Modern Israel

Prof. Sarina Chen
MWTTh 10:35-11:40
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Course Description:
Modern Israel is a fascinating, vibrant, talented, imperfect state of people drawn from 100 different countries. Thus, conflicts, tensions and contradictions lie at its heart: Ashkenazi Jews complain the country is too Levantine; Sephardi Jews complain about deprivation; Orthodox Jews say the state is not sufficiently religious; seculars consider it antiquated in nature. Immigrants from Russia and Ethiopia, foreign guest workers, water crises, and the Arab-Israeli conflict are also part of the story. Alongside this chaotic situation are impressive works of art. This course introduces students to an Israel rarely seen in the news: films, art, music, short stories, food and spiritual movements show Israel from a different point of view and expose us to the questions Israelis ask themselves in order to define their own identity.

Grades
Student grades will be calculated as follows:
• 20% attendance and participation*
• 20% presentations and quizzes (more details provided in class)
• 20% midterm examination
• 40% final examination (date TBA)
*Attendance and Participation

Students are expected to attend every class meeting, to prepare the assigned material in advance, and to participate in classroom discussion. Every student will present one article and will lead a discussion about the subject. In the last week the students will present updated news/opinion articles and will analyze it. More than 3 unexcused absences will detract from your grade. It is your responsibility to sign in when you are present in class, and you may not ask a friend to sign in for you or sign in for anyone else.

Recommended books:
Barry Rubin, Israel- An Introduction, Yale 2011.

Recommended sites:
Jewish Virtual Library: http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/index.html
The Israeli Parliament: http://www.knesset.gov.il/
Israeli Nostalgia: http://www.nostal.co.il/siteMap.asp (Hebrew)
Haaretz newspaper: http://www.haaretz.com/
The Israeli National Library: http://web.nli.org.il/sites/NLI/English/Pages/default.aspx
Reading Schedule:

Week 1- Jan. 9,11,12: What is Israel and who are the Israelis? Terms, Borders, citizen' population.
Ruth Gavizon, A Jewish State- A Justification (Blackboard)
The declaration of Independence (Blackboard)
*Hadag Nachash, Ma Na'ase? - [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J1Zbd-0WsKc&feature=related](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J1Zbd-0WsKc&feature=related)

Week 2- Jan 18,19 : Pre-state Israel, and the first years:
*He went through the fields
Rozin, Orit, [Food, identity, and nation-building in Israel’s formative years](https://www.academia.edu/123456789).
Israel Studies Forum 21,1 (2006) 52-80

Week 3- Jan 23,25,26,: The "New Jew": Hebrew language, Hebrew folkdance, Hebrew social Innovation -The Kibbutz
The movie: Mivtza Savta (Grandmother Operation)
Agadati - Film of an Artist

Week 4- Jan 30, Feb 1,2: The Mizrachic challenge
Salach Shabati
Shchur

Sami Samooha, Jewish Ethnicity in Israel: Symbolic or Real? Jews in Israel (2004), 47-80

Rami Kimchi, A Turn toward Modernity: The ideological Innovation of Sallah, Shofar 29, 2011

Week 5- Feb 6, 8, 9: The Israeli –Arab conflict: Wars, Peace agreements and Palestinian uprising
Avanti Popolo


Week 6- Feb13,15,16- Militarization of the civil population:
*Walk on the water.
http://www.nevnet.etzion.k12.il/english/mexico/mot.htm
Asher Cohen, Service in the IDF and the boundaries of Israel’s Jewish collective. The Multicultural Challenge in Israel (2009) 180-199


Week 7-Feb 22,24- Religion and state: Religious and Secular
Ilan Fuchs, Religion in Israel http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/isdf/text/fuchs.html

Waxman Chaim I, Religion in the Israeli Public Square, Jews in Israel (2004), 221-242

Week 8- Feb 27, 29, Civilian Religion: the domination of the Holocaust
*Leilisada
*Because of that war


Mar 1- Mid term

Spring break

Week 9-Mar 5,7,8: Gender
* Broken wings
** Yossi and Jager/ The babble


Week 10- Mar 12,14,15: The Political and the legal system

Week 11- Mar 19,21,22: From Melting pot to multicultural society: Education and Mass Media

G Ben-Porat, Multicultural Realities in
http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/isdf/text/benporat.html

Week 12- Mar 26,28,29: Tel- Aviv and Jerusalem


Dalia Manor, Biblical Zionism in Bezalel art, Israel Studies 6,1 (2001) 55-75

Week 13- Apr 2,4,5 Center and Periphery:

Aviva my love
Hochmat Habeygale

Week 14- Apr 9,11,12 "Hot news " from Israel: Analytic discussion

Week 15- Apr 18: Summery