The course will offer a survey of contemporary Israeli cinema as a starting point for analyzing visual representations of Israeli society. Films are manufactured by filmmakers within a cultural industry; thus Israeli cinema, as a collection of personal voices and visions, is embedded within Israeli political economy and politics of representation. By exploring Israeli cinema, we gain insight into the filmic construction of Israeli society, particularly as it relates to issues of gender, ethnicity, war and conflict, the holocaust, and communities within the collective.

Course requirements:
*Attendance (10%): Students are expected to complete the reading assignments and be prepared to participate in class discussion.*
*Assignment (30%): Discuss one of the films that are screened in class (2,000 words). Describe the film (15%) and analyze the ways in which it develops one of the themes that we explored (25%). Then, analyze the ways in which it sheds light on one other social or cultural practice (religion, commemoration, ethnicity, etc) (35%). Finally, express your opinion and make a sound argument based on your analysis (15%). Submission by Dec. 2, 2008.*
*Final take-home exam (60%)*


1. Aug. 21
Introduction: Israeli society

2. Aug. 26-28
Introduction: Representation, narrative, framing

Gertz, chapters 1-2, pp. 5-58.

3. Sept. 2-4
Gender

Screening: *Broken Wings*, Nir Bergman, 2002
http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0317842/

4. Sept. 9-11
Screening: *Nina’s Tragedies*, Savi Gavison, 2003
http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0376007/

5. Sept. 16-18
Screening: *Aviva, My Love*, Shemi Zarhin, 2006
http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0833422/

6. Sept. 23-25
**Militarization**


Screening: *Beaufort*, Joseph Cedar, 2007
http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0758732/

7-8. Sept 30 – Oct 7
Screening: *Driks’ Brother*, Ori Inbar, Doron Tsabari, 1994
http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0156491/

**Holocaust in collective memory**

Screening: *Walk on Water*, Eytan Fox, 2004
http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0352994/

10. Oct. 21-23
Screening: *Metallic Blues*, Dan Verete, 2004
http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0402374/

11. Oct. 28-30
The conflict

Gertz, Chapters 3-5, pp. 59-108

Screening: *The Syrian Bride*, Eran Riklis, 2004
http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0423310/

12. Nov. 4-6
Screening: *The Band’s Visit*, Eran Kolirin, 2007
http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1032856/

13. Nov. 11-13
**Immigration and Multiculturalism**

Gertz, chapters 6-8, pp. 109-172.

Screening: *Late Marriage*, Dover Koshashvili, 2001
http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0287471/

14. Nov. 18-20
Screening: *Turn Left at the End of the World*, Avi Nesher, 2004
http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0374279/

15. Nov. 25-27 Thanksgiving
Screening: *Noodle*, Ayelet Menahemi, 2007
http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0892332/

16. Dec. 2: Submit paper, take home exam

Exam due: December 9, 11:10, room 127