This course examines modern Hebrew poems side by side with texts from the traditional Jewish liturgy, analyzing how contemporary writers have drawn on classical sources to reflect on matters of faith and the language of religion.

This modern literature has an unusual allusive richness, because of the history of the Hebrew language -- an ancient, sacred tongue that has been renewed and revitalized in the past 150 years as a modern, secular vernacular. Understanding the contemporary poetry requires familiarity with the language of Jewish prayers. This class presents to students some outstanding modern writers while also fostering appreciation for some of the many historical layers of the Hebrew language. In addition, the class provides advanced work in Hebrew, offering students an opportunity to improve grammar, dictionary skills, and vocabulary.

Prerequisites: HEBR 423 or permission of instructor.

REQUIREMENTS

Students are expected to attend class regularly, to prepare texts, and to participate in class discussion. Assignments will include two exams and three 5 page essays (1250 words). This is a writing intensive class. Students are expected to revise and rewrite essays after receiving feedback from the instructor. Final grades will be determined as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm exam</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essays</td>
<td>45%</td>
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<tr>
<td>In-Class Assignments</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>5%</td>
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</tbody>
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Grading scale:

- 95 = 4.0
- 94 = 3.9
- 93 = 3.8 etc.
On essays:  A = 95, A- = 91.5, B+ = 88, B = 95  etc.

* Late papers will be panelized by one grade per day (from B to B-, etc.)

* Quizzes forms will be given in the first 10 minutes of class. If you do not arrive by then, you will not receive a form and fail the quiz.

* Students who would like to request academic accommodations due to a disability should contact Disabled Student Services, 448 Schmitz, 543-8914 (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 who wish to have their final essays returned to them should provide the instructor with a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

* 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 a question about calculation of grades. Protect yourself and keep your work. Students should also keep a copy of this syllabus.

* 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.

STUDENT CONTRACT:
By enrolling in this class students make a commitment to regular attendance and class participation. Continued enrollment signifies that they have received a copy of this syllabus and that they have been notified of the requirements and grading policies for the course.

*If you have any concerns about a course offered by the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilization or about a lecturer or teaching assistant in the course, please see that instructor about these concerns as soon as possible. In modern Hebrew classes, if you are not comfortable talking with that instructor or not satisfied with the response you receive, you may contact Professor Naomi Sokoloff in Denny 229a (206-543-7145; naosok@u.washington.edu).

NO CLASS:
Yom Kippur Thursday 10/2
Veteran’s Day: Friday 11/10
Thanksgiving: Thursday and Friday 11/23 and 11/24
Unit I

Prayers for the Days of Awe:
Avinu Malkenu, Ashamnu, portions of Ne’ilah and the Torah service

Poems:
Yehuda Amichai, “Yerushalayim 1967”
Yehudah Amichai, “Avi malki”
“Avinu malkenu,” in (Elim mithalfim, tefilot nisharot la’ad”)
Asher Reich, “Ne’ilah”
Chava Pinchas-Cohen, “Mul She’arav”

Unit II

From morning prayers:
Birkhot hashahar, Yigdal, 13 ‘ikarim, Eyn ke loheynu

Poems:
Avraham Shlonsky, “‘Amal”
Esther Raab, “Ishah,” “Tefilah aharonah”
Dan Pagis “‘Edut”
Yehudah Amichai, “Elim mithalfim, tefilot nisharot la’ad”

Unit III

Memorial prayers and mourning:
El male rahamim, Kadish yatom

Poems:
Yehudah Amichai, “El male harahamim”
Asher Reich, “Kakh et mahshavotai”
Chava Pinchas-Cohen, “Kadish yatomah”

Unit IV

Psalms 82 and 145 (Ashrei), Piyut

Poems:
Yehudah Amichai, “Vehi tehilatekha”
Admiel Kosman, “Shir shel yom,” “Piyut,” “Eini mitno ‘ea bisha’at hatefilah”
Esther Raab – “Tefilah aharonah”

Individual reading assignments are subject to change.
WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS:

(subjected to change)

#1 One poem from Unit 1: summery and commentary.

#2 Compare two poems which refer to the same original source and comment on how the poets develop material from the source text. Or read a new poem and interpret.

#3 In class we cover portions of Amichai’s long poem “Elim mithalfim…” Read the remaining sections, identify the sources, comment of their use in the poem, and write a translation of one section.

For each assignment students will turn in a first draft, receive feedback from the instructor, revise and rewrite. Students are expected to consult appropriate secondary sources.

Recommended Secondary Reading
Adin Steinsalz, Guide to Jewish Prayer
Alan Mintz, “Prayer and the Prayerbook,” in Back to the Sources, ed. Barry Holtz
Lawrence Hoffman, ed. My People’s Prayerbook
Hayim Halevy Donin, To Pray as a Jew
Reuven Hammer, Entering the High Holy Days
I. Elbogen, Jewish Liturgy
Jules Harlow, Pray Tell
Stanley Burnshaw, et al. The Modern Hebrew Poem Itself
Glenda Abramson, The Writing of Yehuda Amichai
Anne Lapidus Lerner, “A Woman’s Song: The Poetry of Esther Raab” in Gender and Text in Modern Hebrew and Yiddish Literature
David Jacobson, Does David Still Play Before You?
Marc Brettler, Biblical Hebrew for Students of Modern Israeli Hebrew