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*, 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:**

Course pack

A good dictionary. The Alcalay Hebrew-English is expensive but a worthwhile investment. The Oxford English-Hebrew is useful for written assignments. The Rav Milon is useful, but not sufficient. An online dictionary is available free of charge at www.morfix.co.il.

Students can access songs 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](http://mp3music.gpg.nrg.co.il/lyrics/1305.html)
Recommended texts:


Elhanati, Mati, ed. *Gadalnu yahad.* Israel’s 240 Greatest Songs in Celebration of its 50th Anniversary.


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. [available through Interlibrary Loan]

This syllabus and links to a variety of resources for learning Hebrew are available at the following website: [http://depts.washington.edu/modheb/](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 or class reports.

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 letter grades, such as A (95), A- (91.5) B+ (88), B (85), etc. After receiving feedback from the instructor, students may rewrite the compositions, making all necessary corrections, to raise the grade (from, for example, B to B+, or B+ to A-).
Calendar:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Veteran’s Day</td>
<td>Friday, Nov. 11</td>
<td>NO CLASS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thanksgiving</td>
<td>Thursday, Friday Nov. 24-25</td>
<td>NO CLASS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final exam:</td>
<td>Wednesday, Dec. 14</td>
<td>2:30-4:20</td>
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</tbody>
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*It is understood that some students may miss class for observance of religious holidays, and that they will be allowed to make up missed work due to such absences.

*If you would like to request academic accommodations due to a disability please contact Disabled Student Services, 448 Schmitz, 206-543-8924 (V/TDD). 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

“Hatikvah” lyrics: Naftali Herz Imber
“Shir ha’emek” lyrics: Natan Alterman
“Kineret” lyrics: Rachel
“Rad halailah” lyrics: based on Yizhak Lamdan’s “Masada”
“Erets erets erets” lyrics: Sheika Paikov

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

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

From Gadalinu yachad: 1948-1960
Week III – From 1967 to 1973

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


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

“Ani ve’atah” (1971)              Arik Einstein
“Atur mitshek zahav shahor”       Arik Einstein
“Sipurei Poogi”                   Kaveret
“Tirkod” (1984)                   Shlomo Arzi
“Hatahanah hakatanah Treblinka” (1988)  Yehuda Poliker
“Akhshav meunani” (1993)          Aviv Gefen
“Lehitraot ne’urim, Shalom ahavah” (1995)    Mashina

From Gadalnu yachad: “White and Blue Rock”

Week V - Musika mizrahit

“Hanale hitbalbelah” (1974)       Tselilei ha’ud
“Shabat malkah” (1974)            Ofra Haza
“Shehorah venavah” (1977)         Shimi Tavori
“Toda” (1986)                     Hayim Moshe
“Mizmor laylah” (1993)            Achinoam Nini

From Gadalnu yahad: “East and West”

Week VI –

Midterm
“Kazablan” - film
Week VII - Song Festivals

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

From Gadalu yachad: “Festivals”

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

“Livkot lekha” (1993)    Aviv Gefen
“Bo i”    Idan Raichel
“Im telekh” (2002)    Idan Raichel
“Hamasa leysisrael” ( )    Shlomo Gronich and the Sheba Choir
“Kutonet passim” (1996)    Ensemble
“Milyonim” (2003)    Eti Ankeri

Week IX - Religion

“Avinu malkenu,”    Yehoram Gaon
“Adon Olam”    Uzi Hitman and Oded Ben-Hur
Veshinantam”    Hasidic Festival
“Ani ma’ammin”

Week X – Individual Artists and Student Projects

“Zemer nugeh”    lyrics: Rahel Blaustein
“Ki ha’adam ‘ets hasadeh”    lyrics: Natan Zach
“’Akarah”    lyrics: Rahel Blaustein
“Kemo tsemah bar”    lyrics: Leah Goldberg
“El male rahamin”    lyrics: Yehuda Amichai
“Elohim merahem al yaldei hagan”

*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 hasidi
Rav hovel – memorial to Yitshak Rabin
Shablul bekufsa
Yehuda Poliker – Hofa’ah hayah be-kesariah
Yerushalayim shel zahav – songs of the 6 Day War

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 2005
6. Jerusalem in song
7. Songs of the 6 Day War

For a website on the sticker song, with pictures of the bumper stickers:


For information on individual artists, Discographia is a great resource. Try googling the artist’s name in Hebrew.