

Women in Israel

Esther Carmel-Hakim

Course Number: 702.2130

Class Time: Wednesday 15:00 – 18:00

Class Location: TBA

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Course Description

For several decades historians have been adding female experiences and female accomplishments to our picture of the past. In this course we shall survey this new historical narrative and test the “myth of equality between men and women” in pre-state Israel and in the State of Israel. We will study the lives and status of women in the light of the reality of women’s lives and different types of settlements in the following periods: the end of the Ottoman Empire, the British Mandate and the State of Israel. Students will read, view and discuss a wide variety of primary and secondary texts. We will explore ways in which women acted creatively to affect social change, and the projects and organizations they formed to combat gender prejudice and discrimination. We will have two field trips: to Rishon Letzion, Weizmann Institute Ayalon Institute, and to Um El Fachem, Afula Kibbutz Mishmar Haemek.

Course requirements

- Weekly Reading Assignments and Transcription Notes 15%
- Field Trip Report 10%
- Mid-term Paper (3-4-pages): 25%
- Final Exam 50%
- 25% Take home essay questions 25% in class final

Weekly Reading Assignments and Transcription Notes- 15%

For each text read, students will be required to hand in Transcription Notes. This means you are to choose and write out in their entirety two (2) sentences or paragraphs or verses which you consider especially significant to understanding the work being discussed that week in class. After each quote, free-write about what is important and/or significant about the passage. Do these select passages act as a key to unlocking the meaning of the text? Do they cause a personal reaction, emotionally, intellectually?

These Transcription Notes will not be corrected (for grammar, spelling, etc.) nor will they be graded. But they must be handed in on the day we read the specific text and they constitute 15% of the final grade. Points will be deducted for Notes handed in late or not at all.

Please e-mail the Transcription Notes to me in the body of the mail – not as attachments -- before the start of every class.

Field Trip Report - 10%

The report should integrate the information we hear on the sites we visit and the people we meet during the field trip, as well as the material we discussed in class with your reflection on it. It should be between two and three pages.

Mid-term Paper (3-4-pages) - 25%

The short paper will be written about a woman or women's organization of project initiated by women in the pre state period. The paper should be no longer than four pages in length, including endnotes. For this short paper, each student should read a memoir and/or biography and short articles of one woman or women's organization which influenced the history of Zionism, , or the evolution of the pre state Israel. You are expected to use secondary source materials, such as scholarly articles from journals and periodicals, to supplement the biographies and/or memoirs you read.

Course Outline and Reading List

Week 1: Introduction: Historical Background for the “Yishuv” 25.2.15

- Maor Anat. Women in Israel
<http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/isdf/text/anatmaor.pdf>
- Bernstein, Deborah. *Pioneers and Homemakers: Jewish Women in Pre-state Israel*. New York: State University of New York Press, 1992. 1-20.
- Movie: The Glass Ceiling

Week 2: Women in the Hebrew Language, in Jewish Culture, and in Israeli Life 4.3.15

- Elijor, Rachel, Blessed art Thou, Lord our God, who has not made me a woman, Men and Women: Gender Judaism and Democracy ed. R. Elijor, Jerusalem: Van Leer and Urim Publications, 2004: 81-96
- Leibowitz Yeshayahu. *The Status of Women: Halakhah and Meta-Halakhah*, 1980.
http://giorab.wix.com/leibowitz#!_archive

Week 3: Women in Zionist Utopias, and Women in the First Wave of Immigration (Aliyah), 1882 –1904 11.3.15

- Aaronsohn, Ran. "Through the Eyes of a Settler's Wife: letter from the Moshava." Bernstein 29-47.
- Elboim-Dror, Rachel. "Gender and utopianism: The Zionist case." *History workshop journal* 37 (1994): 99–116.
- Herzl, Theodore. *Altneuland Old New Land*. Haifa: Haifa Pub. Co, 1960. 56-60.

- Shilo, Margalit. "The transformation of the role of women in the First Aliyah, 1882-1903." *Jewish Social Studies* 2.2 (1996): 64-86.

Movie: The Jews in Eretz Israel 1913.

Week 4: Agricultural training for women: an international Jewish women's project 18.3.15

- Carmel-Hakim, Esther. Agricultural-Vocational Training for Women in the Yishuv with the Assistance of Jewish Women Organizations 1911-1929, Haifa University, 2003, pp. 1-10 PhD Dissertation.
- Carmel-Hakim, Esther. "Canadian Hadassah/WIZO and the Establishment Women's Agricultural School at Nahalal." *Canadian Jewish Studies*, Volume XII-2004, pp.97 - 108.

Movie: Kinneret from Rachel's window.

Week 5: Manya Shohat and Women in the Defense Forces: Hashomer, Hagana, ATS, Palmach, IDF 25.3.15

- Reinharz, Shulamit. *Manya Willbushewitz-Shochat and the Winding Road to Sejera, Pioneer and Homemakers*, pp. 95-118.
- Sasson-Levy, Orna. *Gender Performance in a Changing Military: Women Soldiers in Masculine' Roles. Israeli Women's Studies*. Ed. Esther Fuchs. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 2005. 265-278.
- Shochat, Manya. *In the Beginning, The Collective. The Plough Women: Records of the Pioneer Women of Palestine – A Critical Edition*. Ed. Mark A. Raider and Miram B. Raider-Roth. Hanover: Brandeis University Press, 2002. 3-12.
- Movie: Jasmine's Battalion.

Week 6: Motherhood and Revolution: Women in the Kibbutz 1.4.15

- Sylvia Fogiel – Bijaoui, *From revolution to motherhood: the case of women in the kibbutz 1910- 1948, Pioneer and Homemakers*, pp. 211 – 233.
- Golda Meyerson, *Borrowed Mothers, The Plough Women*, Mark A. Raider and Miriam B. Raider-Roth, Hanover, 2002, pp. 164 - 165.
- Judith Buber Agassi, *The Status of Women in Kibbutz Society, Israeli Women Studies*, Ed. Esther Fuchs, 2005, pp. 171 – 180
- Amia Lieblich, *Women and the Changing Israeli Kibbutz A Preliminary Three Stage Theory, Journal of Israeli History*, 2002, pp.63 - 84
- Movie: The Kibbutz

Week 7: Female and Palestinian in Israel 15.4.15

- Herzog Hanna. *Homefront and Battlefront. The Status of Jewish and Palestinian Women in Fuchs Esther ed. Israeli Women's Studies*, 2005, pp.208-228
- Hassan, Manar. *Growing Up Female and Palestinian in Israel*. Swirsky and Safir 66-74.

- Islah Jad, "Re-Reading the Mandate: Palestinian Women and the Double Jeopardy of Colonialism", **Review of Women Studies**, 2011, pp. 8 - 29
- Movie: Son of Sulam

Field Trip: Turan, Yfat, Afula Kibbutz Mishmar Haemek. 19.4.15

Week 8: Orthodox Jewish Women 29.4.15

- Yuval-Davis Nira, *Bearers of the Collective Women and Religious Legislations in Israel*, in Fuchs Esther ed. **Israeli Women's Studies**, 2005, pp. 121-132
- El-Or Tamar *Paradoxes and Social Boundries Ultra-Orthodox Jewish Women and their World* in Fuchs Esther ed. **Israeli Women's Studies**, 2005, pp.133 – 149
- Movie: Praying in Her Own Voice

Week 9: Women and Politics 6.5.15

- Shilo Margalit and Carmel Hakim Esther *Feminism and Nationalism the Case of Women's Suffrage in Mandarory Palestine 1917 – 1926*, in Irma Sulkunen and Seija-Leena Nevala-Nurmi and Pirjo Markkola eds. **Suffrage, gender and citizenship : international perspectives on parliamentary reforms**, 2009, pp. 358-373.
- Yishai Yael, *Between the Flag and the Banner*, in Fuchs Esther ed. **Israeli Women's Studies**, 2005, pp.190- 207

Week 10: Welfare Services Initiative of Jewish Women Organizations 13.5.15

- Shifra Shvarts, *The Development of Mother and Infamt Welfare Centers in Israel 1854 – 1954*, **Journal of the History of Medicine**, 55, (2000) pp. 398 -425.
- Brown, Michael. *Henrietta Szold, Health, Education, and Welfare, American Style. The Israeli-American Connection: Its Roots in the Yishuv, 1914-1945*. Wayne: Wayne State University Press. 1996. 133-160.
- Reinharz, Shulamit. *Irma 'Rama' Lindheim: An Independent American Zionist Woman*, **Nashim: A Journal of Jewish Women's Studies & Gender Issues** 1 (1998): 106-135.
- Rebeccah Sieff *In The Name of Women, Beit Hatephutzot*, 1990.

Movie: Rama Lindheim,

Week 12: What Makes Women Sick? Israeli Women and Health 20.5.15

- Sered Susan, *Israeli women and health*, Helen Epstein Ed. **Jewish Women 2000**, Hadassah Brandeis Institute on Jewish Women Waltham, 1999, pp. 109 - 115

Week 13: Sexual Harassment Law in Israel 27.5.15

-  [Kamir Orit, "Israel's 1998 Sexual Harassment Law: Prohibiting Sexual Harassment.](#)

[Sexual Stalking, and Degradation Based on Sexual Orientation in the Workplace and in all Social Settings](#)" (2005, 7 International Journal of Discrimination and Law, 315-336).

Week 14: Final Test

There might be changes in the classes and bibliography with notice in advance.