Methodology, Theory, and Criticism in Literary Studies
Dr. Yael Ben-zvi
Required MA course; 4 points, Fall and Spring semesters
Course # 132-2-0012
Thursday, 12:00-14:00

This class will introduce you to fundamental issues and practices of literary studies, and encourage you to formulate your own scholarly interests. The purpose of the course is to help you develop as a scholar by facilitating an open, ongoing dialogue between the material you study and your present and future work. We will focus on three primary texts: Herman Melville’s Benito Cereno (1855), Henry James’s The Turn of the Screw (1898), and Toni Morrison’s Beloved (1987), and read them in light of various critical approaches in order to develop a practical understanding of, an interventions in, literary criticism. You will be introduced to databases and their uses, and will read, respond to, and engage with critical and theoretical works. In the second semester you will be invited to suggest theoretical readings, which will make the class particularly relevant to you and help you develop a better understanding of the fields or approaches that interest you.

Grading: active participation (10%), short assignments (up to 2-3 pages each; 20% total), Midterm paper (5 pages, 20%), Final paper (either a 10 page paper OR a seminar paper of 20-25 pages, 50%).