

Attention!

This is a representative syllabus. The syllabus for the course you are enrolled in will likely be different.

Please refer to your instructor's syllabus for more information on specific requirements for a given semester.

HEBREW 372 HONORS: MODERN HEBREW LITERATURE IN TRANSLATION

Spring 2001

Instructor:

Office:

Phone:

E-mail:

OBJECTIVES:

The purpose of this course is to familiarize students with the richly variegated body of modern Hebrew literature, while challenging them to read and write analytically. We will survey the major developments in this literature, from its origins in nineteenth-century Eastern Europe to its flowering in present-day Israel. Addressing questions of esthetics and literary context, we will highlight such major themes as the rise of Zionism; the negation of the Diaspora; the pioneer experience; the Arab-Israeli conflict; responses to the Holocaust; the relationship of the individual to the collectivity; optimism and disillusionment. Readings will consist of novels, short stories and poems in English translation. Literary critical evaluations will be assigned in connection with oral presentations and term papers.

REQUIREMENTS, WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS AND EXAMINATIONS:

At least half of each class session will be devoted to discussion of the assigned texts. Students are expected to attend all class sessions and to be prepared to discuss the readings assigned for each session. Students are responsible for all of the material in the assigned readings and the class discussions, even if they are absent.

ORAL PRESENTATIONS:

Each student will be required to deliver an oral presentation on a text or texts to be chosen in consultation with the instructor. As part of the presentation, students will be asked to prepare and distribute an outline and bibliography to the other class members. The dates of the oral presentations will be determined in consultation with the instructor.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS:

Early in the course, students will be required to write a 5-7 page paper on a topic chosen in consultation with the instructor. In addition, each student will write a 10-15 page term paper based on the research done for his or her oral presentation. Term papers will be devoted to comparative literary analyses of texts chosen in consultation with the instructor.

MIDTERM EXAMINATION:

There will be an in-class midterm exam.

FINAL EXAMINATION:

The in-class final will examine all of the material covered in the course. It will consist of short-answer and essay questions. The dates of these examinations cannot be changed. No make-up exams will be scheduled.

HEBREW 372 HONORS: MODERN HEBREW LITERATURE IN TRANSLATION

GRADING:

The final grade will be calculated on the following basis:

Class participation:	10%
5-7 page paper	10%
Oral Presentation	15%
Term Paper	20%
Midterm Examination:	20%
Final Examination:	25%

STUDENT CONDUCT:

Students are reminded that they are responsible for obeying the University's rules regarding academic misconduct as set forth in the Code of Student Conduct.

ASSIGNED READINGS:

Students are required to purchase the following books from SBX:

- Glenda Abramson ed., *The Oxford Book of Hebrew Short Stories*. [= Abramson]
- S.Y. Agnon, *A Book That Was Lost and Other Stories* [= Agnon]
- T. Carmi, *The Penguin Book of Hebrew Verse* [=Carmi]
- A.B. Yehoshua, *Mr. Mani*
- David Grossman, *See Under: Love*

All readings are to be done **before** the date indicated. Assigned texts must be **brought to class** for discussion.

Week 1: **The Beginnings of Modern Hebrew Literature**

Readings:

- Abramson, Introduction;
- Mendele Mokher Sefarim, "Burned Out";
- M. Y. Berdyczewski, "Without Hope";
- M. Z. Feierberg, "The Calf" [=Abramson, 1-44]

Week 2: **Caught Between Two Worlds: The *Shtetl* and Modernity**

Readings:

- Y.D. Berkowitz, "Cut Off";
- Y. H. Brenner, "Travel Notes";
- Dvora Baron, "Sunbeams" [=Abramson, 56-93]

The Old Yishuv (Life in Israel before 1948)

Readings:

- H. Hazaz, "Rahamim" [=Abramson, 94-101]
- S.Y. Agnon, "From Lodging to Lodging";
- "A Whole Loaf" [=Agnon, 147-59; 355-69]

First paper due

HEBREW 372 HONORS: MODERN HEBREW LITERATURE IN TRANSLATION

Week 3: **Tradition and Fantasy: S.Y. Agnon**

Readings:

Agnon, Introduction, "Agunot," "The Kerchief," "The Lady and The Peddler," "At the Outset of the Day"
[=Agnon, 3-29; 35-47; 55-66; 198-210; 370-77]

Native Israeli Literature and other stories of the early years

Readings:

S. Yizhar, "Habakuk";
B. Tammuz, "The Swimming Contest" [=Abramson, 102-138]

Week 4: Readings:

A. Megged, "Tears";
M. Shamir, "Doctor Schmidt" [=Abramson, 139-59]
N. Shaham, "Speak to the Wind";
D. Shahar, "The Death of the Little God" [=Abramson, 170-186]

Midterm

Week 5: **Modern Hebrew Poetry**

Readings:

Selected poems by Bialik, Greenberg, Gilboa, Amichai, Pagis, and Zach
[=Carmi, pp. 509-16; 528-32; 559-62; 568-72; 574-77]

Week 6: **The Holocaust in Hebrew Literature**

Readings:

David Grossman, *See Under: Love*

Week 7: **Oral Presentations**

Week 8: **The Individual in Society**

Readings:

A.B. Yehoshua, "The Last Commander" [=Abramson, 220-236]
A. Appelfeld, "Cold Spring" [=Abramson, 204-212]
Amos Oz, "Strange Fire" [=Abramson, 284-308]

HEBREW 372 HONORS: MODERN HEBREW LITERATURE IN TRANSLATION

Week 9: **Israeli Literature Today**

Readings:

A.B. Yehoshua, *Mr. Mani*

Week 10: **Term papers due**

Women's Voices

Readings:

Poems of Leah Goldberg, Zelda, and Dahlia Ravikovitch

[=Carmi, 552-58; 578-79]

Readings:

Amalia Kahana-Carmon, "Bridal Veil";

Shulamith Hareven, "My Straw Chairs"

Yehudit Hendel, "A Story With No Address";

Ruth Almog, "Dora's Secret"

[=Abramson, 187-203; 255-268; 363-69; 397-406]

Final Exam