

## **Global Perspectives in Higher Education: Israel**

**E98.2151 (3 credit points)**

**March 12 - 23, 2009**

### **Class session dates and locations at NYU Campus:**

Friday, February 13, 4-6 pm: Dean's Conference Room, 4th Floor, Pless Hall.

Friday, March 6, 4-6 pm: 5th Floor Conference Room, Pless Hall.

Friday, April 3, 4-6 pm: Dean's Conference Room, 4th Floor, Pless Hall.

Friday, April 17, 4-6 pm: Dean's Conference Room, 4th Floor, Pless Hall.

These locations are in Pless Hall, 82 Washington Square East.

### **Faculty:**

**Professor Teboho Moja**  
**Teboho.Moja@nyu.edu**  
**(212) 998-5589**

**Professor Ann Marcus**  
**Ann.Marcus@nyu.edu**  
**(212) 998-5005**

## **Draft Syllabus**

### ***Purpose of Program***

The study trip to Israel is designed to provide graduate students with an opportunity to examine Israel's higher education system and to discover and analyze similarities and differences in comparison to higher education in the United States. Through visits to universities and public and private colleges, we will engage in discussions with rectors, faculty members, deans of students and their staffs and students themselves. Special lectures with sociologists and national officials will help us understand the goals and future aspirations of Israeli higher education and how higher education meets the social, political and cultural needs of society.

### ***Course Description***

E98.2151, GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES IN HIGHER EDUCATION: ISRAEL.

In addition to class sessions at NYU, students will participate in a ten day field trip to Israel that will provide an in-depth case study of its higher education system. This will include lectures from scholars and visits to Israeli colleges and universities to meet with faculty, administrators and students. Additional sessions will be held with leaders of the national Council for Higher Education. Topics will include curricular opportunities, college admissions requirements, distribution of students by class and ethnicity, college climate, and the student services offered.

### ***Course requirements:***

1. Each student is expected to keep a journal recording **daily** impressions, responses to readings, presentations, etc. The journal will be submitted March 30, 2009.
2. Students are expected to do a research paper, due April 17, 2009. The choice of an area of focus for the paper can be informed by the experience in Israel but will also be a response to course readings.

### ***Class Contribution:***

The contribution you make to the success of this class and to this study abroad experience is important. Students are expected to contribute to the development of a strong, inclusive learning community. As in any graduate course, you are expected to come to class having read the assigned materials thoroughly enough to contribute to a discussion on critical issues within the readings. Students are also expected to attend and actively participate in all classes and scheduled trips except where it is indicated that the activity is optional.

### ***Journal:***

You will need a journal that you can write in each day. This journal can be loose-leaf paper, a bound notebook, or typed. The choice is yours. It may be hand written, so there is no need for a computer to complete your class assignments while in Israel. You will hand in your journal on March 30, 2009, either via blackboard or in hardcopy form to 7th floor Pless Annex, 82 Washington Square East. Journaling provides an opportunity for **daily reflection** on what you are learning and experiencing in Israel. This journal provides a place for capturing your personal reflections on issues we address in class, through presentations, as well as on the broader experiences that you have in Israel.

### ***Final Research Paper/Project and Presentation:***

You will conduct a study and write a final research paper on your area of specialization grounded in issues relevant to Israel. The purpose of this paper is to deepen your understanding of critical educational issues in Israel.

The final research paper should be approximately 10 pages long (typed, APA format). Each student will also do a final presentation on their research topic at a session back at NYU. Students will submit their final papers electronically to the course blackboard website by April 17, 2009.

**IMPORTANT:** unless there is some extenuating circumstance, no incompletes will be given for late/missing/unfinished work.

## Course Schedule\*

### **Friday, February 13, 2009**

Class session at NYU

### **Friday, March 6, 2009**

Class session at NYU

### **Thursday, March 12, 2009**

Depart U.S.

### **Friday, March 13, 2009**

Shalom and welcome to Israel.

Arrive in Haifa.

Welcome dinner.

Overnight: Haifa

### **Saturday, March 14, 2009**

Touring activities north of Haifa.

Evening class session at hotel.

Overnight: Haifa

### **Sunday, March 15, 2009**

University of Haifa

David Faraggi, Vice Rector

Mrs. Shoshi Landman

Overnight: Haifa

### **Monday, March 16, 2009**

Max Stern Academic College

10:00 – 12:00 Presentations and discussion with faculty, administrators, and students.

Professor Aliza Shenhar, President

Professor Matt Silver, Head, General Studies Department

12:00 – 1:00 Lunch

Stop in Nazareth

Overnight: Tel Aviv

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\* Subject to change.

## **Tuesday, March 17, 2009**

### Ono Academic College

- 10:45 – 11:00 Coffee, mingling, welcome by Doran Haran, Vice Chairman
- 11:00 – 11:30 Dr. Eyal Maoz, Director, MBA Program: Ono and Israeli Private Academic Institutions
- 11:30 – 12:00 Yishai Katz-Schoenfeld, Director of Marketing: Marketing Academic Insitutions.
- 12:00 – 12:30 Meeting with students: Ethiopian and Ultra-Orthodox
- 12:30 – 1:15 Lunch

### Tel Aviv University

- 2:30 – 2:55 Welcome greeting by Professor Aron Shai, Vice Rector
- 3:00 – 3:25 Tour of campus
- 3:30 – 4:30 Access to Higher Education in Israel, including Affirmative Action Admissions. Dr. Sigal Alon, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Gordon Faculty of Social Sciences.
- 4:30 – 5:00 Tea and cookies.

Overnight: Jerusalem

## **Wednesday, March 18, 2009**

### Al Quds University

- 9:30 – 12:00 Discussions with small groups of students.  
Presentations and discussion with administrators and faculty.  
Hassan Dweik, Executive Vice President  
Samira Barghouthi, Dean, Scientific Research and International Cooperation
- 12:00 – 1:30 Lunch
- 1:30 – 2:00 Tour of campus
- 4:00 pm Class/tea at American Colony Hotel

Overnight: Jerusalem

## **Thursday , March 19, 2009**

Dead Sea

Massada

Overnight: Dead Sea

**Friday, March 20, 2009**

Ben Gurion University

Presentations and discussion with administrators, faculty, and students

Meeting with Deputy Rector, Professor Yael Edan

Meeting with High School Enrichment program director, Ms. Nurit Lapid

1:00 Meeting with Pre-Med Program for Bedouin Students, Dr. Riad Agbaria

Overnight: Jerusalem

**Saturday, March 21, 2009**

Touring in Jerusalem

Afternoon free.

Overnight: Jerusalem

**Sunday, March 22, 2009**

Council for Higher Education

Menahem Yaari, President, Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities

Shlomo Grossman, Chair, Planning and Budgeting Committee

Afternoon: Tour of Yad Vashem, Holocaust Memorial Museum.

Farewell Dinner

**Monday, March 23, 2009**

Return to New York

**Monday, March 30, 2009**

Journals due. Please submit either via blackboard assignment drop box or in hardcopy to 7<sup>th</sup> floor Pless Annex, 82 Washington Square East.

**Friday, April 3, 2009**

Class session at NYU

**Friday, April 17, 2009**

Class session at NYU

Final papers due in blackboard assignment drop box.

## **Readings**

Prior to our first class meeting, we would like you to familiarize yourself with the general context of Israel and Israeli higher education. To do this we have suggested the following readings, in addition to browsing several online newspapers. In most cases you can find online newspaper articles by typing the title in Google, and academic articles can be accessed by searching with the title using Google Scholar. Make sure you set your preferences on Google Scholar to allow you to access the NYU library databases by clicking on “scholar preferences” and then entering “New York University” in the library links field.

### **Books**

*Insight Guide: Israel.* Barrett, P.

Read the first 100 pages.

### **Council for Higher Education Website**

Please familiarize yourself with the contents of the Council for Higher Education. You can find this by googling “Council for Higher Education Israel” or following this link:

<http://www.che.org.il/english/template/default.asp?maincat=1&catid=7&pageid=7>

### **Academic Articles**

Shavit, Y., Ayalon, H., Bolotin-Chachashvili, S., Menahem, G., & Shwed, U. (2003). The diversification of higher education and its consequences for social stratification in Israel. *10es Journées d'Études Céreq-Lasmas-Idl*, 21, 22.

### **Newspaper Articles**

Here are a few specific articles to provide you with background information about Israel. In addition to these articles, you can further familiarize yourself with the Israeli context by browsing the contents of several online editions of Israeli newspapers in English, including Haaretz (Haaretz.com) and the Jerusalem Post (Jpost.com). You can also search The New York Times which frequently has articles about various Israel related topics.

### ***The Economist***

Miracles and mirages: A strong economy built on weak fundamentals (April 3, 2008).

Link: [http://www.economist.com/surveys/displaystory.cfm?story\\_id=10909908](http://www.economist.com/surveys/displaystory.cfm?story_id=10909908)

### ***The Jerusalem Post***

Hellman, Z. (November 26, 2008). The Blackboard Bungle.

## **Fiction Assignment**

Two books are required reading before the trip to Israel. Everyone should read one book by a Jewish-Israeli author and one book by Arab-Israeli author. Below are recommendations. We encourage you to read additional novels and make recommendations to the group via email. All of the books below can be purchased on Amazon.com.

*A Tale of Love and Darkness*, Amos Oz (2005).

This memoir/family history brims over with riches: metaphors and poetry, drama and comedy, failure and success, unhappy marriages and a wealth of idiosyncratic characters. Though set mostly during the author's childhood in Jerusalem of the 1940s and '50s, the tale is epic in scope, following his ancestors back to Odessa and to Rovno in 19th-century Ukraine, and describing the anti-Semitism and Zionist passions that drove them with their families to Palestine in the early 1930s (Publisher's Weekly).

*Once Upon a Country: A Palestinian Life*, Sari Nusseibeh (2008). (Autobiography)

Sari Nusseibeh's autobiography dovetails persuasively with the larger story of Palestinian dispossession and struggle in the 20th century. Equally instructive are his differences from his fellow Palestinians, many of whom he encountered as his students in the classrooms and cafes at Birzeit University in the West Bank, and later as president of Al Quds University in Jerusalem. In relating the Palestinian perspective on the expulsions, expropriations and deprivations during and after the wars of 1948, 1967 and beyond, Nusseibeh convincingly interweaves personal experience and tectonic historical shifts, while charting his own political evolution and eventual and resolute insistence on a two-state solution to the Israel-Palestine conflict (Publisher's Weekly).

*Let it be Morning*, Sayed Kashua (2006).

Kashua's second novel (after *Dancing Arabs*) illuminates the lives of Israel's Arab minority. An unnamed Israeli Arab journalist returns from Tel Aviv to his home village with his wife and infant daughter, in search of cheaper living. There, residents flip anxiously between Hebrew news and al-Jazeera to make sense of daily life, and high school students wear both the latest Western clothes and veils in increasing numbers (Publisher's Weekly).

*Dancing Arabs*, Sayed Kashua (2004).

Kashua resists stereotype in this slyly subversive, semi-autobiographical account of Arab Israeli life, telling the story of a Palestinian boy who wins a prestigious scholarship to a Jewish high school, but slips into listless malaise as an adult, despising himself, scorning his fellow Arabs and resenting the Israelis. The unnamed narrator spends his childhood in the village of Tira (Publisher's Weekly).

*Friendly Fire*, A.B. Yehoshua (2008).

Celebrated Israeli novelist Yehoshua explores the power of grief and bitterness in a blunt drama studded with political, historical and religious significance. In Tel Aviv, 60-year-old Amotz Ya'ari is separated for a week from his wife Daniela when she flies to Tanzania to mourn her dead sister, Shuli, and visit with brother-in-law Yirmi. Yehoshua's descriptions of life in Israel are full and revelatory, and his despairing view of entrenched resentments becomes a stirring plea for empathy and rationality. (Publisher's Weekly).

## **Israeli Films**

We highly recommend viewing films depicting Israeli life. Search Amazon.com for Israeli movies or this site for movies and their reviews <http://www.imdb.com/Sections/Countries/Israel/>.

*The Secrets* (2007). Two brilliant young women discover their own voices in a repressive orthodox culture and begin a risky journey into forbidden realms.

*Kadosh* (1999). A rare glimpse into the world of Orthodox Jewry in Israel.

*The 50 Years War - Israel & The Arabs* (2000). Documentary.

*Exodus* (1960). Action-packed story of the birth of modern Israel.

*Time of Favor* (2000). Award-winning film that tells the tale of the conflict between secular and religious society in Israel.