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March 1, 2012

Professor Garth Dewar
Department of English
Faculty of Arts
University of Washington
Seattle, WA 50043

Dear Professor Dewar:

I am writing to apply for the position of Assistant Professor in Hebrew Literature beginning in fall 2012. I am a doctoral candidate in modern Hebrew and Arabic literature at the University of British Columbia and expect to graduate in May 2012. Two chapters of my dissertation have been completed to date and presented to my department.

My dissertation examines the issues of biculturalism, identity and the mediation of past and present, particularly as they are expressed through language choice. Analyzing the writings of Iranian-born Israelis within the context of exile literature, factors involved in the choice of language and its effects on thematic and form aspects of the literature were explored. Through textual analysis and the interviews I conducted with the authors themselves, I demonstrate that this choice is more a product of sociopolitical orientation than of linguistic competency. The project not only contributes to the study of Israeli literature but also adds a non-western perspective to the study of exile literature and multiculturalism in general.

In addition to my doctoral research, I have considerable teaching experience. As a graduate student, I was chosen to teach in the "Modern Middle Eastern Literature in Translation" course that included works translated from Turkish, Persian, Arabic and Hebrew. I lectured on the genre of poetry and the history of Hebrew Literature in addition to leading discussions on Israeli works. I am looking for a position that will allow me to teach Modern Hebrew language while I continue my interests in Hebrew literature.

As an active participant within the department, I have also organized a new weekly lecture series inviting speakers who presented a wide range of perspectives and topics on the Middle East such as the political shifts in Israel that also encompassed the Arab Spring. These efforts encouraged dialogue between doctoral students and faculty on new perspectives.

I will be presenting a paper at the Association of Jewish Studies conference in April and would be pleased to meet you then or at any other time that is convenient for you. Enclosed is my curriculum vitae enclosed and letters of recommendation will follow under separate cover. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Nava Segal

Enclosure