Name of the course: Methodology, Theory, and Criticism in Literary Studies

Lecturer name: Yael Ben-zvi

Course number: 132-2-0012

Office hours: by appointment

Short course description (5-10 lines) with key words at the end of the paragraph
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), which we will read in the context of their criticism in order to develop a practical understanding of, and modes of interventions in, literary scholarship. In addition to reading, responding to, and engaging with critical and theoretical works, you will be introduced to primary-source databases and learn how to work effectively with secondary-source databases.

Key words: literary criticism, literature, culture, methodology

Course requirements:

Attendance required: yes
1. Active participation: 10%
2. Short assignments: 20%
3. Midyear paper: 20%
4. Final paper: 50%

This is a partial list of the readings:

- Literature and Culture as keywords: entries by Raymond Williams, Sandra Gustafson, Tony Bennett, and George Yúdice.
- Herman Melville, *Benito Cereno*
- Amasa Delano, *A Narrative of Voyages and Travels in the Northern and Southern Hemispheres*
- Henry James, *The Turn of the Screw*
• Toni Morrison, *Beloved*
• Dennis Childs, “‘You Ain’t Seen Nothin’ Yet’: Beloved, the American Chain Gang, and the Middle Passage Remix.” *American Quarterly* 61.2 (June 2009): 271-297.