Lewis Glinert, Dartmouth College
Jerusalem: Vision and Reality

Description

Jerusalem, as a vision and as a reality, has always mesmerized Jewish minds -- Royal City of Solomon, Holy of Holies, kabbalistic core of the world, site of a foretold apocalypse, twice rased to the ground, focus of Diaspora dreams, since 1948 once more a Jewish capital, but divided for two decades by war and still savagely fought over. In this course, we will sample the symbolism of Jerusalem across 3000 years of Hebrew and Jewish intellectual and artistic expression, from the Bible down to the contemporary Israeli and Diaspora arts, in poetry and prose, in film, music and the visual arts. Through the Biblical prophets, medieval folklore, Israeli cinema, Elie Wiesel's Nobel Prize winning fiction, Yiddish lullabies and many other forms of expression, we will ask: Can one find in “Jerusalem” a consistent set of symbols and values holding firm down the centuries, uniting contemporary Jews with their distant ancestors? And why has this city evoked such passions?

No knowledge of Hebrew is required.

Books referred to in this syllabus:


Bialik, H N & Y Ravnitzky (eds). The Book of Legends, Schocken


The five Megilloth with an introd. and commentary by Cohen, A. Hindhead, Surrey, The Soncino Press, 1946


Levenson, Jon. Sinai and Zion, Minneapolis: Winston Press, 1985


Ofrat, Gideon One Hundred Years of Art in Israel, Boulder, Colo.: Westview Press, 1998


The Twelve Prophets, with an introd. and commentary by A.Cohen. Bournemouth, Hants., Soncino Press, 1948


Syllabus

Historical background:
Gilbert, Jerusalem History Atlas
Kollek & Pearlman, Jerusalem: a history of forty centuries,
Bahat, Illustrated Atlas of Jerusalem

0: Orientation in space, time and spirit

March 30
Introduction, course mechanics, goals, etc.
videorecording: Melodies of Jerusalem

1: Jerusalem in the Bible

In reading the following Biblical passages, consult a commentary based on Jewish traditions, such as J. Hertz 'The Pentateuch’ and the various volumes of the Soncino edition of the Bible.

Genesis ch. 14 v.17-23, ch. 22 [in Hertz, Pentateuch]
Kings part one, ch 8, ch 9 v1-9
Isaiah ch 52
Lamentations ch. 1 [in Cohen, Five Megilloth.]
Psalms ch. 48, 122-126, 137
Zechariah ch 14 [in The Twelve prophets]
Rosovksy pp. 1-8, and Broshi in Rosovsky (ch. 1, 9-34)
Peters in Rosovsky (ch. 2, 37-59)
Levenson, 89-145, 176-184.
Sarna, 151-166

2: Jerusalem in ancient rabbinic writings

Hammer: 71-82, 92-139
Bialik & Ravnitzky, 142-3, 160-2, 177, 183, 189-200
3: Jerusalem in medieval writings

Carmi, 250-1, 472-479
Scheindlin, 84-89
Hammer, 151-191
Maimonides, part 3, ch 45.
Dan, J. in Rosovsky 60-73
Halevi, Yehuda 89-91, 99-101, 293-5
Rosenfeld, 144-5, 176-9

4: Jerusalem in Ashkenazic and Sephardic folklore

Rosovsky 344-351
Vilnay:
   Ch II (Dome of the Rock): Sections 1-13, 16-18
   Ch IV: sections 1-3
   XIII (Temple Vessels): 3-7
   XVIII (The Wailing Wall): whole chapter
   XIX: 6-10, 19
   XX: 1-2, 10-12
   XXIII (Caves): 1-4, 6
   XXIV: 1-2
   XXVI: 1-3
   XXVIII (Mt of Olives, Scopus): 2-17
Sholom Aleichem, 222-229

5: Jerusalem in modern Jewish thought

Heschel A.J., Introduction and 1-38
Hertzberg in Rosovsky 149-177
Hertzberg The Zionist Idea, 103-114 (Alkalay, Kalischer), 201-4 (Herzl), 226-241 (Herzl), 242-5 (Nordau), 557-570 (Jobotinsky), 605-619 (Ben Gurion)
Berkovits, E. ‘Crisis and faith.’ Tradition Tradition 14 (Fall, 1974), 5-19
Mendes-Flohr & Reinharz, 544-545
6: Jerusalem in modern Hebrew poetry

Burnshaw: poem by Greenberg 62-64.
Amichai, 3, 5, 7-9, 15, 23, 87, 101, 103, 105, 107, 109, 125-7
Abramson, ch 6 ‘Jerusalem’
Grindea, 56-58
Kosman, poem: ‘Note in the Western Wall’

7: Jerusalem in Jewish music

Study the following tracks and attached graphics and texts at the Dartmouth Jewish Sound Archive (www.dartmouth.edu/~djsa)

Im eshkahech (ORIENTAL SONGS - JO AMAR)
Shir hamaalos (JOSEPH ROSENBLATT)
She-yibone beis hamikdosh (SOUL OF A PEOPLE)
Rozshinkes Mit Mandlin (RICHARD TUCKER - GOLDFADEN SONGS)
Se’u ziyyona (ISRAELI MUSIC - THE EARLY YEARS)
Meal pisan har hatzofim (Songs of Yerushalayim)
Track 18 (ISRAEL’S INDEPENDENCE DAY)
Ki Mitzion (A TOWN HALL CONCERT -- ORANIM ZABAR)
Hakotel (THE CHOSEN ONES)
Yerushalayim shel zahav (SONGS OF YERUSHALAYIM)
Hatikvah (ZAMIR CHORALE -- Jerusalem 3000) -- this is the last track of the album
Uvneh yerushalayim, Hehorim rokdu, Motzi asirim (UVNEH YERUSHALAYIM -- CARLEBACH) -- these are the first 3 tracks

8: Jerusalem in contemporary Jewish fiction and nonfiction

Wiesel, A Beggar in Jerusalem
Hareven, City of Many Days

9: Jerusalem in Israeli film

My Michael (1975, based on Amos Oz’s novel of that name)
Himmo King of Jerusalem (1987, based on Yoram Kaniuk’s novel of that name)

10: Jerusalem in Israeli art and photography
Ofrat 7-19, 21-36, 87-106, 257-277
Bar-Am (selections)