

Name of the Course: Shifting Plates: Literature of Change in Twenty First America

Lecturer's Name: Ron Ben-Tovim

Office Hours: By appointment

Course Description: Change, the nature of change, and its dramatic effects have been a staple fascination of Western literature, and literature as such, from its very inception. From Ovid to Tolstoy and Kafka there have been few notions as central to writing as of shifting circumstances, shapes, and times. In our time together we will study the manner in which some of the leading writers of the contemporary American writing field tackle the topic of change, whether sudden and dramatic or slow and imperceptible - whether through the aftermath of 9/11, the mundane trials of life or the challenges of sexual transformation.

Keywords: Postmodernism, Gender Studies, Critical Theory, American Literature, Trauma Studies, Memoir, History.

Course Requirements:

Midterm Paper: 20%

Final Paper: 80%

Schedule

1.3 Introduction: Change in the House of Flies

8.3 The Swivel

15.3 Don DeLillo, *Falling Man*

22.3 *Falling Man*

29.3 Passover Break

5.4 *Falling Man*

12.4 *Falling Man*

19.4 *Falling Man*

26.4 Larissa Ray, “Rachel”

3.5 David Foster Wallace, “Wiggle Room”

10.5 Maggie Nelson, *The Argonauts*

17.5 Shavuot Break

24.5 *The Argonauts*

31.5 *The Argonauts*

7.6 *The Argonauts*

14.6 **Conclusion**