



# *The Hebrew University of Jerusalem*

## *Syllabus*

### *Women's Education in Austen and Bronte - 44320*

*Last update 21-07-2017*

*HU Credits: 2*

*Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)*

*Responsible Department: english*

*Academic year: 2020*

*Semester: 2nd Semester*

*Teaching Languages: English*

*Campus: Mt. Scopus*

*Course/Module Coordinator: Leona Toker*

*Coordinator Email: [toker@mail.huji.ac.il](mailto:toker@mail.huji.ac.il)*

*Coordinator Office Hours: Wednesday 12:15-13:15*

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Teaching Staff:

Prof Leona Toker

Course/Module description:

Close analysis of Jane Austen's and Charlotte Brontë's narrative art, with emphasis on their treatment of the tension between their heroines' quest for self-perfection and the limited options of education and self-realization at their disposal.

Course/Module aims:

Combining narratological analysis with sociological issues, to analyze the ways in which the authors' critique of the gentlewomen's education and status is deployed in highly artistic texts.

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

appreciate the complexities of Austen's and Brontë's novels as aesthetic objects;

bring information about the state of women's education in England to bear on the details of the texts discussed;

analyze the texts as artistic achievements and as laboratories for further processing of ideas about ethical ideals as well as academic and moral education.

Attendance requirements(%):

100%

*Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Two-hour weekly meetings devoted to collective close analysis of different aspects of four novels. The students must read every novel before the first class devoted to it.*

Course/Module Content:

Jane Austen, *Sense and Sensibility*,

Jane Austen, *Mansfield Park*.

Charlotte Brontë, *Jane Eyre*,

Charlotte Brontë, *Villette*.

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Required Reading:

Jane Austen, *Sense and Sensibility*,

Jane Austen, *Mansfield Park*.

Charlotte Brontë, *Jane Eyre*,

Charlotte Brontë, *Villette*.

Additional Reading Material:

Bachelard, Gaston. *The Poetics of Space*. Trans. Maria Jolas. Boston: Beacon Press, 1968.

Ball, Mieke. *Narratology: Introduction to the Theory of Narrative*. Second edition. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1997.

Booth, Wayne. *The Rhetoric of Fiction*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1961.

Daleski, H. M. *Unities: Studies in the English Novel*. Athens: The University of Georgia Press, 1985.

Genette, Gérard. *Narrative Discourse: An Essay in Method*. Trans. Jane E. Lewin. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1980. Original: *Figures III* (Paris: Seuil, 1972).

Harrison, Bernard. *Inconvenient Fictions: Literature and the Limits of Irony*. New Haven: Yale University Press.

Harshav (Hrushovski), Benjamin. "Fictionality and Fields of Reference: Remarks on the Theoretical Framework." *Poetics Today* 5 (1984): 227-251.

Iser, Wolfgang. *The Act of Reading: A Theory of Aesthetic Response*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1978.

Rimmon Kenan, Shlomith. *Narrative Fiction: Contemporary Poetics*. London: Methuen, 1983.

Sternberg, Meir. *Expositional Modes and Temporal Ordering in Fiction*. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1978.

Sternberg, Meir. *The Poetics of Biblical Narrative: Ideological Literature and the Drama of Reading*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1987.

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*Toker, Leona. Towards the Ethics of Form in Fiction: Narratives of Cultural Remission. Columbus: Ohio State University Press, 2010.*

*Criticism of individual novels will be recommended in class.*

*Course/Module evaluation:*

*End of year written/oral examination 0 %*

*Presentation 0 %*

*Participation in Tutorials 5 %*

*Project work 0 %*

*Assignments 85 %*

*Reports 0 %*

*Research project 0 %*

*Quizzes 10 %*

*Other 0 %*

*Additional information:*

*Students must present one short assignment in advance of the class discussions of the novels dealt with. They must also present a 1200-1500 word term-paper on a different novel within a month from the end of the course.*

*The grade is based on the term-paper with up to 5 points to be added on the basis of the short assignment and oral class participation. There may be quizzes about the set texts at the beginning of the module devoted to each novel.*