

Tel Aviv University
The Lester & Sally Entin Faculty of Humanities
The Department of English and American Studies
Poetry Analysis שירה ניתוח 0626.1217.01
סמסטר ב' תשע"ז 2016-17 Spring Semester

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Course Description: Though some poems are very long, a poem is typically a fairly small piece of text, which manages to achieve a great deal in spite of its brevity. There is thus an interesting disparity between poetry's material minimalism and conceptual and perceptual magnitude. Why is it, or how is it, that a poem grabs us or asks for our attention in the ways that it does, if it does? Through readings of poems from classical and contemporary English and American poetry, this course will provide basic terminology and techniques for discussing, understanding and misunderstanding poetry's modes of operation.

Readings: The poems we will be reading are available on the course website. Students are required to have all the poems with them for all classes, and to carefully read the poems assigned for each class.

Class Requirements and Grade Breakdown: Attendance is mandatory and absence of more than the allotted number of lessons can jeopardize status of student in the class. In this context attendance also means punctual arrival with the appropriate readings. We will have two midterm exams (each worth 30% of the final grade) and a final take-home exam (worth 40% of the final grade).

Midterms Dates: See below. Midterms are Fridays at 9:00AM.

Take-Home Exam: The instruction will be given on the last class. Submission date: 27.7. Submit electronic version on course website and a hardcopy to the secretary. No extensions will be given (unless for extreme and documented medical circumstances).

Class Schedule:

1. March 15: Introduction to Poetry Analysis
2. March 19: Narrative and Lyrical Poetry
3. March 22: Words, Words, Words
4. March 26: Tone and Interpretation
5. March 29: Persona, Speaker, Poet

6. April 2: Irony
7. April 19: Imagery
8. April 23: Cont.
9. April 26: Figurative Language: Metaphor and Simile
10. April 30: Guest Poet: Karen Alkalay-Gut
11. May 3: Other Figures
 - *May 5: Midterm 1 (moed A)
12. May 7: Cont.
13. May 10: Sound: Alliteration and Assonance
14. May 14: Cont.
15. May 17: Rhythm and Pace
16. May 21: Meter
17. May 24: Cont.
 - *May 26: Midterm 1 (moed B)
18. May 28: Rhyme: Systematic and Sporadic
19. June 4: Closed Forms: The Sonnet
20. June 7: Other Closed Forms
21. June 11: Closed Forms Cont.
22. June 14: Open Forms: History, Rhythm, Visual Poetry
 - *June 16: Midterm 2 (moed A)
23. June 18: Cont.
24. June 21: Performance Poetry; Political Poetry
25. June 25: Putting It All Together
26. June 28: Recap.
 - *June 30: Midterm 2 (moed B)

The following books, available in the library or online through the library website, contain much of the material covered in this class. In any case of conflict, the information, definitions and terms given in class are preferable to those found in these books.

Hoeper, Jeffrey D., and James H. Pickering. *Poetry: An Introduction*. New York: Macmillan, 1990.

Kennedy, X. J., and Dana Gioia. *An Introduction to Poetry*. 13th ed. Boston: Longman, 2010.

Strachan, John, and Richard Terry. *Poetry*. 2nd ed. Edinburgh: Edinburgh UP, 2011.

Wolosky, Shira. *The Art of Poetry: How to Read a Poem*. Oxford: Oxford UP, 2001.