UCONN | COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES

COMMITTEE ON CURRICULA AND COURSES

Proposal to Change an Existing Course

Last revised: September 24, 2013

1. Date: March 26, 2014

2. Judaic Studies /LCL

3. Nature of Proposed Change

   The change is presumably total. The course on the books has not been taught for many years, certainly not since my arrival.

4. If proposing to add this course to a CLAS general education area A-E, then
   a. Specify a CLAS area, A-E: B (and E)
   b. Provide justification for inclusion in CLAS area, A-E:
   (Please consult CLAS guidelines for areas A-E.)

This course is appropriate for CLAS **category B** (Literature) because it is a survey of literary works. How does Israeli writing (poetic, prose, film, lyric)respond to the experience of exile and national rebirth? How can we use literature to explore the very human tension between the yearning for home and the experience of dispossession? How do these works ask us to think about the balance between collective and individual fulfillment, between the pull of the past (tradition, history) and the lure of the new? How does the rich literary production that has marked Israel's short history express existential themes of meaning and memory; particular themes of integration and cultural, political and social conflict; artistic themes of creation and voice, legacy and language? How does a "new" society imagine itself in literature and how does literature respond to the success or failure of that imagining? What is the meaning of "national" literature or art, who decides what works may constitute it,and what purpose does it serve?

The course also satisfies the thematic requirements for **area E** (World Cultures). The readings I have selected grapple with the particular social, political and cultural scene in Israel as well as with questions of Jewish history and the multiplicity of "identities" that have converged in modern Israel. Themes of immigration, minority v. majority, gender equity and stereotyping, militarization, East v. West, Jew v. Arab, secular v. sacred, permit exploration of Israel's particular conditions as well as their relevance for other national settings. Thus, this course not only treats a literary corpus that is largely unfamiliar to English-speaking and Western readers, but it surveys that corpus as a multicultural microcosm. How do immigrants from a wide range of countries and (often traumatic) historical experience make their way in Israel? How do Israeli Jews relate to the presence of non-Jewish citizens in their midst and how have the latter altered the face of Hebrew literature forever? How does Israeli literature situate Israelis vis a vis its ongoing conflict with its Arab neighbors? or in relation to Diaspora Jews?

Effective Date (semester, year): Fall 2014

(Consult Registrar's change catalog site to determine earliest possible effective date. If a later date is desired, indicate here.)

Current Catalog Copy

3279. Literature of Modern Israel

(279) Three credits.

The major themes and literary achievements of modern Hebrew writing. Authors to be emphasized include Feierberg, Bialik, Brenner, Berdichevsky, Tschernichowsky, Agnon, Greenberg, and Alterman.

Proposed Catalog Copy

(See information in the "Add a course" form if you have any questions regarding specific items.)

Modern Israeli Literature in Translation. The major themes and literary achievements of modern Hebrew writing in translation. Authors range from the pre-Statehood period (Bialik, Tchernikovsky, Agnon) to the present (Yehoshua, Grossman, Liebrecht, Semel).

Justification

1. Reasons for changing this course:

   There are no current course offerings in modern Israeli/Hebrew literature offered on the Storrs campus. This course attempts to remedy that lacuna and to offer additional support to courses on modern Israel, the modern Middle East, Middle Eastern languages and literatures (Hebrew and Arabic), and global literature offerings.

2. Effect on Department's curriculum:

   The course enriches the current menu of offerings available in the Dept of Literatures Cultures & Languages.

3. Other departments consulted:

   The course is offered through the Judaic Studies section of the Dept of Literatures Cultures & Languages. No other depts were consulted but affiliated faculty in Judaic Studies (in History, Political Science, Anthropology) will be aware of it.

4. Enriches offerings on the Middle East and Mediterranean, comparative literatures, anthropology, political science.

5. Effects on regional campuses:

   None.

6. Staffing: Me (Susan L. Einbinder).

7. Dates approved by

   Department Curriculum Committee:
   Department Faculty:

8. Name, Phone Number, and e-mail address of principal contact person:

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