

Dr. Yael Halevi-Wise  
[yael.haleviwise@mcgill.ca](mailto:yael.haleviwise@mcgill.ca)

## JWST 225: Israel: Literature and Society

*This course explores the fabric of Israeli society through works of fiction reflecting the country's historical, political and ethnic complexity. Focusing on complicated tales of love, we shall pay close attention to their portrayals of relationships between Jews and Arabs, religious and secular Israelis, east and west, rich and poor, immigrants and old timers.*

Required Texts (available at Paragraph Bookstore at the corner of Sherbrooke/McGill College):

1. Meir Shalev, *A Pigeon and a Boy*
2. Sayed Kashua, *Dancing Arabs*
3. Amos Oz, *A Perfect Peace*
4. Emuna Elon, *If You Awaken Love*
5. A. B. Yehoshua, *The Lover*
6. Shulamit Hareven, "A Matter of Identity"

Recommended Background Reading:

*The Israelis: Ordinary People in an Extraordinary Land* by Donna Rosenthal  
*A History of Israel* by Howard Sachar (1996 edition)  
*Zionism and the Creation of a New Society* by B. Halpern and J. Reinhartz

### EVALUATION:

- 20% attendance and participation
- 5% Israeli timeline (20 most important events, in your opinion, from 1948 to 2017)
- 25% 5-7pp midterm essay
- 25% 5 page stylized interview
- 25% 7pp final essay

**Note:** All written assignments should be double spaced in 12 point font. All *titles of novels are italicized*. Quotations from your texts are to be followed by their page number (in parenthesis) at the end of your sentence. For fuller citation procedures consult the MLA Handbook.

McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offenses under the code of student conduct and disciplinary procedures (see [www.mcgill.ca/integrity](http://www.mcgill.ca/integrity) for more information). In accord with McGill University's Charter of Students' Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded.