

RS/385

Israel's Self-image through Film

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Schusterman Visiting Israel Professor

11:10-12:25, Library, Room 129

TR

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Images caught on film by Jewish and Israeli filmmakers from the early 20th Century till the beginnings of the 21st reflect a variety of issues and ideologies which have dominated the Israeli cultural discourse. From attempts of early pioneers to create the "New" Jew (as opposed the "Diaspora" or "Ghetto" type) and to construct a national identity; through traumas of Holocaust and Mid-East wars, the growing multi-ethnicity and multi-cultural character of the society - films offer a variety of points of views, enabling insights into the still in the making identity of the Israeli society today.

Course Requirements:

Attendance (10%)

Writing Assignments 50%: Two 3 page papers discussing poems & stories, their relevance or irrelevance to the films & film fragments shown in class.

Final exam 40%:

The films and film fragments cited below are optional and may change throughout the course.

1. Jan. 14

Conflicts in Society – Conflicts in Film: An Introduction

Guide for the Perplexed, Igal Bursztyn, 2005

2 Jan. 19-21

Identity, Ethnicity, Nationalism

Pinhas, Pini Tavger, 30', 2008

Living Room, Tali Shalom-Ezer, 2006, 19'

Dark Night, Leonid Prodozsky, 30', 2007

Take Note, (*Tizcor Et Ze*), Elite Zexer, 17', 2008

Reading: Natan Zach, 'Prologue to a Poem', Daliah Ravikovich 'King over Israel'

3 Jan. 26-28

Orthodox Judaism

My Father My Lord, David Valakh, 2006

Purity, Anat Zuria, 2003

Reading: H.N. Bialik, 'In the City of Slaughter', Avigdor Hameiri 'Song of the Pioneer', Rachel 'In the Garden'

4 Feb. 2-4

Horrors of Diaspora, Yearning for Freedom, Pioneers – The New Jews (1895 – 1911)

Pillar of Fire, (TV Serial, ed. Igal Losin,)
The First Film of Palestine, Murray Rosenberg, 1911,
Diary 2, David Perlov, 1978

This is the Land, Avigdor Hameiri (script), Baruch Agadati (dir.), 1935
Ha-Avoda, Helmar Lerski, 1935

Reading: S.Y. Agnon 'In the Heart of the Seas'

5 Feb. 9-11

Establishing the Basis for the Jewish State (1918-1939)

They Were 10, Baruch Dinar, 1965
Hole in the Moon, Uri Zohar, 1965
On the Road to Statehood (Compilation of documentaries 1920-1937)

Reading: Saul Tchernikhovski 'The King'

Discuss 1st Writing Assignment

6 Feb. 16-18

The Tragedy of Holocaust (1939-1945)

Holocaust (Episode 5 from *Pillar of Fire*),
Shoah Claude Lanzman, 1985
Diary 5, David Perlov

Reading: Aharon Appelfeld 'Kitty'

Deliver 1st Writing Assignment on Feb. 18th

7 Feb. 23 – 25

Heroics and Education for the New Jew (1925-1980s)

Children of the Sun, Ran Tal, 2006

Sweet Mud, Shaul Dror, 2006
Walk on Water, Eitan Fuks, 2002

Reading: U.Z. Greenberg 'To the Mound of Corpses in the Snow'.

8 March 2

Displaced Persons and their Children (1945-1947)

Exodus (Episode 6 from TV series *Pillar of Fire*), Igal Losin, 1986
Reading: Etgar Keret, 'Shoes'.

9 March 16-18

Independence War and Struggle for Survival (1948 – 1973)

Hill 24 Doesn't Answer (Thorold Dickinson, Peter Fry, 1955)

Every Bastard a King Uri Zohar, 1968,

Avanti Popolo Rafi Bukai, 1986

Band's Visit, Eran Kolirin, 2007

Reading: Yehuda Amichai 'From Laments on the War Dead'

10. March 23-25

Ethnicity & Cultures (1960s-1990s)

End of the World Left, Avi Neshet, 2004

Sallah Shabati, Efraim Kishon, 1965

Desperado Square, Benny Torati, 2000

Shkhour, Shmuel Hasfari & Hanna Azoulai-Hasfari, 1994

Reading: Ronny Somekh 'Arabic Work'

Discuss 2nd Writing Assignment

11. March 30- April 1

Political Messianism and Protest (1967-2000s)

Whose State, Whose Religion? (Episode 4 of *Tkuma*, a TV Series), prod. Steve Edwards, 1998

Leibovitz in Maaloth, Igal Bursztyn, 1980

Time of Favor, Joseph Cedar, 2000

Reading: Amos Oz, 'Nomad and Viper'

Deliver 2nd Writing Assignment on April 1st

12. April 6-8

Troubled Choices (1982-2000s)

Checkpoint, Yoav Shamir, 2003

Avenge but One of my Two Eyes, Avi Mugarbi, 2005

Waltz with Bashir, Arik Fulman, 2008

Beaufort, Joseph Cedar, 2007

Reading: Dalia Ravikovich 'Hovering at a Low Altitude'

13. April 13-15

Yearning for Normalcy and Universalism (2000s)

No. 17, David Ofek, 2003

My Stills, David Perlov, 2003

The Poet's Home, 7', Haim Tabakman, 2004

Reading: A.B. Yehoshua, 'The Last Commander'

14. April 20-22

Normalcy, Dignity and the Everyday Struggle for Survival (1980s-2000s)

Broken Wings, Nir Bergman, 2001

Bar 51, Amos Gutman, 1985

Bread, Ram Levi, 1986

Reading: Natan Zach 'Recalled and Forgotten'

15. April 27-29

Wax Hurt, 23' Maya Dreifuss, 2001

Bait, Michal Vinik, 12', 2008

Band's Visit, Eran Kolirin, 2007

Reading: Agi Mishol 'A Little Prayer for Sunday', 'Woman Martyr'

16. May 5

Exam Deliver 10:15-10:30 McClung Tower 514

Bibliography:

S.Y. Agnon, **In the Heart of the Seas**, University of Wisconsin Press, 2004

Zisi Stavi (ed.) **50 Stories from Israel**, Tel Aviv, Yedioth Ahronoth Books and Chemed Books, 2007

Glenda Abramson (ed.) **The Oxford Book of Hebrew Short Stories**, , Oxford University Press, 1996

Stanley Burnshaw, T. Carmi, Susan Glassman, Ariel Hirschfield, Ezra Spicehandler (ed.) **The Modern Hebrew Poem Itself**, Wayne State University Press, 2003

Warren Bargad & Stanley F. Chyet (ed.) **Israeli Poetry**, Indiana University Press, 1988

S.Y. Penueli and A. Ukhmani (ed.) **Anthology of Modern Hebrew Poetry**, Jerusalem : Institute for the Translation of Hebrew Literature, 1966

Stanley Burnshaw, T. Carmi, Susan Glassman, Ariel Hirschfield, Ezra Spicehandler (Editors) **The Modern Hebrew Poem Itself**, Wayne State University Press, 2003

C. N. Bialik, **Selected Poems** (ed. & tr. David Aberbach), Overlook Duckworth 2004

Howard M. Sachar, **A History of Israel**, Alfred Knopf, 2007

Lloyd P. Gartner, **History of the Jews in Modern Times**, Oxford University Press, 2001

Nurith Gertz, **Myths in Israeli Culture, Captives of a Dream**, Vallentine Mitchell, 2000

Dahlia Ravikovitch:

http://israel.poetryinternationalweb.org/piw/cms/cms/cms_module/index.php?obj_id=3363&x=1

Natan Zach

http://israel.poetryinternationalweb.org/piw/cms/cms/cms_module/index.php?obj_id=3363&x=1

Yehuda Amichai:

http://www.poemhunter.com/i/ebooks/pdf/yehuda_amichai_2004_9.pdf

Agi Mishol

<http://www.thedrunkenboat.com/mishol2.html>

Ronny Someck

http://israel.poetryinternationalweb.org/piw/cms/cms/cms_module/index.php?obj_id=6362&x=1

Rachel

http://israel.poetryinternationalweb.org/piw/cms/cms/cms_module/index.php?obj_id=3155&x=1