

**JWST CULTURES OF ISRAEL 300.02**

**Fall 2012**

**Naomi Gale PhD. Schusterman Visiting Professor**

**Tuesday & Thursday 10:50AM-12:05PM**

**Course description**

From time immemorial, Jews lived amongst other societies as minorities and as such during their interaction with the majority' culture were influenced by the majority's culture and in turn contributed to the indigenous culture. Consequently, there is no one Jewish culture but remarkable number, which is the product of these interactions, i.e. Israel hosts Jews from over one hundred countries where each group brought its own colorful and amazing culture, which makes it a truly multicultural society. Furthermore, even the manifestation of the Jewish religion, its rites, liturgies and rituals differs from one group to the other.

This introductory course explores Jewish cultures their development and their contribution to the development of the Israeli culture. The emphasis will be on the complexities of the Israeli society and the manifestation of its culture with its numerous ethnic groups.

**Office Hours: Thursday 12:30-2:30PM**

**Required Readings:**

The course is relies on the *Israel Studies: An Anthology* by the American-Israeli Cooperative Enterprise (AICE)

R. Scheindlin, *A Short History of the Jews* 1998 (Oxford U

D. Biale, ed., *Cultures of the Jews*, 2002 (Schocken).

**Grading:**

Your grades will be composed of three parts

1. A Summary of an article from the syllabus (see guidelines) 10%

2. An essay of a topic of your choice submitted in mid term. 40%

Take-home exam (due on day of final) 40%

Class attendance and Participation 10%

**Requirements & Expectations**

Students must be prepared for each class. Students are responsible for the preparation of all the material detailed in the syllabus below, as well as any additional texts and assignments that may be added during the semester. It is essential that all work must be completed and submitted on time. Students with special circumstances please see me during office hours as soon as possible so allowances can be made for them.

**Class Schedule:** *(please note that changes may be made by instructor)*

TUE Aug. 21: Organizational Session

**I Introduction to Jewish History**

THU Aug. 23: continue introductory lesson. (Reading: Declaration of the Establishment of the State of Israel; The Law of Return).

TUE Aug. 28: Gutmann, E. The Declaration of the Establishment of the State of Israel. (Examination of the Declaration of the Independence of the State of Israel)

THU Aug. 30: The Law of Return: Discussion

## **History**

TUE Sep. 4: Maor, Moshe. The History of Zionism [pdf]

THU Sep. 6: "Early Modern" Judaism in the Middle East under the Ottoman Empire and in Europe: Scheindlin, 123-171

TUE Sep. 11: Halamish, Aviva. Mandatory Palestine: The Yishuv [pdf]

THU Sep. 13: Aronson, Shlomo. Israel and the Holocaust [pdf]

TUE Sep. 18: The Jewish Twentieth Century the Holocaust, Zionism and the states of Israel: Scheindlin, 199-263

THU Sep. 20: Gelber, Yoav. The Israeli-Arab War of 1948 [pdf]

## **Society, ethnicity and Culture**

TUE Sep. 25: Roumani, Maurice M. Immigration and Absorption [pdf].

THU Sep. 27: The Cultural Mosaic of Jewish communities in North Africa, (Valensi 887-931), Middle East (Tobi 933- 974)

TUE Oct. 2: **Film: The Forgotten Refugees** follows by discussion.

THU Oct. 4: Ben-Porat, Guy. Multicultural Realities [pdf]

TUE Oct. 9: Yiftachel Oren, 2000. 'Ethnocracy' and its Discontents: minorities, protest and the Israeli polity, ***Critical Inquiry*, 26: 725-756**

THU Oct. 11: Kaplan Steven and Hagar Salamon. 2004. "Ethiopian Jews in Israel: A Part of the People or Apart from the People?". In *Jews in Israel: Contemporary Social and Cultural Patterns*, edited by Uzi Rebhun and Chaim I. Waxman. Hanover and London: University Press of America. Pp. 118-148. (DS126.5.J43 2004)

TUE Oct. 16: Izralowitz, R.E. and I. Abu Saad (1992) "Soviet Immigration: Ethnic Conflicts and Social Cohesion in Israel", in ***International Journal of Group Tension***, 2(1) pp. 23-41.

## **The Manifestation of Religion in Israel**

THU Oct. 18: Ravitsky Aviezer, 2000. Position Paper: Religious and secular Jews in Israel. IDI (The Israel Democracy Institute).

## **Women in Israel**

TUE Oct. 23: Azmon Yael and Dafna N. Izraeli (1993) "Introduction: Women in Israel – A sociological Overview", in Azmon Yael and Ernest Krausz (eds.) *Women in Israel: Studies of Israeli Society*, Vol. VI, Transaction Publishers, New Brunswick (USA) & London (UK), pp.1-24

## **The Arabs minority in Israel**

THU Oct. 25: Reiter Yitzhak, Israel and its Arab Minority pdf.

TUE Oct. 30: **Film: Cup Final**

## **Israeli Democracy**

THU Nov. 1: Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948; *Basic Law Human Dignity and Liberty*; *Basic Law Freedom of Occupation*.

### **TUE Nov. 6: ELECTION DAY NO CLASSES**

THU Nov. 8: Rubinstein, Amnon. Israel's Partial Constitution: The Basic Laws [pdf]

TUE Nov. 13: Barak, Aharon. The Values of the State of Israel as a Jewish and Democratic State [pdf].

THU Nov. 15: Arian, Asher, Shlomit Barnea, Pazit Ben-Nun, Yariv Tsfati, 2005. Democracy and the Media: Attitudes of Journalists and the Public, in **The Israel Democracy Institute, The Guttman Center, July 2005**, Special Issue in the Auditing Israeli Democracy Series, The Media and Israeli Democracy From Various Vantage Points. Pp. 13-38.

## **Israel Policy**

TUE Nov. 20: Nachmias, David. National Government Institutions [pdf]

### **THU Nov. 22: THANKSGIVING NO CLASSES**

TUE Nov. 27: Rafi Melnick and Yosef Mealem, Israel's Economy 1986-2008 [pdf]

**THU Nov. 29: CONCLUDING LESSON.**

## **Guidelines for reading and writing Summaries**

In order to help you read understand and write the major arguments, and/or analysis, and/or the framework of the author or the article you should pay attention to the following:

What is the main argument?

How the author(s) substantiate his argument(s)/analysis etc?

What did you learn from the article?

How the article contribute to your understanding of Jewish Culture?

Summaries should be approximately 1200-1500 words, 1.5 spaced, Time New Roman. You can write your essay following the above format of questions, or in your own way.

You can prepare these summaries in pairs, if you do please hand out one copy with both names on it. You may bring it to class or e-mail it to me.

The articles for the two summaries will be given in class at the beginning of the term.

**I am looking forward to a productive learning and enjoyable time.**