



**YOU HAVE 525,600
MINUTES IN ISRAEL.**

HOW WILL YOU SPEND THEM?

TAKE 10 MINUTES NOW TO LEARN ABOUT





Look Beyond the 'What' to Explore the 'Whys' and 'Hows'



Amudim is the place where inquisitive and motivated young women learn Torah with nuance and depth and experience the joy of taking ownership of their Jewish lives.

Amudim takes you on a search for truth and meaning and opens exciting horizons by allowing you to:

Discover

An innovative style and toolbox which empowers you to bring your own voice to Torah study and learn independently for life.

Inquire

All sources and questions are on the table as we engage in honest conversation about essential and existential questions.

Experience

The Land of Israel itself as a Beit Midrash, with weekly classes taking place off-campus.

Wonder

An expansive and broad-reaching curriculum that is stimulating and awe-inspiring.

Explore

One-of-a-kind tiyulim, internships, and extracurriculars that bring our values to life.

Grow

A warm thoughtful environment that inspires steadfast Shmirat ha-Mitzvot and love of Torah.

LEARN PROFOUNDLY

A Beit Midrash experience that impacts the way you encounter Torah and the world.

Soundbites just won't cut it! Learning with sophistication and intellectual honesty leads you to internalize and connect with the Torah. To help you achieve this, Amudim's approach is:

Meta

It is one thing to read a Rashi; it is another to read it in historical context, compare and contrast it to other texts, ascertain how the ideas in it unfolded over time, analyze authorial decisions and, in general, dialogue with it. Amudim's classes take a higher perspective, looking beyond the content of Jewish texts to processes: How do these texts work and how are they meant to be understood.

Expansive

Catering to the most inquiring minds, Amudim, in addition to traditional sederim and shiurim, offers exclusive courses and activities led by world renowned scholars and artists, geared toward in-depth exploration of fundamental questions of religion and Torah and an appreciation for the thought processes and complex negotiations that have taken place within Jewish thought and culture throughout the ages.

Evidence-Based

Learning at Amudim is based on the premise that the Jewish religious experience begins and ends with text, that all conclusions must be textually-justified. Utilizing classical sefarim, visual, audial and other types of texts, the process of interpretation stands at the core of how we learn. In this way, Amudim students are simultaneously empowered to advance their own understandings while situating themselves within the mesorah.

Student-Centered

Amudim promotes independent thought and decision-making, asking students to interact personally with texts and even on tiyulim—observing, summarizing, inferring, critiquing, questioning and challenging. Teachers are facilitators rather than knowledge-dispensers and, with an eye towards experiential learning, students are asked to engage in peer-review, intellectual exchange and team-teaching.

SAMPLE OF COURSES

Seder and Shiur

Each day at Amudim is structured around traditional sedarim in Talmud, Tanakh, and Halakhah, during which time our Beit Midrash resonates with a kol Torah, as students study be-havruta in anticipation of an in-depth, analytical shiur.

Theories of God

Can we prove that God exists? Is it rational to believe in God? This class addresses these most fundamental questions by introducing students to the array of philosophical approaches to God's existence, comparing and contrasting Western and Jewish philosophical approaches to the question of what we should believe and why it matters.

Intro to Kabbalah

For millenia, the Jewish mystical tradition has been a highly guarded, orally transmitted body of esoteric knowledge. This course presents an introduction to the principles of Jewish mysticism, as well as the way in which Kabbalah has entered into diverse forms of contemporary spirituality.

Discourses of Dress

Not your standard tzniut class! Exploring a full range of sources and analyzing profound concepts, students uncover the relevance of authenticity, dignity, wisdom, and a modesty that transcends dress code. Alongside these discussions they also gain a concrete, detailed, and profound understanding of the halakhot pertaining to dress.

Philosophy of Prayer

This special hour is devoted to reflecting upon big questions such as: What is the goal of tefilah? Do we expect to change God's mind with our prayers? What is the purpose of a standardized text for tefilah?

Hebrew Language

As part of our commitment to strong textual learning and engagement with the larger Jewish world, Amudim offers classes that hone and advance students' Hebrew language skills, at both textual and conversational levels.

Jewish Art: Biblical Portraits

In this two-part course, students first examine Torah texts to enter the inner worlds of biblical characters as they grapple in pivotal moments of their lives. Then, artistically-inclined students are guided in giving visual expression to the personalities examined and creating a physical "Biblical Portrait."

Science and Religion

Focusing on rabbinic responses to the theory of evolution, we ask what the fields of science and religion, both of which make claims regarding knowledge and experience, can tell us about truth.

Talmudic Heroines

This course introduces students to Aggada and its unique poetics, and explores the Rabbis' remarkable sensitivity toward the female experience. In addition, as women in the Talmud often represent the paradigmatic Other, the course seeks to uncover the moral messages that lie at the heart of their stories.



A WEEK AT AMUDIM

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
8-9 Tefillah and Breakfast	8-9 Tefillah and Breakfast	8-9 Tefillah and Breakfast	8-9 Tefillah and Breakfast	8-9 Tefillah and Breakfast
9:30-11:30 Halakhah Seder and Shiur (R. M. Nitzanim)	9-9:30 Shu"t from the Box w/ Rabbi G. 9:30-10:50 The DEEP Hour: Mahshava Seder (Dr. J. Goldstein)	9-12 Gemara Seder and Shiur (Rab. L. Balinsky; Rab. S. Zimmerman)	9-12 Gemara Seder and Shiur (Rab. L. Balinsky; Rab. S. Zimmerman)	9-12 Gemara Seder and Shiur (Rab. L. Balinsky; Rab. S. Zimmerman)
11:45-1 Theories of God Pathways to God (Dr. J. Goldstein) (K. Slonim)	11-1 Introduction to Aggadah: Talmudic Heroines (G. Fine)	12:15-1 Discourses of Dress (Rab. L. Balinsky; B. Reich)	12-12:45 Middot with the Mashgiah (Rab. L. Balinsky)	12-1:10 Introduction to Kabbalah (R. Dr. E. Shore)
1-3 Lunch and Break	1-2 Lunch & Break/Travel	1-3 Lunch and Break	12:45-1 Lunch to Go	1:10-1:30 Tea w/ Rivka
3-4:15 Biblical Portraits in Theory (Rab. L. Herzog)	2-4/5:15 Torat Hayim A	3-3:30 Va'ad w/ Brie	1-5:30 Lunch and Internships/Travel	1:30-3:30 Lunch and Break
4:15-4:30 Minha	• Toldot Yerushalayim • Krav Maga • Jewish Books and Ephemera • Mental Health and Halakha • TanyArt	3:30-4:30 Sefer Mishlei (B. Reich)	3:30-4:30 Sefer Mishlei (B. Reich)	3:30-5:30 Tanakh Seder and Shiur (G. Lowell)
4:30-5:45 Biblical Portraits in Practice (E. Shani)	4-4:15 Minha	4:30-4:40 Minha	5:30-5:40 Minha	4:15-4:30 Minha
6-7 Religious Zionism (R. Dr. A. Wexler)	5:30-7 Torat Hayim B	4:40-5:45 Re-Reading Bereishit (R. Dr. D. Harbater)	5:40-7 The Thinktank (R. U. Goldstein)	5:45-7 Women and Judaism (Rab. N. Goldman-Barash)
7-8 Dinner	• Museum Tanakh • Jewish Filmmaking • Safrut: The Scribal Arts • 50 Big Questions • Ulpan for Life	6-7 A Time for Everything: An Introspective Seminar (R. D. Levin-Kruss)	7-8 Dinner	7-8 Dinner
8-9 Philosophy of Rav Kook (R. A.Z. Schwartz)	Optional Beit Midrash	7-8 Dinner	8-10 The Amudim Seminar	8-9 Night Seder
9-10 The Meaning of Shabbat (R. A.Z. Schwartz)		8-9 Night Seder	Night Seder	9-10 Shocking Shutim (R. C. Metzger)
		9-10 Shocking Shutim (R. C. Metzger)		10-11+ Mishmar
		Night Seder		Night Seder



משלי ט"ו:

“חכמות בנתה ב'תה חצבה עמודיה שבעה”

FACULTY AND STAFF

With love and care for our talmidot, Amudim teachers forge deep personal relationships, whether through formal and informal discussions or by having students over for Shabbat, guiding them to uncover their own sense of meaning within Torah and Judaism.



Dr. Julie Goldstein
Rosh HaMidrasha; Director

Dr. Julie Goldstein has over two decades of teaching experience at both the high school and college level. She received an MA in Jewish Philosophy at YU, a joint PHD in medieval history and Judaic Studies at NYU, and has won numerous awards and fellowships for her scholarship and teaching. She lives in Beit Shemesh with her husband and five children.



Rabbanit Leora Balinsky
Mashgiah Ruhanit; Ra"m

Rab. Leora Balinsky is an alumna of Barnard College, Migdal Oz, the Drisha Summer Kollel, and the Center for Modern Torah Leadership's Summer Beit Midrash. She is pursuing an MSW from Tel Aviv University, and is a certified kallah teacher from the Eden Center. She lives with her husband and son in Rehavia.



Brie Reich
Director of Student Life

Brie Reich brings over two decades of Jewish educational experience to her work at Amudim. Her work includes teaching on Michlelet NCSY, kallah education, coordinating local youth programming, and working as a rakezet and teacher at Tiferet. She lives in Beit Shemesh with her family.



R. Uri Goldstein
Rav HaMidrasha

Alongside his role at Amudim, R. Uri Goldstein is the director of the overseas program at Yeshivat Hakotel. He received semikha from YU and was a rabbi in Fair Lawn, NJ while also teaching at Frisch and Ma'ayanot high schools. Along with Dr. Goldstein, R. Goldstein founded the Jewish Learning Initiative on Campus at UCLA. The Goldsteins live with their children in Beit Shemesh.

Rabbanit Shira Zimmerman, *Gemara Ra"m*
R. Matthew Nitzanim, *Halakhah Seder*
Gila Lowell, *Tanakh Seder*
R. Chaim Metzger, *Night Seder*
Rivka Gopin, *Programming Director*
Kelila Slonim, *Menahalet*

Orna Alexander, *Krav Maga*
Ditza Eitan, *Hebrew Language*
R. David Fine, *Israel Studies*
Gila Fine, *Rabbinic Thought*
Rab. Nechama Goldman-Barash, *Women and Judaism*
R. Dr. David Harbater, *Tanakh*
Rabbanit Leah Herzog, *Tanakh and Psychology*
R. Dov Laimon, *Safrut (Scribal Arts)*
R. David Levin-Kruss, *Mahshava*
R. Yoni Rosensweig, *Halakhah*
R. Jeffrey Saks, *Jewish Literature and Thought*
R. Ari Zeev Schwartz, *Rav A.I. Kook*
Efrat Shani, *Fine Art*
R. Dr. Eliezer Shore, *Hassidut and Kabbalah*
R. Dr. Aharon Wexler, *Zionism*
R. Josh Yuter, *Original Research*

THE AMUDIM SEMINAR

A weekly encounter with creative and dynamic thinkers from the intellectual world in Israel.

Presenters have included :



Ilana Kurshan
Author



R. Dr. Joshua Berman
Bible, Bar Ilan



R. Dr. Jeffrey Woolf
Talmud, Bar Ilan



R. Yosef Hadane
Chief Rabbi,
Ethiopian-Israeli
Community



Sivan Rahav Meir
Journalist



R. Yosef Zvi Rimon
Posek and
Author



LIVE WITH PURPOSE

The year in Israel at Amudim is not just informative—it's transformative.

Amudim uplifts and inspires you to make a meaningful impact on yourself, the people around you, and the world. At Amudim, you develop the skills to:

Engage Modernity

Become empowered to navigate life fully as a Jew in the modern world.

The classes, discussions, and debates at Amudim revolve around crucial ideas, such as science and religion, Judaism and democracy, postmodernism and contemporary notions of ethics, and equip you to integrate into (and sometimes contend with) modern life with knowledge and fearlessness.

LEARN TO LEAD

Be informed and bring change.

Bright, worldly, motivated, and articulate, Amudim students are uniquely poised to play a role in the destiny of the Jewish people. Amudim offers writing workshops, debates, courses on contemporary Israel, and Israel advocacy training, partnering with Nitzavim, Yauneh-JLIC Israel, Stand With Us and others, to create a cadre of leaders on college campuses and beyond. Amudim alumni are among the most prominent pro-Israel voices on campus.

Own Your Religious Life

Be a passionate participant in your Judaism.

During your year in Israel, take an active part in shaping the experiences of your Jewish life rather than stand on the sidelines as a mere spectator. From tefillot Yom Kippur and acquiring an etrog, to making kiddush and reading the megillah, students at Amudim play vital roles that make Torah and mitzvot their own.

Collaborate with Meaning

Become a doer and contributor.

Within Amudim, facets such as havruta-learning and independent apartment living teach responsibility and community-consciousness. Outside the midrasha, internships and hitnadvut (volunteering) zero in on students' talents and interests to maximize their impact on society and themselves.



These are some of the unique features of the Amudim experience that make the transformation happen:

Jerusalem as Your Classroom

See Jerusalem again, for the first time, as your study of Tanakh and Hazal become more real in classes that take place in various sites throughout the city.



Torat Hayim

Mini courses that bring Torah to life with hands-on exploration. Torat Hayim courses this year include “Museum Tanakh,” “Biblical Portraiture,” “Hilkhhot Shabbat in Action,” “Safrut: The Scribal Arts,” and many more.

Internships and Hitnadvut

Devote time and energy each week to the pursuit of an internship or hesed volunteerism in a field of personal interest.



smARTorah

Express your own interpretation of Torah texts by creating visual art in classes specially designed to correspond to the learning.

ISRAEL FOR REAL

Israel isn't just where the experience takes place.
Israel is the experience.

At Amudim, you are a part of Israel's past, present, and future, connecting with the people and places of Tanakh and Hazal, experiencing the modern miracle of Medinat Yisrael, and actively contributing to Israel's future.



Learn Hebrew

Weekly ulpan classes and a unique conversational Hebrew workshop in which students are paired with native Hebrew speakers for meetings at a local coffee shop where they converse about a pre-chosen topic entirely in Hebrew!

Be Informed and Prepared

Understand the nuances of politics and Israel's past in order to take an active role in Israel's future. Courses on Israel and the Middle East, Israel advocacy training sessions, panel discussions and debates allow you to address complex issues head on, and gain the knowledge to effectively articulate an informed position.

Understand Religious Zionism

Explore central texts and theories of Religious Zionism and, along the way, examine such critical questions as: What does it mean to be a Religious Zionist in the 21st century? How central is the State of Israel to your religious identity?

Integrate into Israeli Society

Having a real home in Israel rather than a bunk in a dorm and getting to know the sights and sounds of your neighborhood, provides a sense of being at home. Through your internship, you literally become part of the Israeli workforce. and get a feel for life in Israel.



Traverse the Land

Tigulim at Amudim you across the length and width of Israel and are well-orchestrated so that you get the most fun, excitement, exhilaration and meaning out of every step you take. From the desert and beaches of Eilat to the lush mountains of the Golan to the subterranean archives at the Hebrew University, our Tigulim are designed to provoke discussion of the religious significance of the land of Israel and the physical connection to our homeland.

AT HOME IN YERUSHALAYIM



Campus

The midrasha is located in a charming, vintage home with an authentically Jerusalem feel and a large private outdoor space. Situated in the German Colony/Katamon, a neighborhood renowned as a dynamic and vibrant center of Jewish life and learning, Amudim is just blocks from Emek Refaim Street and within walking distance of the Old City. With easy access to other locations where classes and internships are held, students have the opportunity to be part of life in modern Jerusalem.



Apartment Living

Instead of common dorm life, our students are housed in apartments, in order to promote our ideal of independent learning and independent living. The apartments are their home all year round, including Shabbatot and holiday breaks. With staff on premises, apartments include dining and living rooms, outdoor space and a kitchen, (even though 3 meals a day are provided). Sharing experiences of daily living, students form deep bonds with each other. At the end of a day, they can unwind on the couch with friends, playing games or sharing a cup of tea, and a laugh. Having a home in Israel gives our students a sense of belonging and security.



At Amudim, many of the hagim— Rosh Hashana, Yom Kippur, Simhat Torah, Hanukah, Purim, Yom Ha'atzmaut, Yom Yerushalayim, and Shavuot—are hands-on, extraordinary experiences celebrated together, introducing students to the particular beauty, flavor and intensity of hag in Israel and allowing them to participate in new ways.

Three different types of Shabbat schedules allow our talmidot to make the most out of Shabbatot in Israel:

IN SHABBATOT

Once every 3-4 weeks, the midrasha spends Shabbat together in Jerusalem.

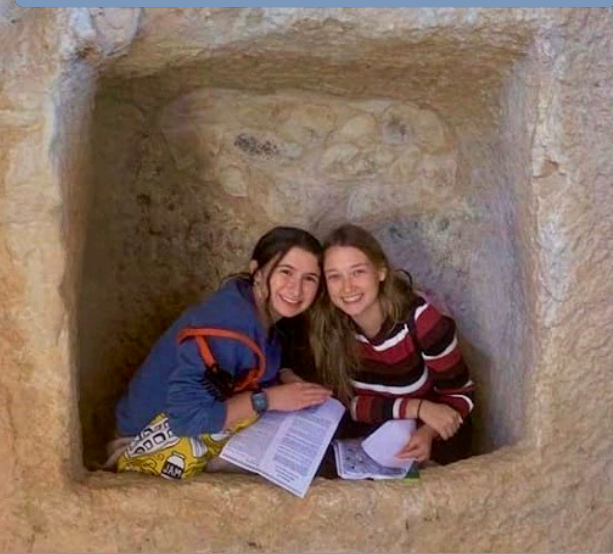
OUT SHABBATOT

“Free” Shabbatot where students are encouraged to visit friends and relatives or explore new places in Israel and recharge their batteries.

SHABBATONIM

The midrasha spends Shabbat together in locations throughout Israel, encountering and interacting with people from all walks of life.





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