

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

Becoming a Wo.man: Critical Perspectives of Gender and Society in Israel - 54251

Last update 14-01-2025

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 2nd degree (Master)

Responsible Department: Master's degree in Gender and Diversity Studies

Academic year: 0

Semester: 2nd Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Dr. Tal Nitsán

Coordinator Email: tal.nitsan1@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: coordinate by email

Teaching Staff:

Dr. Tal Nitsan

Course/Module description:

The distinction between femininity and masculinity is a central organizing criteria of the social life that impacts the choices made by individual, shapes the ideological, practical and institutional limitations within which individuals operate. At the same time, femininity, masculinity and the relationship between them, as well as the world of meanings, practices and accompanying structures are often taken for granted and being naturalized. In this course we will discuss the structures that reproduce and change the gender categories over time as well as the hierarchies created between men and women, male and female, and femininity and masculinity in Israel. We will also examine the interrelationships and intersections created between gender hierarchies and other social hierarchies such as race, status, and religiosity.

The course will begin with introducing and discussing the courses' basic concepts. We will focus on the conceptualization of gender as social construction, relate it to questions of value, and distinguish from tangential concepts such as sex, sexuality and feminism. In light of these concepts, the course will focus on five central institutions that shape everyday life in Israel: economy, health, family, army, education and religion and the question: how are these institutes gendered and gendering?

The course required readings will set the base for class discussions, together with additional up-to-date non-academic materials. In order to enrich the discussions, students will be invited to serve as agents of knowledge and suggest relevant materials based on their own local and current knowledge.

Course/Module aims:

Acquiring a set of tools based on feminist theory and gender research that will allow and motivate students to analyze and reexamine the empirical reality in which we exist and operate.

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

Students will be able to analyze a wide range of social processes from a gendered perspective and better understand the construction of gender inequalities and identities as well as their intersection with other power structures.

Attendance requirements(%):

85%

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Classes will focus on examining empirical situations in the Israeli reality and analyzing them using insights based on feminist research and theory. Argumentation and Analysis in individual projects as well as group and class discussions will be based on course readings, and not on anecdotal knowledge.

Course/Module Content:

Gender, sex and sexuality
Gender and feminism
Economy
Health
Family
Security and safety
Religion
Education

Required Reading:

available on the course web page

Additional Reading Material:

באום דלית ואחרות (עורכות) 2006. ללמוד פמיניזם - מקראה. תל אביב: האגודה הישראלית ללימודים פמיניסטיים ולחקר המיגדר, מיגדרים הקיבוץ המאוחד.
זרעאלי, דפנה ואחרות (עורכות) 1999. מין מיגדר פוליטיקה, תל אביב : קו אדום, הקיבוץ המאוחד.
ינאי, ניצה ואחרות (עורכות) 2007. דרכים לחשיבה פמיניסטית - מבוא ללימודי מיגדר. תל אביב: האוניברסיטה הפתוחה.
מונק, יעל ודפנה הירש (עורכות) 2011 מגדר: תרבות וזהות. רעננה: האוניברסיטה הפתוחה.
עצמון, יעל (עורכת) 2001 התשמע קולי? ייצוגים של נשים בתרבות הישראלית. ירושלים: מכון ון ליר; [תל-אביב]: הקיבוץ המאוחד.

Grading Scheme:

Essay / Project / Final Assignment / Home Exam / Referat 55 %
Active Participation / Team Assignment 10 %
Submission assignments during the semester: Exercises / Essays / Audits / Reports / Forum / Simulation / others 35 %

Additional information:

The reading list is subject to changes and additional readings are on the course moodle.

You are required to read the required readings, bring them along to class, and be prepared to discuss each reading's main and supporting arguments.

Cellphone should be kept away during class and all other electronic devices can be used only for class purposes

You are welcome to share ideas and insights through the learning process but all submitted work has to be individual.

Respect for different opinions is expected in order to create a mutually supportive and respectful learning environment. Participation does not mean "talking a lot" in class, but rather listening actively, doing the readings every week and/or making relevant contributions.

Students who wish to write a seminar paper in this course are requested to coordinate this with the lecturer in advance.

Detailed instructions for the seminar writing process (to be marked separately) are available on the course webpage