

JST 103 – CRN 28103

Location: Stevenson Hall Room 220

Office hours: Tues – Thurs, 2:00 – 3:00

or by appointment

Office telephone: 312 413 2102

Instructor: Nancy S. Gebhardt

Time: Tues – Thurs 11:00 – 12:15

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**JST 103 Israel Studies:
Israel and Palestine
Narratives of a Complex Society**

Course Description:

This is a literature class for everyone who is curious about the complicated nature of Israel and its context in the modern Middle East. Using both major and lesser-known literary texts, translated from Arabic, German, Hebrew, Yiddish, and other languages, along with some that originated in English, it will provide context for insights into the foundations that are the text of the modern Jewish nation, the history of the area, and the conflicts that are part of its existence. Using historical texts, memoir, essay, poetry and fiction, it will present the multiplicity of narratives of the State and its many and varied peoples. We will view film, hear music and interact with outside speakers. By experiencing the process through the eyes of natives, immigrants, philosophers, political scientists, feminists of multiple backgrounds, including Israelis and Palestinians this class will attempt to convene a balanced and dispassionate discourse. Whenever possible speakers will be joining us to help in this process.

Required Texts:

- *Apples From the Desert*, Savyon Liebrecht; City University Of New York - bookstore
- *The Zionist Idea, A Historical Analysis and Reader*, Arther Hertzberg - bookstore
- *A Tale of Love and Darkness*, Oz, Amos; Harcourt Books.

Policies:

- **Attendance is required.**
More than five unexcused absences (17% of class time) will lower your grade by one letter. More than seven unexcused absences (25% of class time) will result in failure of this class. Being excused means requesting and receiving permission from the instructor ahead of time, either in person or by email. Conflicts with religious holidays must be worked out with the instructor ahead of time.
- **Assignments must be handed in on time.**
Students must hand in a hard copy of all papers AS WELL AS submitting them online to the Blackboard “Digital Drop Box” where they will be screened through “Safe Assignment.” **NEVER** ‘lose’ the digital copy of your paper until you have received a grade. **YOU are responsible** for maintaining a back-up copy in case transmission fails. **NO GRADE** will be given for a paper that has not been received by me through “Safe Assignment.” If I do not receive a digital copy AND a hard copy the student will receive a failing grade.

- **Plagiarism:** All work must be original, written during this semester, and written expressly for this course by you. Any use of outside sources must be indicated according to MLA guidelines and cited. See UIC Student Handbook for details.

Requirements:

Each student must complete ALL assigned work:

- 1 – research project 8-10 pages 15% of grade (including presentation)
- 2 – three response paper assignments 10% each (total 30% of grade).
- 3 – midterm – 15 % of grade
- 4 – final – 15 % of grade.
- 5 – attendance – participation, in-class and group assignments (discussions) – 25% of grade.

Bibliography

- Abramson, Glenda, Ed. *The Oxford Book of Hebrew Short Stories*. Oxford: New York, 1996.
- Alter, Robert. *Modern Hebrew Literature*. West Orange, New Jersey: Behrman House, Inc., 1976.
- Collins, Larry and Dominique Lapierre. *O Jerusalem*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1972.
- Diamant, Carol and Lily Rattok. *Ribcage, Israeli Women's Fiction*. New York: Hadassah, The Women's Zionist Organization of America, 1994.
- Doom, Risa. *New Women's Writing from Israel*. Portland, OR: Vallentine Mitchell, 1996.
- Hertzberg, Arthur. *The Zionist Idea*. Philadelphia, PA: The Jewish Publication Society, 1997.
- Liebrecht, Savyon. *Apples From the Desert, Selected Stories*. New York: University of New York, 1998.
- Mintz, Alan, Ed. *Reading Hebrew Literature, Critical Discussions of Six Modern Texts*. Hanover, NH: Brandeis University Press, 2003.
- Nusseibeh, Sari with Anthony David. *Once Upon a Country, A Palestinian Life*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2007.
- Oz, Amos. *How to Cure a Fanatic*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2006.
- Ibid.* *A Tale of Love and Darkness*. Orlando, FL: Harcourt Books, 2003.
- Ibid.* *Under This Blazing Light, Essays*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1979.
- Ibid.* *The Hill of Evil Counsel*. Orlando, FL: Harcourt Books, 1976.
- Raider, Mark A. and Miriam B. Raider-Roth. *The Plough Woman: Records of Pioneer Women of Palestine Lebanon*, NH: Brandeis University Press, University Press of New England, 2002.
- Ramras-Rauch, Gila and Joseph Michman-Melkman, eds., *Facing the Holocaust, Selected Israeli Fiction*. Philadelphia, PA: The Jewish Publication Society, 1985.
- Reinharz, Shulamit and Mark A. Rader; *American Women and the Zionist Enterprise*. same; 2004
- Sachar, Howard M. *A History of Israel from the Rise of Zionism to Our Time*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1996.
- Shehadeh, Raja. *Palestinian Walks*. New York: Scribner, 2007.
- Ibid.* *Strangers in the House*. South Royalton, VT: Steerforth Press, 2002.
- Shilo, Margalit. *Princess or prisoner? Jewish women in Jerusalem, 1840-191*. Lebanon, NH: Brandeis Series on Jewish Women, Brandeis University Press, University Press of New England, 2005.
- Stein, Kenneth *Heroic Diplomacy: Sadat, Kissinger, Carter, Begin and the Quest for Arab-Israeli Peace*
- Troen, S. Ilan. *Imagining Zion*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2003.
- Wright, Thomas, Ed. *Early Travels in Palestine*. New York: KTAV Publishing House, Inc., 1968

Reading and Assignment Schedule

BB – reading is posted on Blackboard site

DL – *A Tale of Love and Darkness*, Amos Oz

AD – *Apples from the Desert*, Savyon Liebrecht

ZI - *The Zionist Idea* - Arthur Herzberg

Section I – Historical Survey:

Week One - Introduction:

General outline of Jewish History

Readings:

BB - “The Two Israels” - NY Times dd 06/22/08

Week Two

The Enlightenment/ *Haskalah*

Zionism and the “New Jew”

Readings:

ZI - “Introduction” by Arthur Herzberg, pp 15 - 100

ZI - “Intro to Theodor Herzl” - pp. 200 – 204

ZI - “The Jewish State” pp. 204 –226

Week Three

British Mandate, WWI

Film: *Dreamers and Builders*

Readings:

BB - “Nerves” – Joseph Brenner

BB - “I Become a Worker” – Batya Brenner

Week Four

Yishuv, Arab Conflicts, WWII, Holocaust

Film: *What I Saw in Hebron*

Readings:

BB - “Enemy Territory” – Hanoch Bartov

AFTD - “Hayuta’s Engagement Party” – Savyon Liebrecht

Week Five

Statehood, War of Independence

Readings:

LD - Chap. 40 and 44, Amos Oz

Week 6

Collectives and other Settlements

Film:

“Living for Tomorrow” the price

Readings:

BB Brenner, Y.H. - “No Way Out” *Modern Hebrew Literature*

LD Oz , Amos - *A Tale of Love and Darkness* –, pages tba

Week 7

Review an Midterm

Section II – Issues

Week 8

Wars and Intifadas

Readings:

BB - Thomas Jefferson, “the Declaration of Independence

BB - David Ben Gurion, “Declaration of Independence of the State of Israel’

BB - Hamas Charter

Week 9

Arab Population – Palestinians and the Arab world

Readings:

BB - “I would like to tell you something” - John Kerry

BB - “The Prisoner” – S. Yizhar

BB - “Walk 6 – An Imagined Sarha” by Raja Sheheda from *Palestinian Walks*

Week 10

Ethnicity/Immigration

Readings:

AD - “Written in Stone”

Week 11

Peace Movements and Human Rights Organizations

Film: Raja Shehedah – Palestinian Walks from *NY Times* website

Readings:

BB - “Cameras Emerge as a Tool” Isabel Kershner, *NY Times* DD 6/8/08

Week 12

Women in Israel

Readings:

AD - "A Room on the Roof" Savyon Liebrecht

AD - "The Road to Cedar City" " "

Week 13

Religious Differences

Readings:

AD - "Apples from the Desert"

Week 14

Culture: Music, Art, Drama, Dance, Theater, Film

Film: *Walk on Water*

Readings:

BB - "Hovering at Low Altitude" Dalia Ravikovitch

Week 15 - More

Presentations