

Modern Israel

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Course Description:

Modern Israel is a fascinating, vibrant, talented, imperfect state of people drawn from 100 different countries. Thus, conflicts, tensions and contradictions lie at its heart: Ashkenazi Jews complain the country is too Levantine; Sephardi Jews complain about deprivation; Orthodox Jews say the state is not sufficiently religious; seculars consider it antiquated in nature. Immigrants from Russia and Ethiopia, foreign guest workers, water crises, and the Arab-Israeli conflict are also part of the story. Alongside this chaotic situation are impressive works of art. This course introduces students to an Israel rarely seen in the news: films, art, music, short stories, food and spiritual movements show Israel from a different point of view and expose us to the questions Israelis ask themselves in order to define their own identity.

Required Materials:

• The following four books are available for purchase at the **Northeastern Bookstore** and on reserve at **Snell Library**:

Uzi Rebhun and Chaim Waxman, *Jews in Israel: Contemporary Social and Cultural Patterns* (Paperback)

Motti Regev and Edwin Seroussi *Popular Music and National Culture in Israel* (Paperback)

Laptop Policy

A computer can be an excellent learning tool, and you are welcome to take notes on your laptop. However, if you are using your computer in class, I expect you to resist the temptation to check your e-mail, send or receive instant messages, or surf the internet, and I reserve the right to mark you as absent if I find you using your computer in any of these ways during class. *If you cannot limit your in-class computer activity to note-taking, please leave your laptop at home.*

Academic Support

If you experience difficulty in this course for any reason, please don't hesitate to consult with me. In addition, a wide range of services is available on campus to support you in your efforts to meet the course requirements. These services include:

- **Writing Center** (373-04549, 412 Holmes): in-person appointments with writing consultants as well as online consulting for students working on writing assignments.
- **Disability Resource Center** (373-2675, 20 Dodge): services for students with documented disabilities. If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please notify me in a timely manner with a letter from the DRC so that we can make arrangements to address your needs. I will only honor requests for accommodations if they are authorized by the DRC.
- **University Counseling Services** (373-2772, 135 Forsyth): short-term individual therapy, group counseling and referrals to off-campus mental health resources.

Amnon Rubinstein, "Return of the kibbutzim," *Jerusalem Post*, (July 10, 2007);
http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/Society_&_Culture/kibbutz.html
Aviva Chalamish, *The Yishuv: The Jewish Community in Mandatory Palestine*, 2009.
<http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/isdf/text/halamish.html>

8. Wednesday, September 29: verified and tensions I: The Tsabar (Native Israeli –Jew) and Haolim Hachdashim (The new Immigrants).

9. Thursday, September 30: SIMCHAT TORA- NO CLASS

10. Monday, October 4: verified and tensions I: Ashkenazim and Mizrachim Do they live together in perfect harmony?

Guy Ben- Porat, *Multicultural Realities*, 2009.
<http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/isdf/text/benporat.html>

11. Wednesday, October 6: The Israeli-Jewish Society- verified and tensions II: religious conflicts- Religious and Secular

Chaim I Waxman, *Religion in the Israeli Public Square, Jews in Israel* (2004), 221-242

12. Thursday, October 7: The Israeli-Jewish Society- verified and tensions II: religious conflicts- Orthodox, Conservative and Reform.

- Ephraim Tabory, *Israel Reform and Conservative Movements and the Market For Liberal Judaism, Jews in Israel* (2004), 285-314
-Israeli Supreme Court Accepts Reform, *Conservative Conversions* (February 2002)
http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/Society_&_Culture/convert.html

13. Monday, October 11: COLUMBUS DAY- NO CLASS

14. Wednesday, October 13: Women in Israel

Hanna Herzog, *Women in Israel Society, Jews in Israel* (2004) 195-220

15. Thursday, October 14: Tsahal- A Melting pot.

Asher Cohen, *Service in the IDF and the boundaries of Israel's Jewish Collective. The Multicultural Challenge in Israel* (2009) 180-199

16. Monday: October 18: Midterm

Cultural aspects:

17. Wednesday: October 20: Hebrew- The holy language and the daily language:

Genesis A

Hadag Nachash, *Ma Na'ase?* <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J1ZBd-0WsKc&feature=related>

Sarah Bunin Benor, *towards a new understanding of Jewish language in The twenty-first century. Religion Compass* 2, 6 (2008) 1062-1080
(Blackboard)

18. Thursday, October 21: Food in Israel

Orit Rozin, Food, identity, and nation-building in Israel's formative years.

Israel Studies Forum 21,1 (2006) 52-80

Liora Givon, Modernity and tradition: the case of Palestinian food in Israel. In: Identities 16, 4 (2009) 391-413.

19. Monday, October 25: Israeli Fashion

Anat Helman, Kibbutz dress in the 1950's: utopian equality, anti fashion, and change.

In: Fashion Theory: The Journal of Dress, Body & Culture, Volume 12, Number 3, Sep 2008, pp. 313-339

20. Wednesday, October 27: The Pre-state Culture - Agadati Screen of an Artist

<http://www.spielbergfilmarchive.org.il/newsite/index.html>

21. Thursday, October 28: Israeli Literature I: 1948-1960

S. Yizhar: Harlamov (Blackboard)

Binyamin Tammuz: The swimming race (Blackboard)

Moshe Shamir: The lagging heart (Blackboard)

22. Monday, November 1: Israeli Literature II: 1960- 1990

Aharon Appelfeld: Kitty (Blackboard)

Amos Oz: Nomad and Viper (Blackboard)

A.B Yehoshua: Flood Tide (Blackboard)

Shulamit Hareven, Mahogany (Blackboard)

23. Wednesday, November 3: Israeli literature III -The End of the Millennium

Gafi Amir: By the time You're Twenty one You 'll reach the moon (Blackboard)

Gadi Taub, You never can tell (Blackboard)

Mira Magen, will somebody please shut the Gate (Blackboard)

24. Thursday, November 4: Israeli poetry: Zelda and Yehuda Hamichai

See on Blackboard

25. Monday, November 8: Israeli music: Shira Betzibur (community singing)

Natan Mishori, The State of Arts in Israel: Music, in

http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/Society_&_Culture/music.html

Motti Regev, Shirei Eretz Yisrael, pp. 49-71

Youtube- The Spielberg Jewish Film Archive -Melodies of Independence: The Gevatron

26. Wednesday, November 10: Israeli music : Lahakot Tsvayot

Motti Regev, The Lahkot Tzvayiot, pp. 90-113

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IcNPv9MfeQE>: Israel in Only - Band Navy :dress red a in -troupe entertainment Nahal [GM5xow-http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ITUs](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ITUs)

Dr. kasper rabbit show- in red dress <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7e4-E0qkxkqU>

27. Thursday, November 11: VETERANS DAY: NO CLASS

28. Monday, November 15: Israeli Rock Music and Mediterranean music

Motti Regev, *The coming of Rock*, pp.161-191

Nocke, Alexandra, *Israel and the Emergence of Mediterranean Identity: Expressions of Locality in Music and Literature*, Volume 11, Number 1, Spring 2006

http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/israel_studies/v011/11.1nocke.pdf

Shalom Hanoch –Maya <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q28shpqxYyI&feature=related>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7vl9-S3OhHs&feature=related>

Yeudit Ravitz- Snap out of it

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e4QsF4Rvl8Y&translated=1>

Aviv Gefen- The letter

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vjvp3yFyFy4&feature=related>

29. Wednesday, November 17: Israeli Folk Dance

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=66m_awLPFh0&feature=related

30. Thursday, November 18 Israeli Modern Dance- BATSHEVA AND BAT-DOR DANCE COMPANIES:

http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/judaica/ejud_0002_0003_0_02177.htm

31. Monday, November 22: Israeli Theatre- The first years: Haohel and Habima

http://www.habima.co.il/show_item.asp?levelId=64339

32. Wednesday, November 24: Israeli Theatre of the absurd- Chanoch Levin

<http://drifteragain.wordpress.com/לאנגלית-לויין-הנוך-תרגום-translating-hanoch-levin-intoenglish/>

Thursday, November 25: THANKSGIVING DAY: NO CLASS

33. Monday, November 29: Israeli art: Betzalel- The first years

Dalia Manor, *Biblical Zionism in Bezalel art*, *Israel Studies* 6,1 (2001) 55-75

34. Wednesday, December 1: Israeli art today

Gidon Ofret, "New Horizon": The Quest for a Universalist Lyrical Abstract, 1948-1963, in *One hundred years of Art in Israel*, pp.147-175

35. Thursday, December 2: Israeli art: Pop art and its implication: Graffiti and Commix.

Waltz with Bashir-<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xi5vfipPVeI&feature=related>

36. Monday, December 6: Tel Aviv and Jerusalem: Two different countries within the state of Israel

Maoz Azaryaho, Introduction—"One of the World's Coolest Cities": Tel-Aviv at 100, in: *Israel Studies*, Volume 14, Number 3, Fall 2009, pp. VII-XII

http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/israel_studies/v014/14.3.azaryahu.pdf

37. Wednesday, December 7: Last class- Summery

**For more information about Israel history, culture and politics you
can always visit: <http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org>**