



The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

Fragile Structures of Knowledge: Sukkah as Performance - 20595

Last update 14-08-2022

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

Responsible Department: Theatre Studies

Academic year: 0

Semester: 1st Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Dr. Diego Rotman

Coordinator Email: diego.rotman@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: by appointment

Teaching Staff:

Dr. Diego Rotman

Course/Module description:

In this seminar, we will deal with a fascinating architectural, ceremonial, and performative practice in Jewish culture: the sukkah. This practice has been a source of inspiration for many projects in the past decades in diverse fields of design, art, and activism, both during the holiday and beyond. The sukkah is a temporary architectural structure traditionally built to fulfill the commandment specific to the holiday of Sukkot: "You shall dwell in the Sukkot for seven days." Its construction performatively recreates the establishment of the temporary shelters in the desert during the wanderings of the Israelites after the Exodus from Egypt. The building itself brings together many tensions: between a temporary connection to the place and the longing for a permanent home, between the private and the public, between the mythical past and the present.

The sukkah is not only the product of a performative reconstruction but also an arena for ritual, hosting, and performances. In this seminar, we will explore the realization of the performative and transformative potential of the sukkah both in traditional practice and in contemporary projects in the field of design, art and activism. As part of this multidisciplinary seminar, we will examine the sukkah and the concept of a "temporary home" through various approaches from theater, performance, anthropology, and folklore research. We will host and meet researchers, curators, and artists, and we will visit museums.

Course/Module aims:

- * Examine the sukkah as a performative object from the perspective of performance in relation;*
- * Practice interdisciplinary research in dialogue with other disciplines such as folklore studies, anthropology and art history;*
- * Make connections between the world of art, ethnography and theater;*
- * Learn about current projects.*

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

By the end of this course, students will have:

- * Developed interdisciplinary research skills for artistic and social projects while referring to their poetic, political, sociological and cultural aspects;*
- * Gained the ability to break down the dichotomy between folk culture and high*

culture;

* *Developed tools for examining work processes in projects that cross the boundaries between creation and research (research-creation projects).*

Attendance requirements(%):

100

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: The course combines discussions, lectures, watching films, working with archival materials, guest lectures, visiting museums, meeting artists and curators, reading articles and texts.

Course/Module Content:

- * *The museological and performative potential of the sukkah*
- * *Art as institutional criticism*
- * *The world of folklore as raw material for art and performance*
- * *Research-creation*

Required Reading:

(רשימה לא סופית)

בן-שאול, דפנה. "כל האזרח יישבו בסוכות" - הפוליטיזציה של המרחב הביתי ב"סוכת נצח", בתוך המחלקה האתנוגרפית של המוזיאון של העכשווי, לאה מאואס ודיאגו רוטמן (עורכים), ירושלים: הערת שוליים, 2017, עמ' 154-178

חזן-רוקם, גלית. "הסוכה - ביתו של היהודי הנודד או מקדש בכל אתר?", בתוך המחלקה האתנוגרפית של המוזיאון של העכשווי, לאה מאואס ודיאגו רוטמן (עורכים), ירושלים: הערת שוליים, 2017, עמ' 136-153

חזן-רוקם, גלית. "היבטים של ייצוג ושל דו-שיח בחקר התרבות העממית: פואטיקה ופוליטיקה של פסטיבל שלא התקיים", מחקרי ירושלים בפולקלור יהודיט' כ', 1997-1998, עמ' 473-459.

רוטמן, דיאגו. "המוזיאון והמדבר: הערות על "סוכת נצח" והמיזם "בוואדי", בתוך המחלקה האתנוגרפית של המוזיאון של העכשווי, לאה מאואס ודיאגו רוטמן (עורכים), ירושלים: הערת שוליים, 2017, עמ' 179-197

Berlinger, Gabrielle Anna. *Framing Sukkot: Tradition and Transformation in Jewish Vernacular Architecture*. Indiana University Press, 2017

Berlinger, Gabrielle Anna. "From ritual to protest: Sukkot in the garden of hope."

Building & Landscapes, vol. 24, no. 1, spring 2017, pp. 1-25.

Feuchtwanger-Sarig, Neomi. "Fischach and Jerusalem: The Story of a Painted Sukkah," Neomi Feuchtwanger-Sarig, 'Fischach and Jerusalem: The Story of a Painted Sukkah', *Jewish Art*, 19/20, 6-21

Kirshenblatt-Gimblett, Barbara. "Objects of Ethnography," *Exhibiting Cultures: The Poetics and Politics of Museum Display*, eds. Ivan Karp and Steven Lavine (Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1991), pp. 17-78.

Lipis, Miriam. "A Hybrid Place of Belonging: Constructing and Siting the Sukkah in Jewish Topographies: Visions of Space, Traditions of Place", Julia Brauch, Anna Lipphardt, Alexandra Nocke (editors), Ashgate, 2008, pages 27-41.

Jeffrey L. Rubenstein, "The Symbolism of the Sukkah (Part 2)," *Judaism*, vol. 45, no. 4 (Fall 1996): 387-398

Additional Reading Material:

Course/Module evaluation:

End of year written/oral examination 60 %

Presentation 10 %

Participation in Tutorials 10 %

Project work 0 %

Assignments 20 %

Reports 0 %

Research project 0 %

Quizzes 0 %

Other 0 %

Additional information: