Modern Israel

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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.

Required Materials:
• The following four books are available for purchase at the Northeastern Bookstore and on reserve at Snell Library:
  Uzi Rebhun and Chaim Waxman, Jews in Israel: Contemporary Social and Cultural Patterns (Paperback)
  Motti Regev and Edwin Seroussi Popular Music and National Culture in Israel (Paperback)

Laptop Policy
A computer can be an excellent learning tool, and you are welcome to take notes on your laptop. However, if you are using your computer in class, I expect you to resist the temptation to check your e-mail, send or receive instant messages, or surf the internet, and I reserve the right to mark you as absent if I find you using your computer in any of these ways during class. If you cannot limit your in-class computer activity to note-taking, please leave your laptop at home.

Academic Support
If you experience difficulty in this course for any reason, please don’t hesitate to consult with me. In addition, a wide range of services is available on campus to support you in your efforts to meet the course requirements. These services include:
• Writing Center (37304549, 412 Holmes): in-person appointments with writing consultants as well as online consulting for students working on writing assignments.
• Disability Resource Center (373-2675, 20 Dodge): services for students with documented disabilities. If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please notify me in a timely manner with a letter from the DRC so that we can make arrangements to address your needs. I will only honor requests for accommodations if they are authorized by the DRC.
• University Counseling Services (373-2772, 135 Forsyth): short-term individual therapy, group counseling and referrals to off-campus mental health resources.
Grades
Student grades will be calculated as follows:
• 20% attendance and participation*
• 20% one reading/film responses (more details provided in class)
• 20% midterm examination (October 18)
• 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. More than 3 unexcused absences will detract from your grade at a rate of .3% per absence. 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.

Schedule of Readings:
Please prepare the following readings in advance of the date on which they are listed. Any changes made to this schedule will be announced in class and via Blackboard.

1. Wednesday, September 8: What does it mean to be an Israeli Jew?
Declarations of Independence (Blackboard)
Photos of the declaration (Hand out)
N%20READING%20THE%20DECLARATION%20OF%20&0&0%0&0&0&0&0%0&0&0%0&0&0&99%99%33&99&99%33&99&99%99%99%99
Shir ani yehudi (Link)
Thursday, September 9: Rosh HASHANA –NO CLASS

1. Historical and Sociological Aspects
See maps in Blackboard

3. Wednesday, September 15: Modern Israel- Short history survey:
See time table in Blackboard

4. Thursday, September 16: verified and tensions I: Introduction to the film- He went through the fields
Sami Samooha, Jewish Ethnicity in Israel: Symbolic or Real? Jews in Israel (2004), 47-80

5. Monday, September 20: The Israeli-Jewish Society- verified and tensions I: The film- He went through the fields

6. Wednesday, September 22: The Israeli-Jewish Society- verified and tensions I: He went through the fields+ Class discussion
Thursday, September 23: SUKKOT-NO CLASS.

7. Monday, September 27: The Kibbutz- The roots of the Israeli innovation
8. Wednesday, September 29: verified and tensions I: The Tsabar (Native Israeli –Jew) and Haolim Hachdashim (The new Immigrants).

9. Thursday, September 30: SIMCHAT TORA- NO CLASS

10. Monday, October 4: verified and tensions I: Ashkenazim and Mizrachim Do they live together in perfect harmony?
Guy Ben- Porat, Multicultural Realities, 2009.
http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/isdf/text/benporat.html

11. Wednesday, October 6: The Israeli-Jewish Society- verified and tensions II: religious conflicts- Religious and Secular
Chaim I Waxman, Religion in the Israeli Public Square, Jews in Israel (2004), 221-242

12. Thursday, October 7: The Israeli-Jewish Society- verified and tensions II: religious conflicts- Orthodox, Conservative and Reform.
- Israeli Supreme Court Accepts Reform, Conservative Conversions (February 2002)
http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/Society_&_Culture/convert.html

13. Monday, October 11: COLUMBUS DAY- NO CLASS

14. Wednesday, October 13: Women in Israel

15. Thursday, October 14: Tsahal- A Melting pot.
Asher Cohen, Service in the IDF and the boundaries of Israel’s Jewish Collective. The Multicultural Challenge in Israel (2009) 180-199

16. Monday: October 18: Midterm

Cultural aspects:

17. Wednesday: October 20: Hebrew- The holy language and the daily language:
Genesis A
Hadag Nachash, Ma Na’ase? http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J1ZBd0WsKc&feature=related
18. Thursday, October 21: Food in Israel
Orit Rozin, Food, identity, and nation-building in Israel’s formative years.
Israel Studies Forum 21,1 (2006) 52-80

19. Monday, October 25: Israeli Fashion
Anat Helman, Kibbutz dress in the 1950’s: utopian equality, anti fashion, and change.

20. Wednesday, October 27: The Pre-state Culture - Agadati Screen of an Artist
http://www.spielbergfilmarchive.org.il/newsite/index.html

S. Yizhar: Harlamov (Blackboard)
Binyamin Tammuz: The swimming race (Blackboard)
Moshe Shamir: The lagging heart (Blackboard)

Aharon Appelfeld: Kitty (Blackboard)
Amos Oz: Nomad and Viper (Blackboard)
A.B Yehoshua: Flood Tide (Blackboard)
Shulamit Hareven, Mahogany (Blackboard)

23. Wednesday, November 3: Israeli literature III -The End of the Millennium
Gafi Amir: By the time You’re Twenty one You ‘ll reach the moon (Blackboard)
Gadi Taub, You never can tell (Blackboard)
Mira Magen, will somebody please shut the Gate (Blackboard)

24. Thursday, November 4: Israeli poetry: Zelda and Yehuda Hamichai
See on Blackboard

25. Monday, November 8: Israeli music: Shira Betzibur (community singing)
Natan Mishori, The State of Arts in Israel: Music, in
http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/Society_&_Culture/music.html
Motti Regev, Shirei Eretz Yisrael, pp. 49-71
Youtube- The Spielberg Jewish Film Archive -Melodies of Independence: The Gevatron

26. Wednesday, November 10: Israeli music: Lahakot Tsvayot
Motti Regev, The Lahkot Tzvayiot, pp. 90-113
27. Thursday, November 11: VETERANS DAY: NO CLASS

28. Monday, November 15: Israeli Rock Music and Mediterranean music
Motti Regev, The coming of Rock, pp.161-191
Nocke, Alexandra, *Israel and the Emergence of Mediterranean Identity: Expressions of Locality in Music and Literature*, Volume 11, Number 1, Spring 2006
http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/israel_studies/v011/11.1nocke.pdf
Shalom Hanoch –Maya http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q28shpqxYyl&feature=related
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7vl9-S3OhHs&feature=related
Yeudit Ravitz- Snap out of it
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e4QsF4Rvl8Y&translated=1
Aviv Gefen- The letter
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vjvp3yFfy4&feature=related

29. Wednesday, November 17: Israeli Folk Dance
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=66m_awLPFh0&feature=related

30. Thursday, November 18 Israeli Modern Dance- BATSHEVA AND BATH-DOR DANCE COMPANIES:
http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/judaica/ejed_0002_0003_0_02177.htm

31. Monday, November 22: Israeli Theatre- The first years: Haohel and Habima
http://www.habima.co.il/show_item.asp?levelId=64339

32. Wednesday, November 24: Israeli Theatre of the absurd- Chanoch Levin
http://drifteragain.wordpress.com/ترجم-chanoch-levin-intoenglish/
Thursday, November 25: THANKSGIVING DAY: NO CLASS

33. Monday, November 29: Israeli art: Betzalel- The first years
Dalia Manor, Biblical Zionism in Bezalel art, Israel Studies 6,1 (2001) 55-75

34. Wednesday, December 1: Israeli art today
Gidon Ofret, “New Horizon”: The Quest for a Universalist Lyrical Abstract, 1948-1963, in One hundred years of Art in Israel, pp.147-175

Waltz with Bashir.http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xi5vfipPVeI&feature=related

36. Monday, December 6: Tel Aviv and Jerusalem: Two different countries within the state of Israel
Maoz Azaryaho, Introduction—“One of the World’s Coolest Cities”: Tel-Aviv at 100, in: Israel Studies, Volume 14, Number 3, Fall 2009, pp. VII-XII
For more information about Israel history, culture and politics you can always visit: http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org