

Readings in Contemporary Hebrew Literature (Hebrew Studies 533/ Jewish Studies 533)

University of Wisconsin- Madison

Van Hise 574 MW 2:30-3:45

Fall 2009

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Hebrew & Semitic Studies

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Office Hours: MW 3:45-4:45 or by appointment

Course Overview: This semester this course will investigate the representation of the Holocaust in twentieth century Hebrew culture. Students will read original literary materials produced over a sixty year period by individuals responding to the events faced by European Jewry between 1933 and 1945. By reading these texts produced by the Holocaust's Jewish victims and their families, its survivors, children of survivors, and other Jews writing both contemporaneously and much later, students will examine important issues raised by the Holocaust and how various types of writers respond differently to specific issues and stress certain issues more than others.

Simultaneous with their investigation of the Holocaust's treatment in Hebrew culture, students will achieve greater fluency in the Hebrew language. Students will strengthen their reading skills through the reading of unadapted Hebrew texts that will be accompanied by vocabulary lists; their listening and speaking skills through participation in course discussion which will be conducted in Hebrew, and their writing skills through completion of both short answer homework assignments and essay questions in Hebrew.

Attendance, Tardiness, and Preparedness Policy: Students are expected to attend **every** class and to arrive **on time**. Attendance will be taken every class and students with more than three undocumented absences will be penalized. Please notify the instructor of any expected tardiness or absence. In addition, students should **always** bring assigned readings to class for reference and be prepared to discuss them. Such preparedness will be an important component of the participation grade.

Breakdown of Grades (approximate):

Regular Homework Assignments: 40% - This is an intensive writing class, and students will be asked to write something for every class. Assignments will vary throughout the semester. Examples include responses to short answer questions, short essays, and summaries of class discussion. To achieve a higher grade, students will have the opportunity to correct their work and resubmit it for a higher grade within a week after it is returned. Late assignments will not be accepted, but the lowest 10% of grades

will be dropped at the end of the semester.

Take-Home Final: 20% - Students will be asked to write two to three short essays related to the course's theme. In these essays students will be asked to compare and contrast works read this semester. A paper copy of the final will be due by 12:05PM on December 23rd. Final grades will be reduced by ten percent for every day late.

Attendance: 10% - Class attendance proves integral to student success. This portion of the grade is meant to reward those who take this responsibility seriously and penalize those with more than three undocumented absences.

Participation: 20% - Students will be expected to exhibit their linguistic comprehension through participation in class discussion or through the asking of questions. This will also help students work on their Hebrew speaking. In addition, each student will be asked to prepare a five minute Hebrew talk on a matter of contemporary concern, preferably a subject related to the course or Jewish Studies. Students looking for a topic should scan one of the Hebrew dailies for inspiration. See Haaretz (www.haaretz.co.il), Yediot Ahronot (www.ynet.co.il), and Maariv (www.nrg.co.il).

Lecture Summaries (1 Page): 10% each - Students will be asked to write one-page summaries of two lectures sponsored by the Center for Jewish Studies. More information about CJS lectures can be found on the Center's website (<http://jewishstudies.wisc.edu/>). The October 28th lecture to be delivered by Avinoam Lourie is mandatory.

Disability Policy:

Students registered with disabilities at McBurney Disability Resource Center can receive accommodations with the presentation of the proper forms. Disabled students should meet with me during office hours or by appointment to arrange these accommodations.

Code of Academic Integrity:

All students are expected to conduct their academic work according to university standards. Students should be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and do their best to avoid it. To learn more on what constitutes academic misconduct see (<http://students.wisc.edu/saja/pdf/UWS14.pdf>).

Food, Drink, and Cell Phone Policy:

Students are asked to refrain from eating and drinking during class. Cell phones should be turned off before class.

Jewish Holidays: Class will be cancelled on Sept. 28th to allow for observance of the Jewish holiday Yom Kippur.

Recommended Texts:

Edna Lauden and Liora Weinbach, eds. Multi Dictionary Bilingual Learners Dictionary Hebrew-Hebrew-English English-Hebrew. Tel Aviv: Ad Publishers, 1993.

A. Kahane, ed. The Oxford English-Hebrew Dictionary. New York: Oxford, 1998.

Accessing Course Materials: Primary readings for the class will be posted on *Learn@UW*. Students will be asked to print out these materials and bring them with them to class.

Course Schedule: (Tentative schedule subject to change with due notice):

September 2 General Introduction

VICTIMS OF THE HOLOCAUST

September 9 -16 Moshe Flinker *Moshe's Diary*

Reading:

פלינקר, משה. הנער משה: יומנו של משה פלינקר. ירושלים: יד ושם, 1958, 11-15, 21-23, ו 54-63.

September 21 & 23 Yitzhak Katznelson *Vital Notebook*

Reading:

קצנלסון, יצחק. כתבים אחרונים 1940-1943. עין חרוד: הוצאת הקיבוץ המאוחד, 1947, 142-143 ו 157-158.

RELATIVES OF VICTIMS & JEWISH BYSTANDERS

September 30 -October 7 Uri Tzvi Greenberg “At the End of the Road Stands Rebbe Levi Yitzhak of Berdichev and Demands a Response From on High”

Reading:

גרינברג, אורי צבי. רחובות הנהר: ספר האיליות והכח. ירושלים: הוצאת שוקן, 1951, 271-274.

October 12 -19 Natan Alterman, “On the Child Abraham” & “Response to an Italian Captain After a Disembarkation Night”

Reading:

הנקין, תמר. אנתולוגיה לספרות העברית הישראלית בדורנו. ירושלים: המחלקה לחינוך ולתרבות בגולה של ההסתדרות הציונית העולמית, 1977, 109-110 ו 112-3.

CHILD SURVIVORS

October 21-28 Aharon Applefeld “Bertha”

Reading:

אפלפלד. אהרון. חמישה סיפורים. ירושלים: המחלקה לחינוך ולתרבות בגולה של ההסתדרות הציונית העולמית, תשל"ז, 53-37.

SECOND GENERATION HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS

November 2 & 4 Rivka Miriam “My Yellow Shirt,” “My Dead Fathers,” & “Infinity”

Reading:

פלד, עודד, ער. כתונתי הצהובה : השואה בשירת הדור השני: אנתולוגיה. רמת גן : אגודת הסופרים העברים בישראל, 1997, 18-19 ו 22 ו 30.

November 9 & 11 Oded Peled “Declaration of Principles” & “Under the Styrax Tree”

Reading:

פלד, עודד, ער. כתונתי הצהובה : השואה בשירת הדור השני: אנתולוגיה. רמת גן : אגודת הסופרים העברים בישראל, 1997, 134-135 ו 142-144.

November 16-25 Savyon Liebrecht, “General Montgomery's Victory”

Reading:

ליברכט, סביון. צריך סוף לסיפור אהבה. ירושלים: כתר, 1995, 117-140.

HOLOCAUST AND POST-MEMORY

November 30 & December 2 Etgar Keret, “The Siren” & “Shoes”

Reading:

קרת, אתגר. צנורות תל-אביב : עם עובד, 1992, 9-12.
קרת, אתגר. געגועי לקיסינג'ר תל-אביב : זמורה, ביתן, 1994, 87-89.

December 7 & 9 Dea Hadar, “Polish Girl Squared”

Reading:

הדר, דאה. נומי נומי, עיסאוויה. תל-אביב : גוונים, תש"ס, 32-36.

December 14 Conclusions