

Academic year 2022-23 (תשפ"ג)

Course title (English): Methodology, Theory, and Criticism in Literary Studies

Course title (Hebrew): שיטות וסוגיות בחקר הספרות

Course number: 132.2.0012+132.2.0022

Course slot (semester/s, weekday/s, hours): both semesters, Thursday, 12-14

Lecturer: Dr. Yael Ben-zvi

Lecturer's conference hour and contact details: yaelbz@bgu.ac.il; office hours by appointment

Course description & objectives:

This course introduces students to fundamental issues and practices of literary studies while encouraging each student to explore and formulate their own scholarly interests. The purpose of the course is to help students develop as scholars by facilitating an open dialogue between the material we study and students' interests.

Course requirements:

Regular attendance

- Active participation in class discussions (10%)
- 2 brief responses (1-2 paragraphs each; 5% total)
- 2 short assignments (2-3 pages each; 10% each)
- Midyear paper (5 pages, 20%)
- Final paper (9-10 pages [or 15-20 pages if you want to write a seminar paper], 45%)

Topics & bibliography

We will focus on four primary texts: Herman Melville's "Bartleby, The Scrivener" (1853), Henry James's *The Turn of the Screw* (1898), Leslie Marmon Silko's *Ceremony* (1977), and Toni Morrison's *Beloved* (1987).

We will read these texts and scholarship about them in order to gain a practical understanding of literary criticism.

In addition to reading and engaging with critical and theoretical works, students will be introduced to primary-source databases and learn how to work effectively with secondary-source databases.