RS 405

**Israeli Cinema in the 21st Century**
Igal Bursztyn, Tel Aviv University
Schusterman Visiting Israel Professor
3:40-6:20  Library, room 129  T
Office Location: McClung Tower 514
Phone: 974-6981
Email: iburszty@utk.edu
Office hours: T 2:30-3:30 PM, TR 12:45 – 1:45PM

The seminar will study outstanding feature films, documentaries, short dramas and video-works containing a variety of filmic reflections on the Israeli society and its culture(s). The works will be discussed in context of artistic attainments and failures of the earlier Israeli film industry. The seminar will emphasize issues in Israeli film aesthetics and their relation to social and ideological developments in the Israeli society. Writing-emphasis course.

Course Requirements:
*Attendance (10%)*

*Oral Assignments 20%:* Each student will deliver a 10 min. oral presentation/critique of a chosen text and film.

*Written Assignment 30%:* By mid semester (March 2nd) each student will submit a written 4 page review dealing with 4 films and 3 articles of his/her choice.

*Final paper 40%* (To be delivered on May 6th). 6 page essay on aspects of Israeli Cinema – based on screenings and texts of the course.

The list of films and film sequences mentioned below (in italics) is optional and may change throughout the course.

1. **Jan. 19**
Kitsch and Art: A Short History of Israeli Cinema
*Dark Night*, Leonid Pro dovsky, 2007, 30'
Sequences from: *1st Film of Palestine* Murray Rosenberg 1911
   *Sabra*, Alexander Ford, 1935  
   *Ha'Avoda (Labor)*, Helmer Lerski, 1935  
   *Hill 24 Doesn't Answer*, Thorold Dickinson, Peter Fry, 1955  
   *Sallah Shabati*, Efraim Kishon, 1964  
   *Kazablan*, Menahem Golan, 1974  
   *Desperado Square*, Benny Torati, 2000  
   *Band's Visit*, Eran Kolirin, 2007

2. **Jan. 26**
Everyday Life
*Broken Wings*, Nir Bergman 2001
Reading: Nurit Gertz, 'From Jew to Hebrew: The 'Zionist Narrative' in the Israeli Cinema of the 1940s and 1950s' in *Israel Affairs 4:3*, 1998 pp. 175-199

3. **Feb. 2**
War Heroics and Anti-heroics.
Beaufort, Yosef Cedar, 2007
Sequences from: *Hill 24 Doesn’t Answer* (Thorold Dickinson, Peter Fry, 1955)

4. Feb. 9
War Traumas on Film
*Waltz with Bashir*, Arik Fulman, 2008
Reading: Nurith Gertz, Ch. 6 & 7 (Parts 'From Reality to fantasy and Dream' and 'New Options') in *Myths in Israeli Culture, Captives of a Dream*, pp. 109-120, 129-134

5. Feb. 16
Hopes and Utopias
*The Band’s Visit*, Eran Kolirin, 2007
Sequences from: *Every Bastard a King*, Uri Zohar, 1968

6. Feb. 23
Illusions and Awakenings
*Children of the Sun*, Ran Tal, 2007
Directives for 1st assignment. It has to be submitted on March. 2nd.

7. March 2
Quests for Identity
*My Father, My Lord* 2006,
*Pinhas*, Pini Tavger 2006
*Shkhoor*, (Shmuel Hasfari & Hannah Azulai-Hasfari, 1994)
1st assignment: submit a written 3-4 page review on the major topics discussed so far.

8. March 16
The Gathering of Fugitives
*Turn Left at the End of the World*, Avi Nesher 2004
Sequences from: *Sallah Shabati*, Efaim Kishon 1964,
Reading: Yosefa Loshitzky, *Identity Politics on the Israeli Screen*, University of Texas Press, 2001, Ch. 4, pp.72-89

9. March 23
Longings for Culture
*Desperado Square* Benny Torati 2000
*Living Room*, Tali Shalom Ezer, 19’ 2006
Sequences from: *Bar 51* Amos Gutman 1986

10. March 30
Women’s Voices
*Or, My Treasure*, Keren Yedaia, 2004
*Arab Snow*, Sigalit Landau 2000
*Loss of Control*, Ela Zaharano, 2’, 2009
Reading: Orly Lubin, ‘Bodies and Territory: Women in Israeli Cinema’, Israel Studies, v.4 n.1

11. April 6
Arab Cinema
*Thirst*, Tawfik Abu Wael, 2004
Reading: ‘Atash Thirst’: interview with Taufik Abu-Wael; Yitzhak Laor, 'No Way Out'
Interview with Tawfik Abu Wael.
www.euromedcafe.org/newsdetail.asp?lang=ing&documentID=83

14. April 13
Desperate Ironies
*Divine Intervention*, Elia Suleiman, 2002

15. April 20
Peace Traumas
*Close to Home*, Vidi Bilu & Daliah Hager, 2005,
Sequences from: *Everlasting Joy* (Igal Bursztyn, 1997)

16. April 27
Love
*Hymn*, Elad Keidan, 34’, 2008
*Bait*, Mikhal Vinik, 12’, 2008
Reading: Pablo Utin, The Israeli Cinema of Disengagement in Pablo Utin, Karhonim Be’Eretz Ha’Hamsinin, Tel Aviv, Resling, 2009, (Hebrew)

May 6
McClung Tower 514, 14:45-15:00 pm
Deliver a 6 page essay on aspects of Israeli Cinema – based on screenings and texts of the course.

Bibliography:

Obligatory Readings

- Ella Shohat, 'Hill 24 Doesn't Answer' in Israeli Cinema: East/West and the Politics of ReReading, University of Texas Press, 1989, pp. 58-76
- Nurith Gertz, Ch. 6 & 7, Myths in Israeli Culture, Captives of a Dream, pp109-134
- Nitzan Ben-Shaul, 'Israeli Persecution Films' in Linda Badley, R. Barton Palmer, Steven Jay Schneider (Editors) Traditions in World Cinema, Rutgers University Press, 2006
- Yosefa Loshitzky, Identity Politics on the Israeli Screen, University of Texas Press, 2001, Ch. 4, pp.72-89
- Orly Lubin, 'Bodies and Territory: Women in Israeli Cinema', Israel Studies, vol. 4 no. 1
- 'Atash Thirst' interview with Taufik Abu-Wael, Yitzhak Laor 'No Way Out'
- Interview with Tawfik Abu Wael.
  www.euromedcafe.org/newsdetail.asp?lang=ing&documentID=83

Additional Readings

Ella Shohat, Israeli Cinema: East/West and the Politics of Representation, University of Texas Press, 1989
Nurith Gertz, Myths in Israeli Culture, Captives of a Dream, Vallentine Mitchell 2000
Yosefa Loshitzky, Identity Politics on the Israeli Screen, University of Texas Press, 2001
Ella Shohat, 'Sallah Shabbati' in Israeli Cinema: East/West and the Politics of ReReading, University of Texas Press, 1989, pp. 138-155