

University of Washington
Near Eastern Languages and Civilization

HEBR 452

Introduction to Hebrew Literature
Autumn 2012

3 credits
MW 2:30-3:50
Mary Gates Hall 242

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Office Hours: Denny 229, Wednesday 12:30-2:00 or by appointment

This course presents modern Hebrew literary texts and analysis, with continued emphasis on grammar and composition. Review of language skills and dictionary work is included in each unit to reinforce the students' knowledge of Hebrew and to foster improved competence in reading, discussion, and writing. In addition, the class covers fundamentals of narrative theory as students practice close readings of texts. In Autumn 2012 we will focus on fiction that is set in Tel Aviv.

Readings:

Etgar Keret, דג זהב

Rutu Modan, קרוב רחוק

Amos Oz, סוד הקסם התל אביבי

S. Yizhar, מקדמות (פרק 3)

S.Y. Agnon, תמול שלשום (a short passage selected from the novel)

Course website:

The course syllabus and grading scale, voice recordings of literary texts, announcements, and powerpoint material will be available on our class website at

<https://catalyst.uw.edu/workspace/naosok/11901/>

Students wishing to add 2-3 credits of HEBR 490 (independent study) should contact the instructor.

Student Responsibilities, Assignments, and Grading Policies

1. There will be a take-home essay exam (in English) to be completed by the end of the course. It will consist of three essays (750-1250 words each; that is, 3-5 standard pages in 12 point font for each essay). The exam questions will be distributed at midterm and the essays must be completed by the end of the quarter (due-date: December 14).
2. Students are required to write 4 compositions (150-250 words each, in Hebrew), based on our primary literary texts or on short prose readings assigned in class. These papers may take the form of a summary, a response, an analysis, or a comparison with other readings from a list of recommended sources. Either word-processing or handwriting is fine. Be sure to double-space.
3. There will be some very brief in-class translation quizzes.
4. We will review verbs and students will complete verb exercises.

The final grade will be calculated as follows:

Take-home essays: 50%
Compositions: 25%
Quizzes: 15%
Verb exercises: 10%

*Compositions are to be submitted on time. After receiving feedback from the instructor, students may rewrite, correcting mistakes, to raise the grade.

*The lowest quiz score will be dropped. No make-up quizzes allowed, except in case of illness documented by a health care provider. In that case, the instructor will designate an appropriate make-up assignment.

*Class attendance and participation are important. **HOWEVER**, if you have symptoms of contagious illness (sniffles, sneezes, sore throat, fever), please stay home. We will figure out a way to cover the material so that your learning and your grades will not suffer.

*If you would like to request academic accommodations due to a disability, contact Disabled Student Services, 448 Schmitz, 206-543-892. 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 the instructor's records get lost or damaged, or if students have questions about calculation of grades. Protect yourself and keep your work.

*During class, turn off cell phones and other devices that may make noise or disrupt discussion.

*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.

*In cases of academic misconduct, such as plagiarism or receiving inappropriate assistance on assignments, the offending students will be penalized in accordance with the policy of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Grading Scale

98-100	= 4.0
96-97	= 3.9
94-95	= 3.8
92-93	= 3.7
91	= 3.6
90	= 3.5
89	= 3.4
88	= 3.3
87	= 3.2
86	= 3.1
85	= 3.0
84	= 2.9
83	= 2.8
82	= 2.7
81	= 2.6
80	= 2.5

Etc.

Calendar

**Please note: Wednesday September 26 - Yom Kippur – NO CLASS
Monday November 12 – Veterans' Day – NO CLASS**