

Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilization

Hebrew in Song
HEBR 457
3 credits - Fall 2007

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MW 2:30-3:50
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Popular song has played a central and very lively role in the shaping of modern Hebrew culture and Israeli identity. In this class we will examine a range of diverse lyrics, including selections from folksongs, pop, rock, *musika mizrahit*, children's songs and more. The course aims to help students build their Hebrew vocabulary and improve their dictionary and composition skills, while providing a brief historical overview of important trends in Israeli popular music.

Topics will include the sing-along, the army ensembles, song festivals and competitions, the rise of minorities, major poets set to music, outstanding performers and songwriters, traditional and religious sources, international influences, and changes in the media.

Required texts:

Students can access songs from the syllabus, both lyrics and music, on-line through the UW Libraries electronic course reserve. They can also listen to a range of Israeli music at the OUGL Media Center. Some CDs can be checked out for a period of 24 hours or 3 days. Many internet sites feature Israeli music and lyrics, for example: "Milim leshirim" <http://mp3music.gpg.nrg.co.il/lyrics/1305.html>

There will also be some photocopied readings.

A good dictionary is a must. An online dictionary is available free of charge at www.morfix.co.il. If you wish to purchase a dictionary, the *Alcalay* Hebrew-English is expensive but a worthwhile investment. The *Oxford* English-Hebrew is useful for writing assignments. The *Rav Milon* is useful, but not sufficient.

Recommended texts:

- Regev, Motti and Edwin Seroussi. *Popular Music and National Culture in Israel*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2004.
- Elhanati, Mati, ed. *Gadalnu yahad*. Israel's 240 Greatest Songs in Celebration of its 50th Anniversary.
- Shaked, Gershon, "Shall We Find Sufficient Strength? On Behalf of Israeli Secularism," in *In Search of Identity: Jewish Aspects in Israeli Culture*, ed. Dan Urian and Efraim Karsh (1999)
- Almagor, Dan. "Musical Plays on the Hebrew Stage." *Ariel* 103 (1996): 19-25.
- Ben-Porat, Ziva, ed. *Lyric Poetry and the Lyrics of Pop: The Israeli Popular Song as a Cultural System and a Literary Genre* [in Hebrew]. Tel Aviv: Hakibbutz Hameuhad, 1989.

Links to a variety of resources for learning Hebrew are available at the following website:
<http://depts.washington.edu/modheb/>

Course Requirements

In this course we will be reading short essays, in Hebrew, on the history of Israeli popular music, and each week we will discuss several songs. Students are expected to prepare the texts and participate in class discussion of them. There will be a midterm exam and a final exam. In addition, students will be asked to prepare 5 compositions and a class report.

Final grades will be determined as follows:

- Midterm exam: 25%
- Final exam: 25%
- Compositions: 25%
- Class report: 15%
- Class participation: 10%

Grading scale:

- 4.0 = 95
- 3.9 = 94
- 3.8 = 93 etc.

On compositions students will receive an initial grade such as 95 (A), 91.5 (A-) 88 (B+), 85 (B), etc. After receiving feedback from the instructor, students may rewrite the

compositions, making all necessary corrections, to raise the grade. Typically the grade will go up 3.5 points (so for example, 88 will become 91.5).

Calendar:

Veterans Day	Monday, November 12	NO CLASS
Final exam:	Tuesday, December 11	2:30-4:20

*******ATTENDANCE POLICY*******

Attendance and class participation are important to the learning process. This year, however, I am facing a special set of circumstances, so I ask you please to read this section of the syllabus carefully and to keep it in mind throughout the quarter.

For the past year I have been on leave, undergoing medical treatments for leukemia. My immune system is still compromised from these treatments, and it is crucial for me to be careful to try to avoid infection. If you have symptoms of contagious illness – such as sniffles, sneezes, a cough, a sore throat, or a fever – PLEASE do not come to class. We will figure out a way to cover the material so that your learning and your grades will not suffer. Similarly, if you receive any immunizations using live vaccine, please do not come to class. Call me or e-mail me and we will figure out when it is safe for you to resume attending class.

*It is understood that some students may miss class for observance of religious holidays, and that they will be able to make up missed work due to such absences.

*Any student who wishes to do additional work on a topic related to this course may discuss with me the possibility of registering for 1 or 2 credits of independent study (HEBR 490).

*If you would like to request academic accommodations due to a disability please contact Disabled Student Services, 448 Schmitz, 206-543-8924. If you have a letter from Disabled Student Services indicating you have a disability that requires academic accommodations, please present the letter to the instructor and discuss the accommodations you might need for class.

** Students should keep a copy of each graded assignment. This is very useful if for any reason an instructor's records get lost or damaged, or if students have questions about calculation of grades. Protect yourself and keep your work.

*****Cell-phone policy: Turn off your cell phones during class!**

*In cases of academic misconduct, such as plagiarism, copying someone's homework, getting inappropriate help with compositions, or cheating on quizzes or exams, the offending student will be penalized in accordance with the policy of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Week I - Songs of the Yishuv and *Shirei erets yisrael*

“ <i>Hatikvah</i> ”	lyrics: Naftali Herz Imber
“ <i>Shir ha’emek</i> ”	lyrics: Natan Alterman
“ <i>Rav halailah</i> ”	lyrics: based on Yizhak Lamdan’s “Masada”
“ <i>Erets erets erets</i> ”	lyrics: Shayka Feikov

Week II - Songs of the War of Independence and Early statehood

“ <i>Shir ha-palmach</i> ”	
“ <i>Bab el-Wad</i> ” (1949)	Yaffa Yarkoni
“ <i>Mul har Sinai</i> ” (1956)	Lehakat hanahal
“ <i>Hare ‘ut</i> ” (1957)	Hachizbatron
“ <i>Ein gedi</i> ” (1959)	Tova Ben Zvi and Shmuel Bar Zakai
“ <i>Machar</i> ” (1963)	Lehakat hanachal
“ <i>Magash hakesef</i> ”(1948)	Yehoram Gaon

From *Gadalnu yachad*: 1948-1960

Week III – From 1967 to 1973

“ <i>Yerusalayim shel zahav</i> ” (1967)	Shuly Natan
“ <i>Bashana haba’ah</i> ” (1968)	Ilan veIlanit
“ <i>Givat hatachmoshet</i> ” (1968)	Pikud hamerkaz
“ <i>Shir lashalom</i> ” (1970)	Lehakat hanachal
“ <i>Lu yehi</i> ” (1973)	Shuly Natan lyrics: Naomi Shemer

From *Gadalnu yachad*: Army ensembles, and 1960-1970.

Week IV – Pop and Rock – Into the 80s and 90s

“ <i>Ani ve’atah</i> ” (1971)	Arik Einstein
“ <i>Atur mitshek</i> ”	Arik Einstein
“ <i>Nehmad</i> ” from <i>Sipurei Poogi</i> ”	Kaveret
“ <i>Tirkod</i> ” (1984)	Shlomo Arzi
“ <i>Hatahanah haketanah Treblinka</i> ” (1988)	Yehuda Poliker
“ <i>Akhshav meunan</i> ” (1993)	Aviv Gefen
“ <i>Lehitraot ne’urim, Shalom ahavah</i> ” (1995)	Mashina

From *Gadalnu yachad*: “White and Blue Rock”

Week V - Musika mizrahit

“*Shabat malkah*” (1974)

“*Shehorah venavah*” (1977)

“*Todah*” (1986)

“*Mizmor laylah*” (1993)

“*Mah ‘asit?’*” (1995)

Ofra Haza

Shimi Tavori

Hayim Moshe

Achinoam Nini

Teapacks

From *Gadalnu yahad*: “East and West”

Week VI –

Midterm

Film

Week VII - Song Festivals

“Abanibi” (1978)	Yizhar Cohen
“Haleluyah” (1979)	Halav udevash
“Hai” (1983)	Ofra Haza
“Diva” (1998)	Dana International

From *Gadalnu yachad*: “Festivals”

Week VIII – Recent Trends: Multicultural Israel, Hebrew Rap, Ethiopian Jews, Political Protest

“Livkot lekha” (1993)	Aviv Gefen
“Bo’i” (2002)	Idan Reichel
“Im telekh” (2002)	Idan Reichel
“Hamasa le’erets yisrael”	Shlomo Gronich and the Sheba Choir
“Kutonet passim” (1996)	Ensemble
“Milyonim” (2003)	Eti Ankeri
“Shirat hasticker” (2004)	Hadag nahash

Week IX - Religion

“Avinu malkenu,”	Yehoram Gaon
“Adon Olam”	Uzi Chitman and Oded Ben-Chur
“Veshinantam”	Hasidic festival
“Ani ma’amin”	

Week X – Individual Artists and Student Projects

“Zemer nugeh”	lyrics: Rahel Blaustein
“Akarah”	lyrics: Rahel Blaustein
“El male rahamim”	lyrics: Yehuda Amichai
“Elohim merahem al yaldei hagan”	lyrics: Yehuda Amichai
“Ki ha’adam hu ‘ets hasadeh”	lyrics: Natan Zach

*Students will begin to make their class presentations.

Week XI – Individual Artists and Student Projects , cont.

Albums available at OUGL Media Center:

Arik Einstein – ha-shirim
Beterem – poems of Yehuda Amichai
Dana International “Diva”
David Broza “Ha’isha she-iti”
Deror – Oriental song festival
Ha-osef: 60 greatest hits of all times
Kaveret “Sipure Pugi”
Livkot lekha – memorial songs
Maksimum: hit collection
Nitsotsot: history of Israeli pop and rock
Osef ha-hasidi
Rav hovel – memorial to Yitshak Rabin
Shablul be kufsa
Yehuda Poliker – Hofa’ah hayah be-kesariah
Yerushalayim shel zahav – songs of the 6 Day War

some more web sites that may be of interest:

- >
- > www.mooma.com - online encyclopedia of Israeli music
- >
- > www.songs.co.il - allows downloads of individual Israeli songs in MP3 format
- >
- > www.shiron.net - database of lyrics
- >
- > www.acum.org.il
- >

Some suggestions for projects:

1. Any individual singer or song of your choosing
2. Memorial songs
3. Children’s songs
4. Chaim Nachman Bialik’s poems set to music
5. Songs of 2007
6. Jerusalem in song
7. Songs of the 6 Day War
8. Contemporary politics – Sabliminal, Shotei nevuah and others