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:


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


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).

*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 Prof. Sokoloff 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 ets yisrael**

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

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

“Shir ha-palmach”
“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 Gadalnu 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)    Lekhat 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”    Arik Einstein
“Nehmad” from Sipurei Poogi”    Kaveret
“Tirkod” (1984)    Shlomo Arzi
“Hatahanah hakatanah Treblinka” (1988)    Yehuda Poliker
“Akhshav meunan” (1993)    Aviv Gefen
“Lehitraot ne’urim, Shalom ahavah” (1995)    Mashina

From Gadalnu yachad: “White and Blue Rock”

**Week V - Musika mizrahit**

“Shabat malkah” (1974)    Ofra Haza
“Shehorah venavah” (1977)    Shimi Tavori
“Todah” (1986)    Hayim Moshe
“Mizmor laylah” (1993)    Achinoam Nini

From Gadalnu yachad: “East and West”

**Week VI –**

Midterm

Film
Week VII - Song Festivals

“Abanibi” (1978)  
“Haleluyah” (1979)  
“Ha’i” (1983)  
“Diva” (1998)  

Yizhar Cohen  
Halav udevash  
Ofra Haza  
Dana International

From Gadalu yachad: “Festivals”

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

“Livkot lekha” (1993)  
“Bo’i” (2002)  
“Im telekh” (2002)  
“Hamasa le’erets yisrael”  
“Kutonet passimi” (1996)  
“Milyonim” (2003)  
“Shirat hasticker” (2004)  

Aviv Gefen  
Idan Reichel  
Idan Reichel  
Shlomo Gronich and the Sheba Choir  
Ensemble  
Eti Ankeri  
Hadag nahash

Week IX - Religion

“Avinu malkenu,”  
“Adon Olam”  
“Veshinantam”  
“Ani ma’amin”  

Yehoram Gaon  
Uzi Chitman and Oded Ben-Chur  
Hasidic festival

Week X – Individual Artists and Student Projects

“Zemer nugeh”  
“Akarah”  
“El male rahamin”  
“Elohim merahem al yaldei hagan”  
“Ki ha’adam hu ‘ets hasadeh”  

lyrics: Rahel Blaustein  
lyrics: Rahel Blaustein  
lyrics: Yehuda Amichai  
lyrics: Yehuda Amichai  
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”
Doror – Oriental song festival
Ha-osaf: 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 Yitzhak 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