

ASSOC. PROF. DR. FELICIA WALDMAN
CENTER FOR HEBREW STUDIES
FACULTY OF LETTERS
UNIVERSITY OF BUCHAREST
MA PROGRAM IN HEBREW CULTURE AND CIVILIZATION

SYLLABUS

Course name	ISRAELI LITERATURE					CODE	
Year	2	Semester	1	Type of evaluation (E / T / C)			E
Category of the subject matter FD-fundamental, GD-general, SD-specialty, ED-ecomonic/managerial, HD-humanities							SD
Regime of the subject matter Md-mandatory, Op-optional, F- facultative				Md	Number of credits		4
Number of teaching hours		28	Number of hours of individual study (reading of course notes & bibliography, internet research, film watching, etc.)	115	Total number of hours per semester		143
Teaching staff	Assoc. Prof. Dr. Felicia Waldman						

OBJECTIVES	<p>The course introduces students to the major themes of Israeli Hebrew literature, their characteristics and their evolution, as well as to several of its most relevant authors. It covers various literary genres, from memoirs and novels to non-fiction, film scripts and poetry, and ranges from the dramatic to the comic. The course includes a special study case of the Israeli literature in the Romanian language, a unique literary phenomenon that invites particular attention, and a class devoted to Palestinian literature and film.</p> <p>By the end of the course the students should be able to use their analytical and comparative skills to set Israeli literary works in context, categorize them according to their genre, theme and period and analyze them from the literary viewpoint as well as from the point of view of their relevance to the field of Israel studies.</p>
CONTENTS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Major themes of Israeli Hebrew literature: Holocaust, Zionism, national identity, the independence war, the Israelo-Arab conflict, the Israeli society (rural [kibbutz] vs. urban life). General presentation and main authors 2-3. Zionism and Holocaust: sabra vs. survivor: Moshe Dayan, „Story of My Life” and Aharon Appelfeld, „The Story of a Life”; memoirs vs. fiction: David Grossman, „See Under: Love” 4-5. The independence war as a learning process: Amos Oz, „The Panther in the Basement” and the Israeli-Arab conflict as a fact of life: David Grossman, „To the End of the Land”; the relation with the Arabs in non-fiction: Amos Oz, „How to Cure a Fanatic” 6-7. Kibbutz vs. city: Amos Oz, „A Perfect Peace” and David Grossman, „Someone to

	<p>Run With”; dealing with disaster: Assaf Gavron, „Almost Dead”</p> <p>8-9. Israeli society: drama vs. irony: Abraham B. Yehoshua, „The Human Resources Manager” (foreign workers) and Ephraim Kishon, „Sallah Shabati” (immigrants); identity in Israeli society: Radu Mihaileanu, „Va, vis et deviens”</p> <p>10-11. The Holocaust and the Israeli wars in poetry: Dan Pagis, „Selected Poems” and Yehuda Amichai, „Poems”; new Israeli Hebrew poetry: Amir Or, „Let’s Speak You”</p> <p>12-13. Israeli literature in the Romanian language: a unique literary phenomenon: alyah as exile: Virgil Duda, „Farewell to Jerusalem”, I. Schechter, „Milk and Honey: Israeli Reading Book”</p> <p>14. Palestinian literature: Sari Nusseibeh, „Once Upon a Country: A Palestinian Life” (written with Anthony David) and Elia Suleiman, „Divine Intervention”</p>
BIBLIOGRAPHY	<p>Minimal bibliography</p> <p>Course reading</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Moshe Dayan, Povestea vietii mele, Ed. Enciclopedica, Bucuresti, 2001 2. Aharon Appelfeld, Povestea unei vieti, Polirom, Bucuresti, 2009 3. David Grossman, Vezi mai jos: dragostea, Niculescu, Bucuresti, 2007 4. Amos Oz, Pantera din subterane, Univers, Bucuresti, 2004 5. David Grossman, Pina la capatul pamintului, Polirom, Bucuresti, 2012 6. Amos Oz, Cum sa lecuiesti un fanatic, Humanitas, Bucuresti, 2007 7. Amos Oz, Odiha desavirsita, Humanitas, Bucuresti, 2011 8. David Grossman, Cineva cu care sa fugi de acasa, Niculescu, Bucuresti, 2006 9. Assaf Gavron, Almost Dead, Harper Perennial, 2010 10. Abraham B. Yehoshua, Misiunea directorului de resurse umane, Polirom, Bucuresti, 2011 11. Ephraim Kishon, Absorbing Immigrants, (Sallah Shabati, 1964) 12. Radu Mihaileanu, Va, vis et deviens, 2005 13. Amir Or, Sa te vorbim pe tine, Vinea, Bucuresti, 2008 14. Yehuda Amichai, Poems, PoemHunter@com, 2004 15. Dan Pagis, Selected Poems, Jewish Publication Society, Philadelphia, 1981 16. Virgil Duda, Despartirea de Ierusalim, Albatros, Bucuresti, 2005 17. I. Schechter, Lapte si miere, Carte israeliana de citire, Hasefer, Bucuresti, 2006 18. Sari Nusseibeh, Once Upon a Country: A Palestinian Life (with Anthony David), New York: Farrar, Strauss and Giroux, London: Halban Publishers, 2007 19. Elia Suleiman, Divine Intervention, 2002 <p>Background reading</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Avner Holtzman, „Political aspects of the literature of the Israeli War of Independence”, Journal of Israeli History: Politics, Society, Culture, vol. 31, issue 2, 2002 (p. 191-215) 2. Amy Klein, “The Israeli Palestinian Mess in New Graphic Novels by Harvey Pekar and Guy Delisle”, Tablet Magazine, July 19, 2012 (http://www.tabletmag.com/jewish-arts-and-culture/books/106637/cartoon-politics) 3. Carl Hoffman, „Rise: A Novel of Contemporary Israel” in Esra Magazine, issue 162 (http://esra-magazine.com/blog/post/rise) 4. Miryam Segal, A New Sound in Hebrew Poetry, Indiana University Press, 2010 5. Leon Volovici in Dialog cu Virgil Duda, Romania Literara 16/2006 http://www.romlit.ro/leon_volovici_i_virgil_duda 6. Umberto Eco, Cum ne construim dusmanul, Polirom, Bucuresti, 2011

	<p>Supplementary bibliography</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Nava Semel, Palaria de sticla, Hasefer, Bucuresti, 2003 2. Aharon Appelfeld, Caterina, Univers, Bucuresti, 2002 3. Aharon Appelfeld, Badenheim 1939, Univers, Bucuresti, 1988 4. Amos Oz, Poveste despre dragoste si intuneric, Humanitas, Bucuresti, 2008 5. Amos Oz, Scene de viata campestra, Humanitas, Bucuresti, 2011 6. Amos Oz, Fima, Polirom, Bucuresti, 2008 7. Ephraim Kishon, The Blaumilch Canal, Policeman Azulay 8. Norman Manea, Sertarele exilului, Polirom, Bucuresti, 2008
List of necessary didactic materials	<p>The books included in the bibliography</p> <p>Films related to the bibliography: The Mission of the Human Resources Director (Israel-Romania), The Little Traitor (Israel-UK), Sallah Shabati (Israel), Va, vis et deviens (Israel-France), Divine Intervention (Palestine), The Blaumilch Canal (Israel), Policeman Azulay (Israel)</p> <p>Bio- and biblio-graphic references on the authors</p> <p>Reviews of the books and films in the bibliography</p>

Assignments	<p>Students must read all works in the minimal bibliography. For higher grades reading of the supplementary bibliography is required. Each student shall present one work from the minimal list in class, followed by debates. All students are expected to participate in the debates.</p> <p>Each two courses set two works in contrast. Students are additionally required to write 3 short (1-2 page) response papers to the presentations of classmates from the viewpoint of the third work proposed in each set.</p> <p>Films require pre-class watching for presentation. Arrangements will be made to watch the films in class as well in view of the debates.</p>
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Requirements	Percentage in the final grade
- final exam (paper on a course topic, book or writer)	50%
- presentation/review of a literary work in front of classmates	20%
- active participation in class debates	15%
- 3 short (1-2 page) response papers to the presentations of classmates	15%
Minimal requirements for grade 5 (passing grade)	Requirements for grade 10 (maximum)
<p>Attendance of 8 (out of 14) course meetings</p> <p>Active participation in 5 class debates</p> <p>Reading of the minimal bibliography</p> <p>5 page final paper touching on a course topic</p>	<p>Attendance of 12 (out of 14) courses</p> <p>Active participation in 10 class debates</p> <p>Reading of supplementary bibliography</p> <p>10 page final paper</p>