

ANTHROPOLOGY OF ISRAEL

ANTH/35150 /25150; MAPS/CMES 35150; NEHC 35147/25147; JWSC 25149

Instructor: Morrie Fred Thursdays 3-6 p.m. Saieh 242

This seminar explores the dynamics of Israeli culture and society through a combination of weekly screenings of Israeli fiction and documentary films with readings from ethnographic and other relevant research. Among the (often overlapping) topics to be covered in this examination of the institutional and ideological construction of Israeli identity/ies: the absorption of immigrants; ethnic, class, and religious tensions; the kibbutz; military experience; the Holocaust; evolving attitudes about gender and sexuality; the struggle for minorities' rights; and Arab-Jewish relations.

In addition to the readings, participants will be expected to view designated films before class related to the topic (indicated with * asterisk). These are available at Regenstein, Hillel, or on Netflix demand. [M] indicates film that is available on www.maale.co.il

Required text: Rosenthal, Donna (2008). *The Israelis*. Free Press.

All individual articles are available for download on Chalk Library Reserve.

[NOTE: Instructor reserves the right to make alterations in syllabus as deemed necessary.]

Session I (March 30): Introduction: Themes in Constructing Israeli Identity(ies)

In class: ***A History of Israeli Cinema (Nadjari, 2009)*; clip from *Avodah (Lerski, 1935)***

Shapira, A. (2012). "The Emergence of the Zionist Movement." In *Israel: A History*, 3-26.

Waltham: Brandeis U. Press.

Almog, O. (2000). "Introduction"; "Idealistic Euphoria." In *The Sabra*, 1-72.

Nordau, Max (1995). "Jewry of Muscle." In Mendes-Flohr, P. et al. (eds). *The Jew in the Modern World*, 547-8.

Grimmeisen, J. (2015). "Halutzah or Beauty Queen?: National Images of Women in Early Israeli Society." *Israel Studies* 20: 27-52.

Avisar, I. (2005). "The National and the Popular in Israeli Cinema." *Shofar* 24:125-143.

Jacobson, D. (2004). "The Ma'ale School." *Israel Studies* 9: 31-60.

<http://www.amara.org/en/videos/bpElvW2fvW2/en/501951/>

****He Walked through the Fields (Millo, 1967)***

Session II (April 6): A Nation of Immigrants In class: ***Forget Baghdad (Samir, 2002)*: interview with Ella Shohat); *The Immigrants (Einstein/Zohar)***

Rosenthal, D. (2008). *The Israelis*, chapters 5-8.

Gutwein, D. (2004). "From Melting Pot to Multiculturalism; or, The Privatization of Israeli Identity." In Shapira, A. *Israeli Identity in Transition*, 215-231.

Smootha, S. (2008). "The mass immigrations to Israel: A comparison of the failure of the Mizrahi immigrants of the 1950s with the success of the Russian immigrants of the 1990s." *J. Israeli History* 27: 1-27.

Abbink, J. (2002). "Ethnic Trajectories in Israel. Comparing the "Bene Israel" and "Beta Israel" Communities. *Anthropos* 97: 3-19.

Elias, N. (2010). "The New Second Generation: Non-Jewish Olim, Black Jews and Children of Migrant Workers." *Israel Studies* 15: 73-94.

Shohat, E. (2010). "The Representation of the Sephardim/Mizrahim." In *Israeli Cinema*, 113-140.

Kimchi, R. (2011). "A Turn towards Modernity: The Ideological Innovation of Sallah." *Shofar* 29:1-22.

**Sallah (Kishon, 1964); Turn Left at the End of the World (Nesher, 2004)*

*www.youtube.com/watch?v=5G6f0ztdoCk (Spielberg Film Archive—Ethiopian Exodus)

Session III (April 13): The Kibbutz: Evolution of a 'Total Institution'

In class: *'Degania': The First Kibbutz Fights Its Last Battle (Rubin, 2010s)*

Spiro, M. (2004). "Utopia and its Discontents: The Kibbutz and Its Historical Vicissitudes." *American Anthropologist* 106:556-568.

Lieblich, A. (2010). "A century of childhood, parenting, and family life in the Kibbutz." *Journal of Israeli History* 29:1-24.

Ashkenazi, M. (2009). "From Cooperative to Renewed Kibbutz: The Case of Kibbutz 'Galil', Israel." *Middle Eastern Studies* 45:571-592.

Kedem, E. (2011). "Kibbutz Films in Transition: from Morality to Ethics." In *Israeli Cinema*, 326-339.

Katriel, T. (1997). "Pioneering Women Revisited in Representations of Gender in Some Israeli Resettlement Museums." *Women's Studies International Forum* 675-87.

**Noa at 17 (Yeshurun, 1981); Children of the Sun (Tal, 2007); Spielberg Film Archives. "A Day in Degania."* www.youtube.com/watch?v=WwsHDSkhdFw

Session IV (April 20): Grappling with the Holocaust In class: *The Little Dictator (Cohn, 2015 {M})*

Zerubavel, Yael (1994). "The Death of Memory and the Memory of Death: Masada and the Holocaust as Historical Metaphors." *Representations* 45:72-100.

Ben-Amos, A. et al. (1999). "Holocaust Day and Memorial Day in Israeli Schools: Ceremonies, Education and History." *Israel Studies* 4:258-284.

Davidson, S. (1992). "Mourning and the Holocaust Survivor: Bereavement in Israel from War, Holocaust, and Terror." In *Holding on to Humanity—The Message of Holocaust Survivors: The Shamai Davidson Papers*, 160-188.

Cohen, S. (2010). "Survivors of the Holocaust and Their Children." *Journal of Modern Jewish Studies* 9:165-183.

Avisar, I. (2011). "The Holocaust in Israeli Cinema as a Conflict between Survival and Morality." In *Israeli Cinema*, 151-167.

* *Walk on Water (Fox, 2004); Under the Domim Tree (Cohen, 1995)*

Session V (April 27): The Military In class: *The Divide (Herling, 2011)*

Rosenthal, D. "A People's Army." *The Israelis*, 49-78.

Helman, S. (1997). "Militarism and the Construction of Community." *J. Political and Military Sociology* 25: 305-332.

Kachtan, D. (2012). "The Construction of Ethnic Identity in the Military—From the Bottom Up." *Israel Studies* 17:150-175.

Sasson-Levy, O. (2011). "Research on Gender and the Military in Israel." *Israel Studies Review* 26:73-98.

Rimalt, N. (2007). "Women in the Sphere of Masculinity: The Double-Edged Sword of Women's Integration in the Military." *Duke J. of Gender Law & Policy* 14:101-123.

Katriel, T. (1991). "Picnics in a Military Zone: Rituals of Parenting and the Politics of Consensus." In *Communal Webs*, 71-91.

Weiss, E. (2011). "The Interrupted Sacrifice: Hegemony and Moral Crisis among Israeli Conscientious Objectors." *American Ethnologist* 38: 576-588.

* *Zero Motivation (Lavie, 2014); One of Us (Barbash, 1989)*

Session VI (May 4): War In class: *The House on the Water (Regev, 2012)*; *By Way of the Wadi (Bachrach, 2001 [M])*

Bilu, Y. (2000). "War-Related Loss and Suffering in Israeli Society: An Historical Perspective." *Israel Studies* 5:1-31.

Shapira, A., ed. (1970). *The Seventh Day: Soldiers' Talk about the Six-Day War*, 14-17; 65-87; 130-153; 179-194.

Lomsky-Feder, E. (1995). "The Meaning of War Through Veterans' Eyes: A Phenomenological Analysis of Life Stories." *Intl. Sociology* 10:463-482.

Liebman, C. (1993). "The Myth of Defeat: The Memory of the Yom Kippur War in Israeli Society." *Middle Eastern Studies* 29:399-418.

Hollander, P. ((2013). "Shifting Manhood: Masculinity and the Lebanon War in Beaufort and Waltz with Bashir." In Harris, R. (ed.) *Narratives of Dissent*, 346-36.

Yosef, R. (2010). "War Fantasies: Memory, Trauma and Ethics in Ari Folman's Waltz with Bashir." *J. Modern Jewish Studies* 9:311-326.

Almog, S. (2009). "From Paratroopers to Waltz with Bashir—The Absence of Law From Israeli War Films." *Studies in Law, Politics and Society* 50:19-64.

Quart, L. (2008). "Surviving a Futile War: An Interview with Joseph Cedar." *Cineaste* 33:27-31.

IN ADDITION: Read other online articles on CHALK relevant to the two films below.

***Beaufort (Cedar, 2007); Waltz with Bashir (Folman, 2008)**

Session VII (May 11): Religion, Gender, and Sexuality

In class: *And Thou Shalt Love (Elbaum, 2007 [M])*; *Tel Aviv Stories (Menahemi, 1993)*

Rosenthal, D. *The Israelis*, ch. 9, 10,11,16, 17.

Peleg, Y. (2013). "Marking a New Holy Community: God's Neighbors and the Ascendancy of a New Religious Hegemony in Israel." *Jewish Film & New Media* 1:64-86.

Ariel, Y. (2007). "Gay, Orthodox and Trembling: The Rise of Jewish Orthodox Gay Consciousness, 1970s-2000s." *Journal of Homosexuality* 52:91-109.

www.havruta.org.il

Abramson, M. (2016). "A Model of Different Femininity in Film." *Jewish Film & New Media* 4:43-67.

Weiss, S. (2016). "Frum with Benefits: Israeli Television, Globalization and Srugim's American Appeal." *Jewish Film & New Media* 4:68-89. Also: www.srugimrecap.wordpress.com

Reiter, Y. (2016). "Feminists in the Temple of Orthodoxy: The Struggle of the Women of the Wall to Change the Status Quo." *Shofar* 34:79-107.

* ***Gett (Elkabetz, 2014); God's Neighbors (Ya'ish, 2012)***

Session VIII (May 18): Arabs and Jews: Negotiating Identities

In class: ***Arab Labor (TV series, 2007); Bus Stop (Ir Amin, 2009)***

Rosenthal, D. (2008). *The Israelis*, chapters 12-15.

Klein, M. (2014). "Arab Jew in Palestine." *Israel Studies* 19:134-153. (discuss Naor)

Scham, P. et al. (2005). "Appendix: Israeli and Palestinian Traditional Narratives of their History: a Distillation." *Shared histories: a Palestinian-Israeli Dialogue*.

Bekerman, Z. et al. (2010). "Fearful symmetry: Palestinian and Jewish teachers confront contested narratives in integrated bilingual education." *Teaching and Teacher Education* 507-515.

Maoz, I. (2011). "Does contact work in protracted asymmetrical conflict? Appraising 20 years of reconciliation-aimed encounters between Israeli Jews and Palestinians." *J. Peace Research* 48:115-125.

Hochberg, G. (2010). "To Be or Not to Be an Israeli Arab: Sayed Kashua and the Prospect of Minority Speech-Acts." *Comparative Literature* 62:68-88.

Assadi, G. (2004). "Upholding the Palestinian Image in Israeli Cinema: An Interview with Mohammed Bakri." *Cineaste* 29:41-43.

Goldstein, K. (2007). "Citadel into David's Tower: Palestinian Memory and the Multicultural Fantastic." *Radical History Review* 99:173-186.

****Fictitious Marriage (Bouzaglo, 1988); Beyond the Walls (Barbash, 1984)***

Session IX (May 25): Settlements

In class: ***The Ranch (Domb, 2004 [M]); Barriers (Rise, 2011 [M])***

Katriel, T. (1990). "Tower and Stockade: Dialogic Narration in Israeli Settlement." *Ethos.* *The Quarterly Journal of Speech* 76:359-380.

Feige, M. (2009). *Settling in the Hearts: Jewish Fundamentalism in the Occupied Territories*, ch. 1,5,9,12. Wayne State U.

Possick, C. (2004). "Locating and relocating oneself as a Jewish Settler on the West Bank: Ideological squatting and eviction." *J. Environmental Psychology* 24:53-69.

Newman, D. (1992). "A Comparative Study of Gush Emunim and Peace Now." *Middle East Studies* 28:509-530.

Cohen, S. (2007). "Tensions Between Military Service and Jewish Orthodoxy in Israel: Implications Imagined and Real." *Israel Studies* 12:103-126.

Freedman, R. (2010). "Can the Conflict over the Temple Mount/Haram be Solved?" *Israel Studies Forum* 25:73-87.

Sklar, R. (2001). "The Human Cost of Ideology: An Interview with Joseph Cedar." *Cineaste* 27:26-29.

***5 Broken Cameras (Burnat, Davidi, 2011; House 103 (Domb, 2005 [M])**

Session X (June 1): Final Presentations