Name of the course: To Play the Fool in Early Modern European Drama

Lecturer name: Prof. Chanita Goodblatt

Course number:

Office hours: Thursday 14:00-15:00

Short course description

The focus of this course will be on the performative and subversive aspects of the Fool, using Bakhtin’s concept of the Carnivalesque. What is more, the transnational dimensions of the figure of the Fool will be emphasized, particularly in the light of the early modern (religious and cultural) connections between England and Germany, as well as the linguistic and cultural connection between German and Yiddish. The plays to be studied are grouped around various biblical narratives: *The Book of Esther*; the figure of King Solomon; and David at Saul’s Court. These plays include texts by: Shakespeare; the German Meistersinger Hans Sachs; the touring company of English actors in Germany (the English Comedians); and the Yiddish Purim Play.

Key words: Carnivalesque; Drama; Early Modern Europe; Book of Esther; King Solomon; Saul and David.

Course requirements:

Attendance required  Yes. Only two absences are allowed

1. Oral Referat 15%
2. Written Referat 15%
3. Outline and Bibliography 25%
4. Seminar Paper/Final Paper 45%
   Seminar Paper 20-25 pages
   Final Paper 10 pages

Thursday 02 April The Carnivalesque:
Mikhail M. Bakhtin. *The Dialogic Imagination; Problems of Dostoevsky’s Poetics*

Thursday 09 April Passover

Thursday 16 April Passover

Thursday 23 April Enid Welsford. *The Fool: His Social and Literary History*
David Wiles. *Shakespeare’s Clown*

Thursday 30 April Udall. *Godly Queene Hester*

Thursday 07 May A Shakespeare Jestbook, *Robert Armin’s Foole upon Foole: Will Sommers*

Thursday 14 May English Comedians. *Comedy of Queen Esther and Haughty Haman*

Thursday 21 May *The Dialogue of Salomon and Marcolf*
Hans Sachs. *A Comedy. Judgement of Solomon*

Thursday 28 May Shavu’ot
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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>04 June</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Shakespeare. <em>King Lear</em></td>
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<td>11 June</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Shakespeare. <em>King Lear</em></td>
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<td>18 June</td>
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<td>Barnabe Riche. <em>Apolonius and Silla</em> English Comedians. <em>The Conflict of Love and Virtue</em></td>
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<td>25 June</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Shakespeare. <em>Twelfth Night</em></td>
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<td>Purim Play: <em>David in Saul’s Court</em></td>
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<td>02 July</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
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