

Lewis Glinert, Dartmouth College
Film, fiction and the Israeli-Arab conflict (in translation)

Description

This course explores major themes in Israeli cinema and fiction in the context of the social and historical backdrop of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the painful emergence of a new Jewish-Israeli identity in the shadow of the Holocaust and unremitting warfare. Examining in depth a number of Hebrew films, short stories and novels, all in English translation, the course situates them in the evolution of Israeli cinema and fiction, and considers the problems of turning a work of fiction into a film.

No Hebrew is required.

Books referred to in this syllabus:

Abramson, Glenda. *The Oxford Book of Hebrew Short Stories*. New York : Oxford University Press, 1996

Alter, Robert (ed.) . *Modern Hebrew Literature*. New York: Behrman House, 1975.

Avruch, Kevin & Walter P. Zenner, eds. *Critical Essays on Israeli Society, Religion, and Government: Books on Israel*, vol. 4, New York: State University of New York Press.

Barnavi, Eli. *A Historical Atlas of the Jewish People*. Schocken, 1992.

Berlin, Charles. (ed) *Documenting Israel*. Cambridge: Harvard College Library, 1985

Cooper, Helen M. et al. *Arms and the Woman: War, Gender, and Literary Representation*. Chapel Hill and London: University of North Carolina Press, 1989.

Diamant, Carol (ed) *Ribcage : Israeli women's fiction* New York: Hadassah, 1994.

Elon, Amos. *The Israelis: Founders and Sons*. Penguin 1971.

Gertz, Nurith. *Myths in Israeli culture : captives of a dream*. London; Vallentine Mitchell, 2000.

Graddol, David & Oliver Boyd-Barrett (eds). *Media Texts*. Clevedon, England: Multilingual Matters, 1994

Grossman, David. *The Smile of the Lamb* New York : Farrar, Straus, Giroux, 1990

Hakak, Lev. *Modern Hebrew literature made into films*. Lanham, Md. : University Press of America, 2001

- Jackont, Amnon. Borrowed time. London : H. Hamilton, 1986.
- Kaniuk, Yoram. Himmo, King of Jerusalem. New York: Atheneum, 1969
- Karsh, Efraim (ed.), From Rabin to Netanyahu: Israel's Troubled Agenda, London: Frank Cass, 1997
- Kronish, Amy World Cinema: Israel, Madison [N.J.] : Fairleigh Dickinson University Press, 1996
- Lazin, Frederick & Gregory Mahler (eds) Israel in the Nineties. Gainesville : University Press of Florida, 1996.
- Mintz, Alan. (ed.) The Boom in Contemporary Israeli Fiction. Brandeis University Press, 1997.
- Mishal, Nissim. Those were the Years. Tel-Aviv: Yedioth Ahronoth, 1997.
- Murray, Edward. The cinematic imagination; writers and the motion pictures. New York: Ungar, 1972.
- Oz, Amos. My Michael. New York: Knopf, 1972
- Penueli, Shemuel. & Azriel Ukhmani. Hebrew short stories. (2 volumes), Tel Aviv: Institute for the Translation of Hebrew Literature, 1966
- Ramras-Rauch, Gila. & Michman-Melkman, J. (eds), Facing the Holocaust. Philadelphia: Jewish Publication Society, 1985
- Sicher, Ephraim (ed.) Breaking Crystal: Writing And Memory After Auschwitz. Urbana : University of Illinois Press. 1998.
- Yudkin, Leon ed., Modern Hebrew Literature in English Translation. New York: Markus Wiener, 1987

Syllabus

NB: Throughout the course, refer for background and short assessment of the individual films to Kronish World Cinema: Israel.

1. Introduction: History, film and fiction

Barnavi, A Historical Atlas of the Jewish People, 220-1, 230-1, 242-5, 254-5, 260-5

Schorr, Renen. '40 years film-making in Israel'. Ariel 71-72, 1988, 106-127

Hakak ch. 2 ('The Israeli Cinema: A Brief Survey')

Shaked, Gershon 'Waves and currents in Hebrew fiction in the past 40 years', Modern Hebrew Literature 1, 1988, 4-12.

Hakak ch. 1 ('A Brief History of Modern Hebrew Literature')

Murray, Cinematic Imagination, ch. 1

Turner, Graeme. 'Film Languages' In Graddol & Boyd-Barrett, 119-135.

2. Early Zionist narratives and The Israeli War of Independence:

Films:

They were Ten (1961)

Hill 24 Doesn't Answer (1955)

Fiction:

Smilansky: 'Squatters Rights' in Penueli vol. 1, 182-191

Aricha: 'Night Scene' in Penueli, vol. 2, 233-244

Tammuz: 'The Swimming Contest' in Abramson, 127-138

Yizhar: 'The prisoner' in Alter 291-310

Elon, The Israelis, 106-147

Ne'eman, Judd. The empty tomb in the postmodern pyramid: Israeli cinema in the 1980s and 1990s. In Berlin (read 117-129)

Erens, Pamela. 'Israeli cinema'. Film Comment 17:1, 1981, 60-64

Gertz, Nurith. 'From Jew to Hebrew: The Zionist "Narrative" in the Israeli Cinema of the 1940s and 1950s', Israel Affairs, 1998, 175-200.

3. Childhood, youth and the shadow of the Holocaust

Films:

Wooden Gun (1979)

Because of that War (1989)

Fiction:

Liebrecht: 'Morning in the Park with Nannies' in Abramson, 387-396

Jackont, Amnon. Borrowed time.

Elon, The Israelis, 189-221

Zerubavel, Yael "The "Mythological Sabra" and Jewish Past: Trauma, Memory, and Contested Identities", *Israel Studies* 7(2), 2002, 115-144

Yudkin, Leon. 'Holocaust trauma in the second-generation : the Hebrew fiction of David Grossman and Savyon Liebrecht' in Sicher, 170-81.

Morahg, Gilead. 'Fantastic fiction of the Holocaust', in Mintz 143-183.

Avisar, Ilan "Personal Fears and National Nightmares: The Holocaust Complex in Israeli Cinema," in Sicher, 147-59.

Yehuda Poliker's home page at

<http://www.nmc-music.co.il/nmc/artists/poliker/yehuda.html>

4. The Six Day War:

Film:

Siege (1970)

Friedman, Regine. 'Between silence and abjection: The film medium and the Israeli war widow.' *Film Historia* 3(1-2) , 1993, 79-89

Fiction:

Yehoshua: "Last Commander" in Abramson, 220-236

Koren: 'Together with Them' in Abramson 336-340

Elon, The Israelis, 222-255

5. Arab and Jew

Films:

My Michael (1975)

Hamsin (1983)

Fiction:

Oz: My Michael

Yehoshua: 'Facing the Forests'. In Alter 353-93

Shammas: Arabesques.

Elon, The Israelis, 256-289

Ne'eman, Judd. The death mask of the moderns: A genealogy of New Sensibility cinema in Israel. *Israel Studies* 4:1, 1999, 100-128.

Hakak ch. 8 ('My Michael')

Gertz, Nurith. "My Michael - From Jerusalem to Hollywood via the 'Red Desert'," in Yudkin, 139-156.

Zertal, Edith. 'Dan Wolman – Film-maker'. Ariel 44, 1977, 88-102.

Brenner, Rachel Feldhay. "In Search of Identity: The Israeli Arab Artist in Anton Shammas' Arabesques," PMLA 108(3), 1993, 431-445.

6. Demythologizing the national struggle

Film:

Late Summer Blues (1987)

Himmo King of Jerusalem (1987)

Kedma (2002)

Fiction:

Kaniuk: Himmo King of Jerusalem

Hakak, ch. 6 ('Himmo King of Jerusalem')

Shapira, Anita. 'From the Palmach Generation to the Candle Children: Changing Patterns in Israeli Identity', Partisan Review 67(4), 2000

Fuchs, Esther. Images of Love and War in Contemporary Israeli Fiction," In Cooper, 268-282.

Mishal, Those were the Years, 151, 154, 159, 161

Loshitzky, Yosefa. 'The bride of the dead: Phallocentrism and war in Himmo, King of Jerusalem.' Literature Film Quarterly 21(3), 1993, 218-229

7. War and internal conflict in the 80s and 90s

Film:

Cup Final (1991)

Song of the Siren (1994)

As if Nothing Happened (1999)

Evacuation Order (2001)

Fiction:

Grossman: The Smile of the Lamb.

Liebrecht: 'Room on the Roof' in Diamant 231-258

Mishal, Those were the Years, 234-240, 291-2

Weissbrod, Lilly "Israeli Identity in Transition," in Karsh, 47-65.

Sagiv, Assaf. 'Dionysus in Zion'. Azure, 2000, 9, 155-180.

Wurmser, Meyrav. Escapism and defeat. INTERNET JERUSALEM POST, Apr 20, 2001

Shaviv, Miriam. A literary blank ballot. INTERNET JERUSALEM POST, april 20,

2001, accessed December 23, 2006 at

<http://www.miriamshaviv.com/literary-blank-ballot.php>

Gertz, Nurith. Myths in Israeli Culture, ch.7.

Gertz, Nurith. 'Historical Memory: Israeli Cinema and Literature in the 1980s and 1990s,' in Avruch & Zenner, 200-226

Avisar, Ilan. 'Israeli cinema and the ending of Zionist ideology' in Lazin & Mahler, 153-168.