



אוניברסיטת בן-גוריון בנגב
הפקולטה למדעי הרוח והחברה

המחלקה לספרויות זרות ובלשנות, תש"פ 2019-20

Name of the course: Passing: Movements of Gender and Race in American Literature and culture

Lecturer name: Dr. Zohar Weiman-Kelman

:Course number

Office hours: Monday 15-16

Short course description (5-10 lines) with key words at the end of the paragraph

This course will trace the significance of movement across race and gender in American literature and culture. We will ask how literature and society construct these categories and how they might be undermined. During the course we will read a wide range of texts, starting with the escape narrative of William and Ellen Craft (1860) and ending with contemporary queer writing. On the way we will read, amongst others, narrative of Jewish immigration to America, political poetry of the 1970s and post 9/11 Arab-American literature.

Key Words:

:Course requirements

- yes Attendance required
1. נוכחות והשתתפות 5%
 2. רפרט 5%
 3. יומן קריאה 5%
 4. עבודת אמצע שנה 25%
 5. הצעה לסמינר+הצגת נושא סמינר+סמינר 60%

סילבוס מפורט של הקורס (נושאים, לוח זמנים, ספרות חובה/בחירה וכדומה)

This course will trace the significance of movement across race and gender in American literature. We will explore how literature and society construct categories of race and gender, and ask how they might be undermined. We will pay special attention to realities of class and sexuality, alongside questions of geography, history, politics and poetics. During the course we will read a wide range of texts, starting with the escape narrative of William and Ellen Craft (1860) and ending with the recent queer anthology "Nobody Passes." Our readings will also engage sociology, anthropology, queer theory and literary criticism. These readings will illuminate not only the possibility of movements and exchange across races and genders, but also a complex history of interracial relations, cross-gendered identifications and radical stories of profound change.

Students are required to conduct a reading journal on Moodle throughout the year. Each student will be responsible for presenting and leading one class. There will be a midterm paper in which students will formulate their approach to the topics studied so far. During the second semester students will formulate their independent topic of research for the seminar, they will submit a paper proposal, and they will prepare a final presentation based on their seminar theme for an end of year mini-conference.

Key Texts:

Ellen and William Craft, *Running a Thousand Miles to Freedom* (1860)

Nella Larsen, *Passing* (1929)

Anzia Yezierska, *Salome of the Tenements* (1923)

Vivek Shraya, *Even This Page is White* (2016)

Leslie Feinberg, *Stone Butch Blues* (1993)