Women in Israel – Achievements and Dilemmas

Brooklyn College, 2014

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Course Description:
This course will deal with the power and difficulties of women in the contemporary Israeli society. Its goal is to study and explore the status of women in the political structure of Israeli society. Students will encounter the complexity, challenges, and difficulties in the young democracy of Israel. The course of study will be accompanied by readings and discussions of Israeli current women status.

Course Objectives:
• Learn the political issues that the Israeli women faces today.
• Develop a critical approach to the political debates regarding women within Israel society.

Course requirements:
• Weekly Reading and Active participation in class discussions - 10%
• Presentation: Gender Personal Experience/ Outlines of the Final Paper/ An Article - 20%
• Final Paper about one of the topics of the Course (10 pages) - 70%

Required Reading List


Course Topics & Syllabus

Class 1: Introduction.

Class 2: Feminism Values, History, interdisciplinary and Pluralism within feminism.

Opening: course orientation, syllabus distribution, and course overview.


Woolf Virginia (1929). *A room of One's Own*.

**Class 3: Induction – The Jewish history and the Establishment of Israel**

**Class 4: History: Women in Israel during the Pioneer Era, the Establishment of the State, and the Beginning of Feminism in Israel**


**Class 5-6: The Status of Women in Israel’s Labor Force and the Gender Pay Gap**


Class 7-8: The Status of Women in Israeli Politics

Women in Israel, part four, 253-268; 269-286.


Class 9 10: The Socio Economic debate and its Influence on women's Poverty

Women in Israel, Part 3, 209-224; Part 5, 341-346; 395-422.


Addition: The Status of Women in Israeli Science and Higher Educational Policy


Class 11 -12: Legislation for the Advancement of Women in Israel

Women in Israel, Part four, 237-252.


Class 13: Women in Judaism and the Religious Coercion in Israel

Women in Israel, Part 3, 225-234; Part 4, 269-286; 287-308.


Class 14: The Status of Arab Women in Israel

Women in Israel, Part 2, 51-64; Part five, 423-441.


Class 15 - 16: Women Serving in the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) and In the Peace Movements.

Women in Israel, Part two, 35-50; Part four, 309-322.


Class 17: women and the Israel's budgetary


Soen Dan, Shechory Mally Ben David Sarah (Eds.) (2012). Minority Groups: Coercion, Discrimination, Exclusion, Deviance and the Quest for Equality, Nova Publisher


Class 18 - 19: The Struggle against Violence toward Women; Sexual Harassment, and the Trafficking of Women


Class 20: The Double Carrier Dilemma: Work and Family

Women in Israel, Part one, 25-34; Part 5, 323-340; 347-362


Class 21: The Institutional Situation: The Bodies Responsible for Advancing Women and the task of women organizations in Israel

Women in Israel, Introduction, 1-21


Class 22. Women in the Bible – The Hidden Heroes


Class 23. The New Masculinities – Men’s Liberation

Classes 24-25: Students Presentations:  
Gender Personal Experience/ Outlines of the Final Paper/ An Article

Classes 26-27: Conclusion and Outlook:  
Achievements and Failures in the Advancement of Women in Israel, 2013

Class 28: Closing meeting

Extra Subjects: Women in the Kibbutz movement: Women in Economic, management and High Education; Education and struggling to gender Equality