

HBR4930: Hebrew Translation for Political Communication

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<i>Meetings</i>	M, W, F 4 th Period
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Course Description

Hebrew translation has been volatile, provocative and controversial already since 1536, when William Tyndale was executed for his translation of the Bible. In contemporary politics, the proliferation of media and increased mobility between media, as well as the possibilities and the need to transmit information quickly and cheaply in the electronic age, create new challenges and new forms of translation. The translator, on his/her part, is repeatedly called upon to stitch together a fragile cultural and linguistic make-up of a "global village" that is constantly falling apart at the seams. In the context of the Middle East and global communication, this course will use theory in translation, media and culture to discuss the ways in which the seemingly neutral act of translation serves as a highly contested vehicle for communication (and miscommunication) in Israel and the Middle East.

Grades

(1) Class participation, including short weekly assignments (20%); (2) Written assignments (15%); (3) Student Presentation (5%); (4) Midterm paper (30%); (5) Final paper (30%)

Grading Scale

100-93	A	A - 4.0
90- 92	A-	A- - 3.67
87- 89	B+	B+- 3.33
83- 86	B	B - 3.0
80-82	B-	B- - 2.67
77-79	C+	C+ -2.33
73-76	C	C - 2.0
70-72	C-	C- - 1.67
67-69	D+	D+ -1.33
63-66	D	D - 1.0

60-62 D-
S-U 73%

D- -0.67
E – 0, WF – 0, I – 0, NG – 0, SU - 0

Texts

Most of the articles and primary texts for this course will be posted on the course website. The readings from most primary texts will be reduced to short excerpts in order to comply with fair usage, and to maintain a reasonable reading requirement.

Course Assignments

Participation and Attendance – Class discussion will more often consist of active discussion and various activities than class lecture. Students are therefore expected to come to class prepared and ready to participate.

Attendance will be monitored, and each three unexcused absences will count for half a grade off the final grade in the course (e.g. from A to A-). Nine unexcused absences will result in a failing course grade. Students who need to miss a class for a legitimate reason should send an email message to the instructor ahead of time.

Weekly assignments – Students will be asked to prepare weekly assignments, often creative and in groups. These assignments will address reading and/or class discussions.

Written Assignments – There will be three short individual written assignments. In these assignments students will usually be asked to respond to a short text or an article we will later discuss in class.

Presentation – There will be one short (5-10 minutes) presentation in which students will apply some of the material to texts of their own choice.

Midterm and Final Paper – Each student will choose, in consultation with the instructor, a paper topic that addresses some of the topics and texts that are discussed in class. The midterm paper will be submitted and returned with a midterm grade and some feedback – and then revised and resubmitted at the end of the course (hopefully) for a higher grade. Each of the two grades (for the midterm and final paper) represents 30% of the final grade in the course.

Weekly Schedule:

First Week:

Introduction: Translation, Mid-East Politics and Global Communication.

Second Week:

A History of Translation

Third Week:

Who Gets to Speak in the World News?

- Jaap van Ginneken
- Susan Bassnett

Fourth Week (1st written assignment due):

The Politics of Translation

- Bielsa and Bassnett ("Power, Language and Translation")
- Jaber and Baumann

Fifth Week:

Reality and Middle Eastern News Coverage

- Dror Abend-David
- Tal Samuel Azran

Sixth Week:

Interpreters and Interpretations

- *The Interpreter*
- Fotini Apostolou

Seventh Week (midterm paper due)

Identity and Representation:

- Amir Hetsroni
- Abu-Lughod

Eighth Week:

Occident and Orient

- Marie Gillespie

Ninth Week:

Media and Immigration

- Christine Heiss

Tenth Week (2nd written assignment due):

Translation, Communication and Globalization

- Branston and Stafford
- Patterson and Chyutin

Eleventh Week:

The Orient and the *West Wing*

- Rachel Gans-Boriskin

Twelfth Week:

Student's presentation.

Thirteenth Week (3rd written assignment due):

Authority, Credibility, Access

- Bielsa and Bassnett ("Translation and Trust")

Fourteenth Week:

Conclusion.

Bibliography:

- Abend-David, Dror (2010), "Reality vs. Reality TV: News Coverage in Israeli Media at the Time of Reality TV," in Amir Hetsroni, Ed., *Reality Television: Merging the Global and the Local*. Hauppauge, NY: Nova Science Publishers, 2010.
- Abu-Lughod, Lila (1997), "Finding a Place for Islam: Egyptian Television Serials and the National Interest." In Sreberny-Mohammadi et. al., Eds., *Media in Global Context: a Reader*, United Kingdom: Edward Arnold.
- Apostolou, Fotini (2009). Mediation, manipulation, empowerment: Celebrating the complexity of the interpreter's role," *Interpreting: International Journal and Practice in Interpreting*, 2(1).
- Bielsa and Bassnett, (Eds.) (2009) *Translation in Global News*, London: Routledge.
- Branston and Stafford (2006), "The Cultural Imperialism Debate," *The Media Student's Book*, New York: Routledge
- Bassnett, Susan (2005), "Bringing the News Back Home: Strategies of Acculturation and Foreignisation," *Language & Intercultural Communication*, 5(2).
- Gans-Boriskin, Rachel (2005), "The Bushlet Administration: Terrorism and War on *The West Wing*," *The Journal of American Culture*, 28(1).
- Gillespie, Marie (1997), "Local Uses of the Media: Negotiating Culture and Identity." In Sreberny-Mohammadi et. al., Eds., *Media in Global Context: a Reader*, United Kingdom: Edward Arnold.
- Ginneken, Jaap van (1998), "Who Gets to Speak in the World News," *Understanding Global News: a Critical Introduction*. London: Sage.
- Heiss, Christine (2014), "Multilingual Films and Integration? What role does Film translation Play," in Abend-David, Dror, Ed., New York, NY: Bloomsbury Academic, 2014.
- Hetsroni, Amir (2010), "The Rise and Fall of the Right to 'Proper Representation,'" *Cultural Trends*, 19, 1-2.
- Jaber and Baumann (2011), "The BBC World Service in the Middle East: Claims to impartiality, or a politics of translation?" *Journalism*, 12 (2).
- Patterson and Chyutin (2014), "Teaching Trauma in (and Out of) Translation: Waltzing with Bashir in English," in Abend-David, Dror, Ed., New York, NY: Bloomsbury Academic, 2014.
- Samuel-Azran et. al. (2014), "Accent and Prejudice," in Abend-David, Dror, Ed., New York, NY: Bloomsbury Academic, 2014.

Visual Materials:

Pollack, Sydney, Dir. (2005), *The Interpreter*, Universal Pictures.

Fall 2015 Calendar – Hebrew Translation for Political Communication

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Wk I	08.24	08.25	08.26	08.27	08.28
Wk II	08.31	09.1	09.2	09.3	09.4
Wk III	09.7 Labor day	09.8 1st Written Assignment	09.9	09.10	09.11
Wk IV	09.14 Rosh HaShana	09.15 Rosh HaShana	09.16	09.17	09.18
Wk V	09.21 2nd Written Assignment	09.22	09.23 Yom Kippur	09.24	09.25
Wk VI	09.28 Midterm Abstracts	09.29	09.30	10.1	10.2
Wk VII	10.5 Presentations	10.6	10.7	10.8	10.9
Wk VIII	10.12 Midterm Paper	10.13	10.14	10.15	10.16
Wk IX	10.19	10.20	10.21	10.22	10.23
Wk X	10.26 3rd Written Assignment	10.27	10.28	10.29	10.30
Wk XI	11.2	11.3	11.4	11.5	11.6 Homecoming
Wk XII	11.9 Presentations	11.10 Veterans Day	11.11	11.12	11.13
Wk XIII	11.16	11.17	11.18	11.19	11.20
Wk XIV	11.23 Final Abstracts	11.24	11.25 Thanksgiving	11.26 Thanksgiving	11.27 Thanksgiving
Wk XV	11.30	12.1	12.2	12.3	12.4
Wk XVI	12.7 Final Paper	12.8	12.9		