



אוניברסיטת בן-גוריון בנגב  
הפקולטה למדעי הרוח והחברה

המחלקה לספרויות זרות ובלשנות, תשפ"א 2020-21

**Name of the course:** Introduction to Prose Fiction

**Lecturer name:** Yael Ben-zvi

**Course number:** 132-1-217, 132-1-227

**Office hours:** by appointment

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

This course will introduce you to the study of prose fiction. You will acquire a critical vocabulary that will enable you to understand and engage with prose fiction texts within the academic field of literary studies. You will become acquainted with the processes through which meaning is produced as people read texts, and with diverse modes of narration, plotting, characterization, and representations of perspective. We will consider the functions of narrative structures, themes, symbolism, imagery, and style, and we will attend to the contexts of literary production and the ways that texts address social, cultural, historical and political issues. This course is taught in tandem with the Academic Writing Workshop in which you will write about the primary texts you will read here. You must take both classes together.

**Key words:** **fiction, prose, literature, narration, themes, structure**

**Course requirements:**

<b>Attendance required</b>	<b>yes</b>
<b>1. Active participation</b>	<b>5% (only if at least one semester is taught in class; otherwise, 5% will be added to the final revision)</b>
<b>2. 7 short exercises</b>	<b>15%</b>
<b>3. 3 papers</b>	<b>30%</b>
<b>3. First revised paper</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>4. Final revised paper</b>	<b>30% (35% if no semester is taught fully in class)</b>

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

**Topics include:**

- Identifying and distinguishing among plot, structure, and theme
- What does meaning mean?
- Narration, point of view, focalization
- Exposition
- Dialogue
- Tensions and conflicts
- Characters, character development
- Narrative gaps
- Irony
- Figurative language
- Setting
- Fabula and syuzhet
- Metafiction
- Ambiguity
- Allusions
- The novel

**Texts:**

- Short stories from Kelly J. Mays, ed. *The Norton Introduction to Literature* (Shorter Twelfth Edition, 2016)
- Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein* (1818 version, Norton Critical Edition)
- Secondary sources