



Women in Israel

Esther Carmel-Hakim

Course Number: 702.2130

Semester: Spring 2014

Class Time Wednesdays, 12:00 – 15:00

Class Location: TBA

Office Hours: 15:00 - 15:30 by appointment

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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 Ein Harod Sulam and Afula.

Course requirements

- Weekly Reading Assignments
- Class Participation
- Field Trip Report
- Final Exam

Final Grade:

Class participation	20%
Field trip report	10%
Final exam	70%



Course Outline and Reading List

Week 1: Introduction: Historical Background for the "Yishuv" 19.2.14

- 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 26.2.14

- 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 5.3.14

- 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 12.3.14

- 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 19.3.14

- 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 26.3.14

- 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 Children of the Sun

Field Trip: Um El Fachem, Afula Kibbutz Mishmar Haemek. 30.3.14

Week 7: Female and Palestinian in Israel 2.4.14

- 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: Faradis Paradise Lost

Week 8: Orthodox Jewish Women 9.4.14

- 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 23.4.14

- 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 30.4.14



- Shifra Shvarts, The Development of Mother and Infamnt Welfare Centers in Israel 1854 – 1954, *Journal of the History of Medicine*, 55, (2000) pp. 398 -425.
- Nadav Davidovich Shifra Shvarts, Health and Hegemony Preventive Medicine, Immigrants and the Israeli Melting Pot, *Israel Studies*, 9, 2 (1999) pp. 150- 179
- **Summary and Conclusion**

Week 11: Women Zionist Leaders who Immigrated to Israel 7.5.14


- 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 14.5.14

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

Sexual Harassment Law in Israel

-  [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 13: Final Test 28.5.14

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