

JWST 226: Contemporary Israeli Literature in Translation
Topic for Winter 2012: 'A Sense of Place'

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DESCRIPTION: This course will expose students to contemporary Israeli novels in ways that increase our appreciation of the country's historical and sociopolitical complexities. In particular, we will work on creating maps from texts, by asking how novels represent place or space—be it continents, countries, cities, neighborhoods, homes, or private/public areas. While discussing issues of plot, genre, characterization and political context, we will also search for ways to interpret these narratives in terms of maps or charts. Each student will be responsible for “mapping” 5 of 6 novels (you pick). The course will be fast paced, creative, experimental and interactive. Our goal will be to reflect on representations of place (and have fun doing so).

EVALUATION: 15% attendance and participation; 17% x 5 short assignments of 1-3pp consisting of map(s) and related explanations, due on last class in which each text is discussed. (Note: exact due dates will be given as we go along.) The assignments will be graded according to degree of sophistication and intellectual engagement with each text. It is also possible to substitute a conventional 3-5pp paper in lieu of a map assignment or write a longer, comparative paper in lieu of two assignments. Please consult me about any such variations. You are welcome to use google earth and any other online applications to create maps. I hope you will be creative and have fun with it!

Texts available at Paragraph Bookstore, corner Sherbrooke/McGill College:

1. Amos Oz's *A Tale of Love and Darkness*
2. Yael Lotan's *Avishag* in conjunction with Samuel 2 (preferably from JPS translation of the Bible or any edition you have at hand—Samuel can be mapped for extra credit)
3. Emuna Elon's *If You Awaken Love*
4. Yehudit Katzir's *Dearest Anne*
5. Anton Shammas's *Arabesques*
6. A. B. Yehoshua's *Mr. Mani*

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