

Modern Israel

Prof. Sarina Chen

MWTh 10:35-11:40

Office hours: Thur 12:00- 13:00

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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.

Grades

Student grades will be calculated as follows:

- 20% attendance and participation*
- 20% presentations and quizzes (more details provided in class)
- 20% midterm examination
- 40% final examination (date TBA)

*Attendance and Participation

Students are expected to attend every class meeting, to prepare the assigned material in advance, and to participate in classroom discussion. Every student will present one article and will lead a discussion about the subject. In the last week the students will present updated news/opinion articles and will analyze it. More than 3 unexcused absences will detract from your grade. It is your responsibility to sign in when you are present in class, and you may not ask a friend to sign in for you or sign in for anyone else.

Recommended books:

Barry Rubin, *Israel- An Introduction*, Yale 2011.

Anita Shapira (ed.), *Israeli Identity in Transition*, Praeger (2004).

Mitchell Bard and David Nachmias (ed.), *Israel Anthology* (Online edition):

<http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/isdf/text/anthologycvr.html>

Recommended sites:

Jewish Virtual Library: <http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/index.html>

The Israeli Parliament: <http://www.knesset.gov.il/>

Israeli Nostalgia: <http://www.nostal.co.il/siteMap.asp> (Hebrew)

Haaretz newspaper: <http://www.haaretz.com/>

The Israeli National Library:

<http://web.nli.org.il/sites/NLI/English/Pages/default.aspx>

Reading Schedule:

Week 1- Jan. 9,11,12: What is Israel and who are the Israelis? Terms, Borders, citizen' population.

Ruth Gavizon, A Jewish State- A Justification (Blackboard)

The declaration of Independence (Blackboard)

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

Week 2- Jan 18,19 : Pre-state Israel, and the first years:

*He went through the fields

Rozin, Orit, [Food, identity, and nation-building in Israel's formative years.](#)

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

Week 3- Jan 23,25,26,: The "New Jew": Hebrew language, Hebrew folkdance, Hebrew social Innovation -The Kibbutz

The movie: Mivtza Savta (Grandmother Operation)

Agadati - Film of an Artist

[:http://www.spielbergfilmarchive.org.il/newsite/index.html](http://www.spielbergfilmarchive.org.il/newsite/index.html)

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

Oz Almog, [The Sabra—The Creation of the New Jew](#), Berkeley, Los Angeles, London: University of California Press, 2000, pp. 23-72.

Eliezer Ben- Refael and Menachem Topel, The Kibbutz's Transformation: Who leads it and where is it going? Jews in Israel (2004) 151-173

Tamar Katriel, [Talking Straight — Dugri Speech in Israeli Sabra Culture](#), Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1986, pp. 9-33.

Week 4- Jan 30, Feb 1,2: The Mizrachic challenge

Salach Shabati

Shchur

Sami Samooha, Jewish Ethnicity in Israel: Symbolic or Real? Jews in Israel (2004), 47-80

Rami Kimchi, A Turn toward Modernity: The ideological Innovation of Sallah, Shofar 29, 2011

Yosefa Loshitzky, [Identity politics on the Israeli Screen](#), Austin: University of Texas Press, 2001, pp. 15-31.

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

Week 5- Feb 6, 8, 9: The Israeli –Arab conflict: Wars, Peace agreements and Palestinian uprising

Avanti Popolo

Mahler Gregory S. and Alden R.W. Mahler (2010). The Arab-Israeli conflict : an introduction and documentary reader. London ; New York : Routledge, 2010, pp. 3-33.

Reiter, Yitzhak. "Israel and its Arab Minority." Israel Studies: An Anthology (Mitchell G. Bard and David Nachmias (Eds). Jewish Virtual Library Publications.
<http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/isdf/text/reiter.html>

Yoram S. Carmeli and Ronit Grossman, " 'It's a Game Between Jews and Arabs': Soccer, Journalism, Otherness and Abjection in Israeli Context", Culture, Sport, Society 3 (2), Summer 2000, pp. 23-43.

Week 6- Feb13,15,16- Militarization of the civil population:

*Walk on the water.

The idea of secrifices: Zelda and Hamichai:

<http://www.nevnet.etzion.k12.il/english/mexico/grandpa.htm>

<http://www.nevnet.etzion.k12.il/english/mexico/mot.htm>

http://israel.poetryinternationalweb.org/piw_cms/cms/cms_module/index.php?obj_id=3156

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

Baruch Kimmerling, The Invention and Decline of Israeliness, Berkeley, Los Angeles and London: University of California Press, 2001, pp. 208-228.

Yaron Ezrahi, "Art, Power, and Israeli Identity," in: Susan Tumorin Goodman, After Rabin — New Art from Israel, The Jewish Museum: New York, 1999, pp. 29-33.

Week 7-Feb 22,24- Religion and state: Religious and Secular

Ilan Fuchs, Religion in Israel

<http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/isdf/text/fuchs.html>

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

Don Handelman and Elihu Katz, "State Ceremonies of Israel: Remembrance Day and Independence Day," in: Shlomo Deshen, Charles S. Liebman, and Moshe Shokeid (eds.), Israeli Judaism — Studies of Israeli Society, New Brunswick and London: Transaction Publishers, 1995, pp. 75-86.

Week 8- Feb 27, 29, Civilian Religion: the domination of the Holocaust

*Leilisada

*Because of that war

Yael Zerubavel, "The Death of Memory and the Memory of Death: Masada and the Holocaust as Historical Metaphors, Representations 45, Winter 1994, pp. 72-100.

Ofer, Dalia. (2009). "The past that does not past: Israelis and holocaust memories." Israel Studies, 14 (1), pp. 1-35.

Don Handelman and Elihu Katz, "State Ceremonies of Israel: Remembrance Day and Independence Day," in: Shlomo Deshen, Charles S. Liebman, and Moshe Shokeid (eds.), Israeli Judaism — Studies of Israeli Society, New Brunswick and London: Transaction Publishers, 1995, pp. 75-86.

Mar 1- Mid term

Spring break

Week 9-Mar 5,7,8: Gender

* Broken wings

** Yossi and Jager/ The babble

Gertz, Nurit (2003). "Gender and Space in the new Israeli cinema." Shofar, 22(1), pp. 110-116.

Amit Kama, From Terra Incognita to Terra Firma: The Logbook of the Voyage of Gay Men's Community into the Israeli Public Sphere, Journal of Homosexuality 38 (4), pp. 133-162.

Week 10- Mar 12,14,15: The Political and the legal system

Menachem Mautner, "Law and Culture in Israel: The 1950s and the 1980s," in: Ron Harris, Alexander (Sandy) Kesar, Prina Laahav, and Assaf Likhovski (eds.), The History of Law in a Multi-Cultural Society, Aldershot: Ashgate, 2002, p. 175-214.

**Week 11- Mar 19,21,22: From Melting pot to multicultural society:
Education and Mass Media**

G Ben-Porat, Multicultural Realities in

<http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/isdf/text/benporat.html>

Week 12- Mar 26,28,29: Tel- Aviv and Jerusalem

Uri Ram, "Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and the Bifurcation of Israel" in *International Journal of Politics, Culture, and Society* 19, Numbers 1-2/December, 2005 (blackboard)

Mordechai Omer, The Theme of Jerusalem in the Works of the Israeli Fathers of Conceptual Arts, in: Dan Urian and Efraim Karsh (eds.), In Search of Identity, London: Frank Cass, 1999, pp. 72-85.

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

Week 13- Apr 2,4,5 Center and Periphery:

Aviva my love

Hochmat Habeygale

Week 14- Apr 9,11,12 "Hot news " from Israel: Analytic discussion

Week 15- Apr 18: Summery