



אוניברסיטת בן-גוריון בנגב
הפקולטה למדעי הרוח והחברה

המחלקה לספרויות זרות ובלשנות, תש"פ 2019-20

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 of the performative and subversive aspects of the Fool, using Bakhtin's concept of the Carnavalesque. 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: Carnavalesque; 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 Carnavalesque: Mikhail M. Bakhtin. <i>The Dialogic Imagination; Problems of Dostoevsky's Poetics</i>
Thursday	09 April	Passover
Thursday	16 April	Passover
Thursday	23 April	Enid Welsford. <i>The Fool: His Social and Literary History</i> David Wiles. <i>Shakespeare's Clown</i>
Thursday	30 April	Udall. <i>Godly Queene Hester</i>
Thursday	07 May	<i>A Shakespeare Jestbook, Robert Armin's Foole upon Foole: Will Sommers</i>
Thursday	14 May	English Comedians. <i>Comedy of Queen Esther and Haughty Haman</i>
Thursday	21 May	<i>The Dialogue of Salomon and Marcolf</i> Hans Sachs. <i>A Comedy. Judgement of Solomon</i>
Thursday	28 May	Shavu'ot

Thursday	04 June	Shakespeare. <i>King Lear</i>
Thursday	11 June	Shakespeare. <i>King Lear</i>
Thursday	18 June	Barnabe Riche. <i>Apolonius and Silla</i> English Comedians. <i>The Conflict of Love and Virtue</i>
Thursday	25 June	Shakespeare. <i>Twelfth Night</i> Purim Play: <i>David in Saul's Court</i>
Thursday	02 July	Shakespeare. <i>Twelfth Night</i> Purim Play: <i>David in Saul's Court</i>