *Representations* 45:72-100.
- Davidson, S. (1992). "Mourning and the Holocaust Survivor: Bereavement in Israel from War, Holocaust, and Terror." In *Holding on to Humanity—The Message of Holocaust Survivors*, 160-88.

Cohen, S. (2010). "Survivors of the Holocaust and Their Children." *Journal of Modern Jewish Studies* 9:165-183.

Keret, E. (2005) "Shoes." In *One Last Story and That's It*, 34-8.

Feldman, J. (2002). "Marking the Boundaries of the Enclave: Defining the Israeli Collective Through the Poland 'Experience.'" *Israel Studies* 7: 84-114.

Goodman, Y. (2008). " 'The Holocaust does not belong to European Jews alone': The differential use of memory techniques in Israeli high schools." *American Ethnologist* 35:95-114.

Bar-On, D. (1993). "First Encounter Between Children of Survivors and Children of Perpetrators of the Holocaust." *Journal of Humanistic Psychology* 33: 6-14.

Ochs, J. (2006). "The Politics of Victimhood and its Internal Exegetes: Terror Victims in Israel." *History and Anthropology* 17: 355-368.

Avisar, I. (2011). "The Holocaust in Israeli Cinema as a Conflict between Survival and Morality." In *Israeli Cinema*, 151-167.

* ***Walk on Water (Fox, 2004); Under the Domim Tree (Cohen, 1995)***

Session V: The Military In class: ***The Divide (Herling, 2011[M]); Barriers (Rise, 2011[M])***

Levy, G. (2008). "Militarized Socialization, Military Service, and Class Reproduction: The Experiences of Israeli Soldiers." *Sociological Perspectives* 51:349-374.

Kachtan, D. (2012). "The Construction of Ethnic Identity in the Military—From the Bottom Up." *Israel Studies* 17:150-175.

Rimalt, N. (2007). "Women in the Sphere of Masculinity: The Double-Edged Sword of Women's Integration in the Military." *Duke J. of Gender Law & Policy* 14:101-123.

Livio, O. (2012). "Avoidance of Military Service in Israel: Exploring the Role of Discourse." *Israel Studies Review* 27: 78-97.

Cohen, S. (2007). "Tensions Between Military Service and Jewish Orthodoxy in Israel: Implications Imagined and Real." *Israel Studies* 12:103-126.

Linn, R. (1991). "Holocaust Metaphors and Symbols in the Moral Dilemmas of Contemporary Israeli Soldiers." *Metaphor and Symbolic Activity* 6:61-86.

Resh, N. (2012). "Women meet soldiers: an ambivalent encounter." *J. Research in Peace, Gender and Development* 2:293-303.

****One of Us (Barbash, 1989); Zero Motivation (Lavie, 2014)***

Session VI: War In class: *The House on the Water (Regev, 2012[M])*

Bilu, Y. (2000). "War-Related Loss and Suffering in Israeli Society: An Historical Perspective." *Israel Studies* 5:1-31.

Shapira, A., ed. (1970). *The Seventh Day: Soldiers' Talk about the Six-Day War*, 14-17; 65-87; 130-153; 179-194.

Lomsky-Feder, E. (1995). "The Meaning of War Through Veterans' Eyes: A Phenomenological Analysis of Life Stories." *Intl. Sociology* 10:463-482.

Liebman, C. (1993). "The Myth of Defeat: The Memory of the Yom Kippur War in Israeli Society." *Middle Eastern Studies* 29:399-418.

Hollander, P. ((2013). "Shifting Manhood: Masculinity and the Lebanon War in *Beaufort* and *Waltz with Bashir*." In Harris, R. (ed.) *Narratives of Dissent*, 346-363.

Yosef, R. (2010). "War Fantasies: Memory, Trauma and Ethics in Ari Folman's *Waltz with Bashir*." *J. Modern Jewish Studies* 9:311-326.

Quart, L. (2008). "Surviving a Futile War: An Interview with Joseph Cedar." *Cineaste* 33:27-31.

Esther, J. (2009). "Waltz with Bashir: An Interview with Ari Folman." *Cineaste* 34: 67.

****Beaufort (Cedar, 2007); Waltz with Bashir (Folman, 2008)***

Session VII: Religion, Gender, and Sexuality

In class: *And Thou Shalt Love (Elbaum, 2007 [M]); Cohen's Wife (Hefetz, 2000)*

Peri, Y. et al. (2012). "Forum: The 'Religionization' of Israeli Society." *Israel Studies Review* 27:1-30.

Peleg, Y. (2013). "Marking a New Holy Community: *God's Neighbors* and the Ascendancy of a New Religious Hegemony in Israel." *Jewish Film & New Media* 1:64-86.

Abramson, M. (2016). "A Model of Different Femininity in Film." *Jewish Film & New Media* 4:43-67.

Triger, Z. (2012). "Freedom from Religion in Israel: Civil Marriages and Cohabitation of Jews Enter the Rabbinical Courts." *Israel Studies Review* 27: 10-17.

Ariel, Y. (2007). "Gay, Orthodox and Trembling: The Rise of Jewish Orthodox Gay Consciousness, 1970s-2000s." *Journal of Homosexuality* 52:91-109.

Jacobson, D. (2004). "The Ma'ale School." *Israel Studies* 9:31-60.

<http://www.pewforum.org/2016/10/13/video-israels-religiously-divided-society/>

****Gett (Elkabetz, 2014); God's Neighbors (Ya'ish, 2012)***

Session VIII: Arabs and Jews: Negotiating Identities

In class: *Arab Labor (TV series, 2007)*; *Bus Station (Ir Amin, 2009)*; *Lost Paradise (Brezis, 2008)*

Scham, P. et al. (2005). "Appendix: Israeli and Palestinian Traditional Narratives of their History: a Distillation." Revised and excerpted by author from *Shared histories: A Palestinian-Israeli Dialogue*.

Bekerman, Z. (2009). "Fearful symmetry: Palestinian and Jewish teachers confront contested narratives in integrated bilingual education." *Teaching and Teacher Education* 26:507-515.

Maoz, I. et al. (2002). "The Dialogue between the 'Self' and 'Other': A process analysis of Palestinian-Jewish encounters in Israel." *Human Relations* 55:931-62.

Gesser-Edelsburg, A. (2011). "Entertainment-education: dilemmas of Israeli creators of theatre about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in promoting peace." *J. Peace Education* 8:55-76.

Linn, R. et al. (1996). "Holocaust as Metaphor: Arab and Israeli Use of the Same Symbol." *Metaphor and Symbolic Activity* 11: 195-206.

Hochberg, G. (2010). "To Be or Not to Be an Israeli Arab: Sayed Kashua and the Prospect of Minority Speech-Acts." *Comparative Literature* 62:68-88.

Shepkaru, S. (2013). "Jewish-Arab Relations Through the Lens of Israeli Cinema: Then and Now." *The Levantine Review* 2:66-83.

* *Fictitious Marriage (Bouzaglo, 1988)*; *Dancing Arabs (Riklis, 2014)*

Session IX: The Settlers

In class: *The Ranch (Domb, 2004 [M])*; *House 103 (Domb, 2005)*.

Feige, M. (2009). *Settling in the Hearts: Jewish Fundamentalism in the Occupied Territories*, ch. 1,5,9,12.

Susskind, L. et al. (2005). "Religious and Ideological Dimensions of the Israeli Settlements Issue: Reframing the Narrative." *Negotiation Journal* April: 177-191.

Possick, C. (2004). "Locating and relocating oneself as a Jewish Settler on the West Bank: Ideological squatting and eviction." *J. Environmental Psychology* 24:53-69.

Friedman, S. (2015). "Hilltop youth." *Israel Affairs* 21:391-407.

<http://yesha.yeshachar.co.il/>

<http://peacenow.org/page.php?name=they-say-we-say#settlements>

**The Hilltops (Hecht, 2011)*; *The Field (Vardi, 2017)*

Session X: Final Presentations

Anthropology of Israel: FINAL ASSIGNMENT

Modeling your entry on this quarter's syllabus, organize a session for *Anthropology of Israel* distinct from those on our course syllabus. For your syllabus entry, list [at least] TWO Israeli Films (documentary or fiction) and FOUR articles (if relevant, you may use one article from the seminar syllabus). NOTE: one of the films may be for home viewing, the other for in-class.

Regarding films: you are encouraged to choose films other than those discussed. Nonetheless, as most of these films reflect different themes, if you have analyzed it from a perspective different than that used in class, one of the films chosen may be the same as that assigned during the quarter.

DISCUSSION:

After presenting the syllabus entry on the first page (follow the seminar's syllabus format), your discussion should include the following:

1. First note the significance of the subject upon which you have chosen to focus.
2. Next, present the key themes that will organize your session.
3. Finally, discuss the relevance of your choice of reading material and films to illustrate the theme(s) selected. Here, you should provide:
 - a) A concise summary of each article, indicating the rationale for your choice of each article and how they complement elements in the films chosen in further explicating the main arguments for your session.
 - b) A succinct description of each film's plot, pinpointing the noteworthy elements of the film(s) selected to illustrate the themes for your session.
4. Delineate the key features of your pedagogical approach to the session.

Final Session In-Class Presentation: Prepare a concise presentation of your session for the final meeting. Each person will have approximately 12 minutes (max.) to discuss your syllabus entry (including clips if you choose to show them).