Course title: The Poetics of Tradition and Mind: Metaphysical and Modern

Course number: (if known)

Lecturer: Prof. Chanita Goodblatt

Office hours: Thursday 14:00-15:00

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Course objectives (מטרת הקורס):
The grotesque ("an irreconcilable clash between opposites") is a central aspect of two important poetic traditions: Metaphysical and Modernist. In the first part of this course we will study two 17th-century poets: John Donne and George Herbert. In the second part of the course, we will study two 20th-century poets: T.S. Eliot and Dan Pagis—whose poetry was influenced by the Metaphysical Poetry or the Poetry of Wit, while they studied. We will focus on the following issues: the use of grotesque imagery, embodied cognition, and the relationship between thought and affect. We will also study the relationship between the Metaphysical and the Modernist traditions.

Course program (הlisting הקורס):

Introduction
A discussion of how literary traditions are forged, and the connection between Metaphysical and Modernist poetry.
A discussion of the concepts of metaphor, the Interaction Theory of Metaphor and Bidirectionality
A discussion of embodied cognition

Part I
A discussion of selected poems from both Donne and Herbert, focusing shared uses of the conceit, as well as the distinctions between secular and religious poetry

Part II
A discussion of selected poems from both Eliot and Pagis, focusing on how they developed and transformed the tradition of Metaphysical poetry/the poetry of Wit.
A discussion of their respective essays on this tradition.
Course requirements and grading:

Oral Referat 15%
Written Referat (3-4 pp.) 25%
A.
   Final Paper (10 pages) 60%
B.
   Outline and Annotated Bibliography (5-6 pp.) 15%
   Seminar Paper (20-25 pp.) 45%

Reading List:

Introduction
   Goodblatt and Glicksohn. “Discordia Concors and Bidirectionality: Embodied Cognition in John Donne’s Songs and Sonnets”

Part I
   John Donne. Songs and Sonnets
   George Herbert. The Temple: Sacred Poems and Private Ejaculations.

Part II
   T.S. Eliot.
      The Poems of T.S. Eliot
      The Varieties of Metaphysical Poetry
   Dan Pagis
      The Selected Poetry of Dan Pagis. Trans. Stephen Mitchell
      Hebrew Poetry of the Middle Ages and the Renaissance