SO CI 189 Images of Israel in Popular Culture  
Professor Aviad E. Raz  
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Time and place: Tues/Thurs 9:30-10:50am  
Warren Lecture Hall 2206 (will move into WLH 2112 on May 6)  
Office hours: TuTh 11:00-12:00  
Office location: 499 Social Science Building

From its inception and through its 65 years of existence, Israel has attracted diverse and fervent media depictions. This course will look at these popular images (some well-known and some less familiar) from Spielberg to the Simpsons and from social protest to roadblock movies. We will discuss and compare images of “Israel” as seen from the outside - in American popular culture - as well as from within, looking at self-depiction in Israeli media. These cultural texts will be decoded in search of their underlying images and what they can tell us about the simulations and realities of “Israel” as a country constantly straddling contrasts such as global and local, secular and religious, Jewish and non-Jewish, Israeli and Palestinian, immigrant and native-born, Ashkenazi and Mizrahi, and more.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS  
For each film we see, write down a list of 2-3 major points concerning the relationship between reality and myth or “fact” and representation by comparing the message of the film with the socio-historical narratives presented in the relevant presentation and reading(s). This will serve as the basis for class discussions. Lists will be submitted at the end of the course. The quality of class participation plus the written lists will count for 30% of the final grade. In addition, there will be a 10-15 page final paper (70%) due during finals week, with an analysis of Israeli images in popular culture. The paper can build and expand on one of the films we looked at by building on your relevant lists, or you can look at a new film/program for the paper.

REQUIRED READINGS


**Recommended Reading**


**Weekly schedule and reading assignments**

1. Tue April 2
   Introduction: “Israel” – Images vs. Realities
Read: Israel Briefing Book, Fact Sheets: Israel at 63 - A Statistical Glimpse, online at http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/brief/fact1.html
Guy Ben-Porat, Multicultural Realities, from the online Israel Studies: An Anthology at http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/

BBC documentary: The Birth of Israel
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sy59elSI37U&feature=related
The Simpsons – Israel episode

2. Thu 4-4
Continue: Introduction: The Israel "Fact" Sheet – Image vs. Reality

3. Tue, 4-9
The Israeli-Palestinian conflict
Checkpoints/Shamir (2003)

Read: Gavison (2003)
Zanger (2005)
Loshitsky (2011)

4. Thu, 4-11
Continue: The Israeli-Palestinian conflict in Western Eyes
Munich/Spielberg (2005)

Adler, E (Ed). 2013. Introduction

5. Tue, 4-16
The Israeli-Palestinian conflict in Western eyes


6. Thu, 4-18
Israel-Diaspora Relations, the Discourse of Independence, Pioneers and Sabras
"He Went In the Fields"/Yosef Milo (1967)

Halamish, A. The Yishuv: The Jewish Community in Mandatory Palestine, from the online Israel Studies: An Anthology

7. Tue, 4-23
The Kibbutz
'Degania' - The First Kibbutz Fights its Last Battle / Yitzhak Rubin

Read: Spiro, M. 1957

8. Thu, 4-25
Continue: The Kibbutz

9. Tue, 4-30
The Melting Pot and Mass Immigration
_Sallah Shabati_/ Ephraim Kishon (1964)


10. Thu, May 2
Continue

11. Tue, 5-7
Class and ethnicity: Social protest old and new


12. Thu, 5-9
Class and ethnicity continued

13. Tue 5-14
Religion and State

Hertzberg, 1986

14. Thu, 5-16
Continued, State and Redemption: Religious Zionism

15. Tue, 5-21
The Arab-Israeli Minority

Read: Tessler M., & Grant, A. 1998

16. Thu, 5-23
The Arab-Israeli Minority Continued

17. Tue, 5-28
From collectivism to individualism
"Late Summer Blues"/ Renen Schorr (1987)


18. Thu, 5-30
Continue
19. Tue, June 4
Present and discuss plans for final paper

20 Thu, 6-6
Conclusions; discussion of final papers as needed

Instruction Ends: Friday, June 7
Please e-mail papers during finals week to Prof. Raz.