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Office hours: Monday 11:00-12:30

## Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilization

### Hebrew in Song

#### HEBR 457

[More](#)

#### 5 credits – Spring 2015

MW 8:30-10:20

Denny 123

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 lyrics to the songs listed on the syllabus at <https://media.lib.washington.edu/html/uwonly/mediactr/hebrew457/hebr457.html> and You Tube videos on our class website.

An extensive collective of song translations can be found at:

<http://www.hebrewsongs.com/home.htm>

Students can also listen to a range of Israeli music at the UW Libraries Media Center. Some CDs can be checked out for a period of 24 hours or 3 days. An excellent DVD called "Sharti Lakh Artsi" provides an Israeli TV series on Hebrew songs, in Hebrew. Many internet sites feature Israeli music and lyrics. See, for example, "Shironet"; "Milim leshirim"

<http://mp3music.gpg.nrg.co.il/lyrics/1305.html> and, for really old oldies, <http://www.zemereshet.co.il>

There will be some additional, photocopied readings.

A good dictionary is a must. An online dictionary is available free of charge at [www.morfix.co.il](http://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 50<sup>th</sup> 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/neareast/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 two quizzes during the quarter. In addition, students will be asked to prepare 3 short compositions in Hebrew and a final project. The project includes 1) a class report; 2) a 5-6 page research paper in either English or Hebrew; a short blog post and/or a video. Students are invited to post suitable projects on the UW Modern Hebrew site:

<http://jewishstudies.washington.edu/modern-hebrew-home/>

Final grades will be determined as follows:

Quiz 1: 15%

Quiz 2: 15%

Compositions: 20%

Class report: 15%

Paper and blog write-up: 25%

Class participation: 10%

Grading scale:

4.0 = 97-100

3.9 = 95-96

3.8 = 93-94

3.7 = 92

3.6 = 91

3.5 = 90

3.4 = 89

3.3 = 87 etc.

After receiving feedback from the instructor, students rewrite the compositions, making all necessary corrections, to raise the grade. Typically the grade will go up 3.5 points (so for example, 88 would become 91.5).

Calendar:

Quiz 1: Wed. April 29

Quiz 2: Wed. May 20

Wednesday May 13 - NO CLASS

**\*\*\*\*\*ATTENDANCE POLICY\*\*\*\*\***

**Attendance and class participation are important to the learning process. However, 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.**

\*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.

\*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.

\*\*\*During class, please turn off any electronic devices that may be disruptive.

\*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

"*Rav halailah*" lyrics: based on Yizhak Lamdan's "Masada"

"*Erets erets erets*" lyrics: Shayka Peikov

"Artsah alinu"

"Anu banu artsah"

### **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**

“ <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

“*Lu yehi*” (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**

TEST 1 – Wed. April 29

“ <i>Shabat malkah</i> ” (1974)	Ofra Haza
“ <i>Shehorah venavah</i> ” (1977)	Shimi Tavori
“ <i>Todah</i> ” (1986)	Hayim Moshe

“*Mizmor laylah*” (1993) Achinoam Nini  
“*Mah ‘asit?*” (1995) Teapacks

From *Gadalnu yahad*: “East and West”

### **Week VI – Musical Theater**

Film – “Kazablan”

### **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, Political Protest**

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

## **Week IX - Religion and Student Projects**

TEST 2 – Wed. may 20

“*Avinu malkenu,*”

Yehoram Gaon

“*Adon Olam*”

Chur

Uzi Chitman and Oded Ben-

“*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*

lyrics: Yehuda Amichai

*yaldei hagan*”

“*Ki ha'adam hu 'ets hasadeh*”

lyrics: Natan Zach

### 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:

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> [www.mooma.com](http://www.mooma.com) - online encyclopedia of Israeli music

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> [www.songs.co.il](http://www.songs.co.il) - allows downloads of individual Israeli songs in MP3 format

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> [www.shiron.net](http://www.shiron.net) - database of lyrics

>> [www.acum.org.il](http://www.acum.org.il)

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Some suggestions for projects:

Any individual singer or song of your choosing

1. Memorial songs
2. Children's songs
3. Chaim Nachman Bialik's poems set to music
4. Songs of the 2000s
5. Jerusalem in song
6. Songs of the 6 Day War
7. Contemporary politics – Sabliminal, Shotei nevuah and others

## **Hebrew Songs - English Translations**

<http://www.hebrewsongs.com/home.htm>