

NYU Tel Aviv
ICINE-UT 136; DRLIT-UA 9524
Israeli Cinema

Instructor Information

- Eytan Fox
- Mobile: +972-52-8222202
- Email: eytanfox@gmail.com
- Office Hours: by appointment

Course Information

- ICINE-UT 136; DRLIT-UA 9524
- Israeli Cinema
- Eytan Fox, one of Israel's most acclaimed directors, will teach a course on the art of filmmaking. He will use his work to discuss the history and culture of Israel. The course will enrich the students' understanding of Israeli Cinema as a microcosm of the young, vibrant, and continually changing Israeli state and society. Students will analyse the cinematic expression of the themes behind the inception and evolution of the small yet multifaceted country, and note the differences between the cinema of the first and second wave of Israeli filmmakers. In addition, other Israeli actors and directors will be invited to give guest lectures
- Prerequisites: None
- Tuesdays, 1:30pm-4:30pm
- NYUTA Academic Center, 17 Brandeis Street, Innovation Studio

Course Overview and Goals

Upon Completion of this Course, students will be able to:

- Understand the framework of and appreciation for the creative process of filmmaking, through an examination of the work of director Eytan Fox.
- Think and write like a film critic.
- Understand the history, culture and politics of Israel through the prism of art and cinema.

Course Requirements

Class Participation

Students are expected to attend class regularly and arrive on time. Students must complete all assigned readings before the class meeting and be prepared to participate actively in discussions of the readings and current events.

Film Presentation

Each student will select an Israeli film to watch on their own, present clips from the films to the class, and write an essay summarizing and critiquing the main artistic and cultural themes of the film.

Final Paper

Students will submit an 8-10 page final paper in the form of a film script that tells a story about their semester at NYU Tel Aviv.

Grading of Assignments

The grade for this course will be determined according to the following formula:

Assignments/Activities	% of Final Grade
Class Participation	20%
Film Presentation	40%
Final Paper	40%

Failure to submit or fulfill any one of the required course component results in failure of the class.

Letter Grades

Letter grades for the entire course will be assigned as follows:

Letter Grade	Percent
A	94-100%
A-	90-93%
B+	87-89%
B	84-86%
B-	80-83%
C+	77-79%
C	74-76%

Letter Grade	Percent
C-	70-73%
D+	67-69%
D	65-66%
F	below 65%

Course Schedule

Topics and Assignments

Week/Date	Topic	Reading / Film	Assignment Due
1	Course Introduction		
2	Introduction to Israeli Culture	“Time Off”	
3	The Tel Aviv Bubble	“The Bubble”	
4	The Tel Aviv Bubble	“Mary Lou”	
5	War and Cinema	“The Song of the Siren”	
6	War and Cinema	“The Song of the Siren”	
7	Gentrification	“Florentine”	
8	Sexuality and the Military	“Yossi & Jagger”	
9	Midterm	Student film presentations	Presentation and paper due
10	The Holocaust	“Walk on Water”	
11	War and Cinema	“Waltz with Bashir”	
12	Israeli TV	“In Treatment”	
13	Eurovision	“Cupcakes”	

Week/Date	Topic	Reading / Film	Assignment Due
14	Co-curricular trip		

Course Materials

Required Textbooks & Materials

All readings are available on NYU Classes

Optional Textbooks & Materials

N/A

Resources

- **Access your course materials:** [NYU Classes](https://nyu.edu/its/classes)(nyu.edu/its/classes)
- **Databases, journal articles, and more:** [Bobst Library](https://library.nyu.edu) (library.nyu.edu)
- **Assistance with strengthening your writing:** [NYU Writing Center](https://nyu.mywconline.com) (nyu.mywconline.com)
- **Obtain 24/7 technology assistance:**[IT Help Desk](https://nyu.edu/it/servicedesk) (nyu.edu/it/servicedesk)

Course Policies

Attendance and Tardiness

Study abroad at Global Academic Centers is an academically intensive and immersive experience, in which students from a wide range of backgrounds exchange ideas in discussion-based seminars. Learning in such an environment depends on the active participation of all students. And since classes typically meet once or twice a week, even a single absence can cause a student to miss a significant portion of a course. To ensure the integrity of this academic experience, class attendance at the centers is mandatory, and **unexcused absences will be penalized with a two percent deduction from the student's final course grade**. Students are responsible for making up any work missed due to absence. Repeated absences in a course may result in failure.

All medical-based absence requests **MUST** be presented to the Manager of Student Life and Housing (MSLH). In the case of illness, contact the MSLH within seven (7) days of the absence or as soon as practicable and provide medical documentation. Non-medical requests should be made to the Assistant Director for Academics (AD/Academics) and in advance of the intended absence. Your instructors will be informed of any excused absence; they are not authorized to approve your absence, and they are required to report any absences to the AD/Academics.

NYU Policy on Religious Holidays

- Students who anticipate being absent because of any religious observance should, whenever possible, notify faculty and the AD/Academics in advance of such anticipated absence.
- Whenever feasible, examinations and assignment deadlines should not be scheduled on religious holidays. Any student absent from class because of his/her religious beliefs shall not be penalized for any class, examination, or assignment deadline missed on that day or days. In the event that

examinations or assignment deadlines are scheduled on a religious holiday, any student who is unable to attend class shall be permitted the opportunity to make up any examination or to extend any assignment deadline missed on that day or days.

- No adverse or prejudicial effects shall result to any student who avails him/ herself of the provisions of the resolution.
- A violation of these policies and principles shall permit any aggrieved student to bring forward a grievance, provided under the University Grievance Procedure.

Late Assignments

All works must be submitted on time unless you have received an explicit extension. Any late submission may result in grade deduction at the sole discretion of the instructor.

Academic Honesty/Plagiarism

Plagiarism is the presentation of another person's words, ideas, judgment, images or data as though they were your own, whether intentionally or unintentionally. Plagiarism constitutes an academic offence for which you can be disciplined. Punishment may include a failing grade, suspension or expulsion. In all confirmed cases, a report will be sent to the student's Dean at NYU or, in the case of a non-NYU student, to the home institution.

Disability Disclosure Statement

Academic accommodations are available for students with disabilities. Please contact the Moses Center for Students with Disabilities (212-998-4980 or mosescsd@nyu.edu) for further information. Students who are requesting academic accommodations are advised to reach out to the Moses Center as early as possible in the semester for assistance.

Instructor Bio

Born in New York in 1964, Eytan Fox was two years old when his parents decided to emigrate to Jerusalem, where he grows up. After studying filmmaking in the Tel Aviv Film School and serving in the Army, Fox made his debut in 1990 with *Time Off* (1990), which deals with the question of sexual identity in the military. His first feature, *Song of a Siren* (1994), a comedy set in Tel Aviv during the First Gulf War, was a hit. After working for three years for Israeli TV (*Gotta Have a Heart* (1998), a musical drama, and *Florentine* (1997), a series about the post-Army years of a group of friends in Tel Aviv, Eytan returned to the big screen with *Yossi and Jager* (2002). Two years later, he directed *Walk on Water* (2004), about the ambiguous relationship between a Mossad agent and the grandson of a former Nazi officer. *Ha-Buah* (2006) reflects the contradictions of Israel in a unique blend of comedy and tragedy.