

The Lover: A Story in Six Voices



IDH 2930 | Honors Course | Tuesday 9:35 AM - 10:25 AM | Location: Center for Jewish Studies Conference Room | Walker Hall, 2nd Floor | Professor Roy Holler | Email: royholler@ufl.edu | Office Hours: Tuesday 11:45 PM - 1:45 PM via Zoom (<https://ufl.zoom.us/j/3764949161>)

The Lover is truly one of a kind. A.B. Yehoshua's novel is woven from a series of monologues told by six characters across three generations and four nationalities. These characters include a successful garage owner who resents his own family; his introverted historian wife, who no longer seems to love him; their rebellious teenage daughter, who witnesses their crumbling relationship; an Arab boy who works at the garage and enjoys reciting Hebrew poetry; a deserter, an Israeli who moved to France and returned seeking his dying grandmother's fortune; and the grandmother herself, demented yet wise, the voice of ancient Jewish histories.

In this course, we will unpack Yehoshua's innovative and challenging novel. We will begin by situating the work within the Israeli context before diving into the book's monologues, exploring the trials and tribulations of three generations of this Israeli family and the cultural divides both within and beyond it. Our discussions will examine the history and fate of the Jewish people in exile, Jewish identity, the state of Israel, and the ongoing conflict in the Middle East. We will

also raise more personal questions about the structure of one’s identity: How do we define and present ourselves in relation to religion, race, ethnicity, nationality, and mainstream culture? How do external forces such as community, family, and prescribed notions of destiny affect our lives and our free will?

This (Un)Common Reads course marks the two-year anniversary of Yehoshua’s passing. The celebrated novelist, essayist, and playwright was hailed by the New York Times as the “Israeli Faulkner.” Students will have the opportunity to familiarize themselves with Yehoshua's literary inspiration and his philosophical reflections on identity and the state, through supplemental readings and discussions.

Course Objectives:

- Students will become familiar with the history of the Jewish people, in Israel and the diaspora, and their relation to local communities.
- Students will explore notions of immigration, diasporas, exile, displacement, and the meaning of homelands or motherlands
- Students will write and present their own findings in writing and through an experiential project that apply their family history to express their own backgrounds and realities.

Required Books

A.B. Yehoshua. [The Lover](#). (1977) A. B. Yehoshua. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company.

All other readings, works and required viewing will be available in Canvas.

Grading Scale

For information on how UF assigns grade points, visit: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

A	94 – 100%		C	74 – 76%
A-	90 – 93%		C-	70 – 73%
B+	87 – 89%		D+	67 – 69%
B	84 – 86%		D	64 – 66%
B-	80 – 83%		D-	60 – 63%
C+	77 – 79%		E	<60

A minimum grade of B is required to earn Academic points towards your Honors Completion Requirements. (Exception: Honors Quest I and II sections require a C). Once you have earned your final grade in this course, please upload the course information and final grade from your Unofficial Transcript into your Honors Canvas Cohort: Honors Completion module to earn Honors Milestone / Completion credit.

Description of Graded Work:

Assignment	Description	Requirements	Points
Course Journal	Each week students will submit a brief blogpost summary and analysis of the assigned content for the week. Students will read and comment on their classmates posts as well.	400 words weekly	200 – 50%
Attendance and in-class participation	Being a small seminar, this class is dependent on your attendance, discussion, and participation! In addition, students will prepare three discussion questions for each session.	Active participation	100 – 50%

Tentative Course Schedule.

Introduction

Week One, Jan. 14: **Welcome + Introduction.**

Week Two, Jan. 21: “Facing the Forests” (1968).

Week Three, Jan. 28: “Early in the Summer of 1970” (1982).

The Lover

Week Four, Feb. 4: **Part One.** The First Voice. **Adam.** (Read pg. 3 -6)

Week Five, Feb. 11: The Second Voice. **Dafi.** (Read pg. 6-14)

Week Six, Feb. 18: The Third and Fourth Voices. **Asya and Veducha.** (Read pg. 14-33)

Week Seven, Feb. 25: **Part Two.** (Pg. 37 – 84)

Week Eight, Mar. 4: **Part Three.** (Pg. 87 – 118)

Week Nine, Mar. 11: **Part Four.** The Fifth Voice. **Na'im.** (Pg. 121 - 262)

Week Ten, Mar. 25: **Part Four. Cont.** Yehoshua, "[Who is a Jew](#)" + "[Who is an Israeli](#)"

Week Eleven, Apr. 1: **Part Five.** The Sixth Voice. **Gabriel.** (Finish Novel)

Film Adaptations

Week Twelve, Apr. 8: Israel - *The Lover* (1986) Dir. Michal Bat Adam.

Week Thirteen, Apr. 15: Italy - *L'amante perduto* (1999) Dir. Roberto Faenza.

Week Fourteen, Apr. 23: Wrapping up...

University Policies and Statements:

Campus / Academic Resources

Honors Program, 201 Walker Hall, 352-392-1519

Quick questions for an Honors advisor? Email advisor@honors.ufl.edu

Need an Honors advising appointment? Schedule via Microsoft Bookings: <https://bit.ly/ufhonorsadvising>

Attendance Policy

Students are expected to come to every class. For absence due to participation in an official university activity, observance of a religious holiday, performance of a military duty, or any other reason as per the University policy, the student is required to notify the instructor before the day of the absence, and if possible at the start of the semester, in order to arrange make up time and procedures. No makeups allowed for unexcused absences.

Students Requiring Accommodation

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center by visiting <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/>. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

UF Evaluations Process

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at

<https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

University Honesty Policy

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code (<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

Counseling and Wellness Center

Contact information for the Counseling and Wellness Center: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/>, 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

The Writing Studio

The writing studio is committed to helping University of Florida students meet their academic and professional goals by becoming better writers. Visit the writing studio online at <http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/> or in 2215 Turlington Hall for one-on-one consultations and workshops.

In-Class Recordings

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.