PS 139-03: Being Israeli and The Israeli Being

R 1:30 – 4:00 Block 8

In this seminar the students will become acquainted with Israeli history, society and identity. We will follow the history of the state of Israel as well as the Israeli state of mind through an examination of Israeli cinema and literature. In each class we will trace a different thread of the conflictual fabric of the Israeli Identity: being in a continuous state of war, being an immigrant, a soldier, a Palestinian, a religious Jew, a holocaust survivor, a woman, a Kibbutz member and more. Through scenes in movies and the pages of books we will explore the relationship between private and public in the Israeli context. As we shall see, the national history is part of the individual’s life story; collective and private identity merge; autobiography and history are interwoven. This investigation of the fusion between the personal and the collective will allow us an insightful view of the milestones of Israeli narratives.
Course Objectives:

- To become familiar with the history of the state of Israel, the Israeli society and the complex matrix of Israeli identities.
- To analyze the different aspects of Israeli identity within the context of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.
- To explore Israel as an example of global phenomena, such as democracy under the shadow of war and terror, minority-majority relations, multiculturalism and the status of religion within the state.
- To develop an interdisciplinary mode of thinking that will enable students to use literature, cinema and other forms of art as a means for critical studying of different societies.

Grades

Grades will be determined as follows:

a) 20%: Two (2) out of four (4) papers (5 pages max) that will summarize in an integrative way the films, novels and the readings on the different subjects we discuss in class. (Dates for submission are: 2/10; 2/24; 3/17; 4/14). (grades scale from 1-10)

b) 20%: Summary of two of the novels assigned for reading (2-3 pages).

c) 50% Final paper – 15-20 pages final paper (not including bibliography). You will have to submit outline for the paper by March, 3, 2011. The outline should be up to 3 pages describing the research question, the structure of the paper and suggested bibliographical items. The paper should be submitted by May, 5, 2011.

d) 10% Attendance and active participation in class: Regular attendance and timeliness are important. More than two absences will affect your participation grade. Students arriving late will generally be counted as absent. Participation in class discussions is welcomed and expected. Reading assignments and other tasks (some of the films will be watched by the students out of class through Blackboard or at the Media Center at Tisch Library) are obligatory. During each class I will ask questions about the reading
and watching assignments, and you need to be prepared to answer. (scale 1-10)

**Grades Scale**

The paper will be given a numerical grade on the following scale:

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<th>Grade</th>
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**Honesty**

The university's policy on academic honesty will be strictly adhered to. *For more information on plagiarism and the proper citing of sources, see:*

[http://uss.tufts.edu/arc/writingresources/plagiarism.asp](http://uss.tufts.edu/arc/writingresources/plagiarism.asp)
Schedule of Classes, reading and watching assignments:

(1/20) Introduction: Being Israeli and the Israeli being

Reading:

Israel’s Declaration of independence:
http://www.knesset.gov.il/docs/eng/megilat_eng.htm

(1/20, 1/27) Being at war, being an Enemy: The Israeli-Arab Conflict
Films:

* Cup Final (Eran Riklis, 1991) (108 min.).
* Paradise Now (Hany Abu-Asad, 2005) (91 min.).

*** The 50 years war: Israel and the Arabs (Brian Lapping Associates in association with BBC and La Sept/ARTE), 1999 (300 min.).

# Avanti Popolo (1986, Rafi Bukai)

Reading:


(2/3) Being An Israeli Arab/A Palestinian: A Citizen?, A Refugee?, An Enemy Within?.

Films:

* Slingshot hip hop (Jackie Reem Salloum, 2009) (94 min.)
***Ajami (Scandar Copti, Yaron Shani, 2009) (120 min.)

Literature:
Poems by Mahmoud Darwish:
I Come From There
http://famouspoetsandpoems.com/poets/mahmoud_darwish/poems/7809
I Am There
http://famouspoetsandpoems.com/poets/mahmoud_darwish/poems/7813
A Lover From Palestine
http://famouspoetsandpoems.com/poets/mahmoud_darwish/poems/7815
Passport
http://famouspoetsandpoems.com/poets/mahmoud_darwish/poems/7811


Reading:


http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/isdf/text/reiter.html

(2/10) Being A “Tsabar”: From The “Old Jew” To The Heroic Pioneer

Films:
**"They Were Ten" (Baruch Dienar, 1961) (105 min.)

***Exodus (Otto Preminger, 1960) (208 min.)

Novels:


(2/17) Being An Immigrant: The "Melting Pot" And Periphery As A Socio-Economic Reality And A State Of Mind.

Films:
***Sallah Shabati (Ephraim Kishon, 1964) (110 min.)
*Yana’s Friends (Arik Kaplun, 1998)

#Turn Left at the End of the World (Avi Nesher, 2004) (108 min.)

Reading:

Ya’ar, Ephraim. (2005).” Continuity and Change in Israeli Society: The Test of The Melting Pot.” *Israel Studies*, 10(2), 91-128. [http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/israel_studies/v010/10.2yaar.pdf](http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/israel_studies/v010/10.2yaar.pdf)


(2/24) No Class (Substitute Monday’s Schedule)

(3/3) Being A Second Generation Victim: The Holocaust Within Us

*The Summer of Aviya (Eli Cohen, 1988) (96 min.)
***Because of that war (Orna Ben-Dor Niv, 1997) (90 min.)

Literature:

Reading:
(3/10) Being Religious in the Holy land
Films:
*Haredim: The Ultra-Orthodox Community in Israel (Ron Ofer and Yochay Hakak, 2008-2009)

Reading:


(3/17) Being A "Kibbutznik": The Kibbutz Dream And Its Aftermath
Films:
***Children of the Sun (Ran Tal, 2007)
*Sweet Mud (Dror Shaul, 2007) (97 min.)

Reading:


(3/31) Being A Soldier: The Other Side Of Militarism
Films:
***Late Summer Blues (1987, Renen Schorr). (101 min.)
*Beaufort (Joseph Cedar, 2007) (126 min.)
*Waltz with Bashir (Ari Folman, 2009) (87 min.).

Literature:

Reading:

(4/7) No Class (Students expected to watch “Beaufort”)

(4/14) Being A Homosexual In The "Promised Land"

Films:
*Walk on Water (Eitan Fox, 2004) (103 min.)

***Trembling before G-d = Le-fanekha bi-readah (Sandi Simcha Dubowski, 2003)

#Yossi and Jager (Eitan Fox, 2002) (71 min.)

Reading:


(4/21) Being A Woman

Films:
*Nina’s Tragedies (Savi Gavison, 2003) (112 min.)

Reading:

(4/28) Being “Normal” In An Abnormal Reality

Films:
* Hochmat Habeygale (Ilan Heitner, 2002)
* Out For Love-Be Back Shortly (Dan Katzir, 1996);

#My Michael (Dan Wolman, 1974) (95 min.)

Literature:

Reading:

Notice:

* Films in class.
*** Films to be watched individually (by blackboard)
# Recommended films.