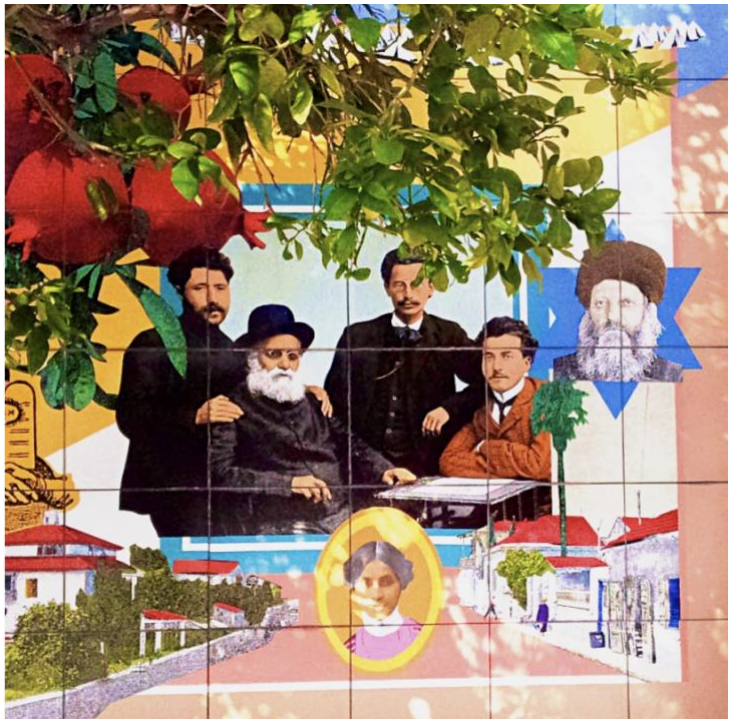


Hebrew 150

Modern Hebrew Literature in Translation

Instructor: Nourit Zimerman
Queens College, Spring 2025
Asynchronous instruction
3 credits, Pathways requirement: Literature
Office Hours: by appointment, Tuesday and Thursday 14:00-15:00,
Powdermaker Hall, Room 352F (or via Zoom).
Email: nourit.zimerman@qc.cuny.edu

Course Description

The course is a historical, chronological survey of modern Hebrew fiction and poetry, from the revival of Hebrew in the late 19th century until today. We will explore the development of modern Hebrew literature across time and space – from Europe to Palestine to Israel. We will read literary work in context – examining the ways in which Hebrew authors respond to unique social and historical circumstances and developments: from Zionist settlement in Palestine, the Holocaust, the Israeli - Palestinian conflict, and all the way to the articulation of different cultural identities in current days.

Throughout the course we will focus on the emergence of Modern Hebrew literature in Europe; the relationship between literature and the Zionist project, Jewish Immigration to Israel and the establishment of the state of Israel; Israeli national ideology within Hebrew literature; and contemporary development in Hebrew literature.

The course will provide contextualizing information that will help us understand the literary work. At the same time, we will consider how the development of Hebrew

literature (and Hebrew culture more generally) has reflected on, but also contributed to the formation of contemporary Israeli identity.

EXPECTATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

Working online by yourself (asynchronous learning)
This course is designed as fully asynchronous. This means that you study by yourself, in your own time, based on material that the instructor makes available. It also means that it is your responsibility to keep track of important deadlines. You will have weekly deadlines for submitting your weekly assignments. You will have deadlines for your midterm and final projects.
I will email you once a week a reminder about upcoming deadlines and assignments. but it is your responsibility to make sure you receive the emails, and complete assignments on time.

Important points for going through recordings
Make sure you pay close attention to the recordings and the PowerPoint presentations that accompany them. There are generally three types of sections: (1) sections that deal with historical and social background to the literary texts; (2) sections that define new analytical concepts and give examples for using them; and (3) sections that deal with analyzing the literary text. Your performance on weekly assignments and other course assignments depends on all three kinds of information, so you should pay attention to all of them.

How much time should I have to out into course work?
To successfully complete your weekly assignments you need to both read the relevant readings and watch the weekly recordings. You should expect to spend 20-25 minutes watching the recording for each week, and an additional 3 hours a week reading the literary texts or watching the films/TV shows, and writing your weekly response paper.

TRIGGER WARNINGS: some of you might find some of the readings troublesome. Some contain explicit descriptions; some depict inappropriate sexual conduct; some depict violent acts. In these cases, I left a note next to the file of the reading on Brightspace. If any of these might trigger a traumatic response for you, please DO NOT read it. Let me know and we will find a solution for any individual case.

How do I get books and texts for this course?
You will need two books for this course:

S. Yizhar, *Khirbet Khizeh* (ISBN: 978-0374535568)
Rutu Modan, *Exit Wounds* (ISBN: 978-1897299838)

You may find free copies of these books online. They are also available at the QC online bookstore.

All shorter readings will be uploaded to Brightspace. If you are interested in additional reading material, please don't hesitate to ask!

Assignments and Grading
Each student is expected to complete the following assignments:

1. **Weekly assignments (40%)**:
A short assignment will be due once a week. It will be posted under "assignments" on Brightspace, and emailed to all the students.

• In the weekly assignment, you are asked to answer questions about the texts or films you read or watched for that week. The weekly assignments are designed to check that you have done the reading and watching for each week. If you do these things, answering the questions will be easy.

• You are allowed to miss three weekly assignments throughout the semester, with no penalty. If you complete all the weekly assignments, your three lowest weekly assignment grades will not count towards your final grade. If you miss one weekly assignment, your two lowest grades will not count towards your total grade, etc.

• Weekly assignment due dates are specified on the syllabus – usually the assignment should be submitted by Sunday evening. If you need an extension, for whatever reason, contact me as soon as you can. I am more inclined to give you extensions before the deadline has passed, than after it.

• **Weekly assignments should be around 300 words**. Make sure you answer the questions provided, and that you have illustrated your answer reasonably (with examples, explanations, etc.).

• Submit weekly assignments through Brightspace (through the relevant submission folder), in doc or pdf format only.

2. **Midterm project (25%):**
• You will have to complete one midterm project. The project will be based on the material we covered in the first half of the semester.

• Detailed instructions for the midterm project will be provided by the instructor well in advance of the project. They will be uploaded to Brightspace, and emailed to students.

• Projects will be graded for clarity, grasp of the material, and creativity in presentation and interpretation.

3. **Final Project (35%)**:
• You will have to complete one final project. The project will be based on the material we covered in the second half of the semester.

• Detailed instructions for the final project will be provided by the instructor well in advance of the project. They will be uploaded to Brightspace, and emailed to students.

Projects will be graded for clarity, grasp of the material, and creativity in presentation and interpretation.

Communication and Office Hours

- While this is an asynchronous course that is based on independent work, I encourage you to be in touch with me, either via email or during office hours to discuss any questions you might have. If my office hours do not fit your schedule, please email and we will set another time to meet. Office hours meeting can be held via zoom or at my office on campus.

- I can best be reached by email at: nourit.zimerman@qc.cuny.edu When sending an email please make sure to include the name of the course (HEB 150) in the subject section.

- Along the semester I will be holding "open sessions" via zoom where you are invited to enter to discuss with me and with other students in the class the materials and assignments. I will send an email in advance regarding these open sessions scheduling.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:
Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should register with and provide documentation to the Office of Special Services, Frese Hall, room 111. The Office of Special Services will provide a letter for you to bring to your instructor indicating the need for accommodation and the nature of it. This should be done during the first week of class. For more information about services available to Queens College students, contact the Office of Special
Services (718-997-5870) or visit their website (http://sl.qc.cuny.edu/oss/).

Class Schedule

NOTE: please read attentively the required activities for each week. *The schedule is provisional and subject to change!* Any changes will be announced in advance, in writing, in an email and/or announcement on Brightspace. Be responsible: if you are unsure what to read or watch, or what assignment is due, for a specific deadline, contact one of your classmates or your instructor.

Please note, I will post notifications on Brightspace to let you know what assignments, exams, or projects are coming up. It is your responsibility to follow the announcements on Brightspace regularly, and please make sure your email address on Brightspace is up to date.

Week of…	**Texts and material**	**Assignments due**
#1 Monday, 1/27	1. Watch introduction recording for week #1 2. Read Brenner, "Pages from the Notebook of a Hebrew Writer." (on Brightspace) 3. Read Rahel, *A Sad Song* (on Brightspace)	Weekly assignment #1 Due 2/1 by end of day
#2 Monday, 2/3	1. Watch recordings for week #2 2. Read: Mendele Mokher Sefarim, "Shem and Japheth on a Train."	Weekly assignment #2 Due 2/9 by end of day
#3 Monday, 2/10	1. Watch recordings for week #3 2. Read: Yosef Chaim Brenner, "Nerves." 3. Read Bialik poems (on Brightspace)	Weekly assignment #3 Due 2/16 by end of day
#4 Monday, 2/17	1. Watch recordings for week #f4 2. Read: Dvora Baron, "Sunbeams." 3. Read: S. Y. Agnon, "Agunot."	Weekly assignment #4 Due 2/23 by end of day
#5 Monday, 2/24	1. Watch recordings for week #5 2. Read: Leah Goldberg and Rahel Poems (on Brightspace) 3. Start reading our long text: S. Yizhar, *Khirbet Khizeh*	Weekly assignment #4 Due 3/2 by end of day
#6 Monday, 3/3	1. Watch recordings for week #6 2. Read: S. Yizhar, *Khirbet Khizeh*	Weekly assignment #6 Due 3/9 by end of day

#7 Monday, 3/10	1. Watch recordings for week #7 2. Read: Binyamin Tammuz, "The Swimming race." 3. Read: Amos Oz, Nomad and viper	Weekly assignment #7 Due 3/16 by end of day
#8 Monday, 3/17	Midterm project week	MIDTERM PROJECT Due 3/30 by end of day
#9 Monday, 3/24	1. Watch recordings for week #9 2. Read Yehuda Amichai "Poems" (on Brightspace)	Weekly assignment #8 Due 3/30 by end of day
#10 Monday, 3/31	1. Read: David Shahar, "The Pope's Mustache" 2. Read: Amalia Kahana-Carmon: "Bridal Veil" 3. Watch recordings for week #10	Weekly assignment #9 Due 4/6 by end of day
#11 Monday, 4/7	1. Read: Shulamit Hareven, "My Straw Chairs" 2. Read: Sami Michael, *Refuge* [excerpt] 3. Watch recordings for week #11	Weekly assignment #10 Due 4/20 by end of day
	Spring break	
#12 Monday, 4/21	1. Read: Etgar Keret, "Breaking the Pig", "Hole in the Wall" 2. Read: Ronit Matalon, "A Girl in the Café" 3. Watch recordings for week #12	Weekly assignment #11 Due 4/27 by end of day
#13 Monday, 4/28	1. Watch: *The Band's Visit* 2. Read: Yehudit Katzir, "Disneyel" 3. Watch recordings for week #11	Weekly assignment #12 Due 5/4 by end of day
#14 Monday, 5/5	1. Watch recordings for week #14 2. Read: Rutu Modan, *Exit Wounds*	Weekly assignment #13 Due 5/11 by end of day
# 15 Monday, 5/12	Summary and preparation for final project	Final project Due 5/22 by end of day