

מדרשת
הרובע

Midreshet HaRova

The André Veres Advanced Torah Academy for Women



Course Catalog
תשפ"א • 2020-21



עַם יִשְׂרָאֵל
תּוֹרַת יִשְׂרָאֵל
אֶרֶץ יִשְׂרָאֵל
בִּנְשֻׁמָּה



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Introduction

Since its inception in 1990, Midreshet HaRova has provided a unique Israel study experience for hundreds of young women from all over the world. With the Jewish Quarter of Jerusalem's Old City as a backdrop, students at the Midrasha enjoy an unparalleled setting in which to develop spiritually and intellectually, thus preparing themselves to make an impact as educated Jewish women in both Israel and the Diaspora.



History

From a small program with a handful of students from the Southern Hemisphere, Midreshet HaRova has developed into one of Israel's leading seminaries, currently sponsoring more than half a dozen programs, serving over 400 women from Israel and around the globe. From a single building, the Midrasha now comprises a multi-building campus in the Old City, as well as several off-site locations both within and outside of Jerusalem. With the addition of the Betty and Joseph Kopelowitz Study Hall, the Midrasha now boasts a modern Beit Midrash with seating for 150 students.

In 2009 the Midrasha was officially renamed Midreshet HaRova: The André Veres Advanced Torah Academy for Women in recognition of a major gift from the Veres family.

The student body at Midreshet HaRova is a mosaic of the Jewish world, with women hailing from Israel, North America, the United Kingdom, Continental Europe, South Africa and Australia. United by their motivation to learn and their thirst for spiritual growth, they live and study together, learn from and about each other, and coalesce into a single unit. The singular nature of this group gives the Midrasha its unique, unmatched character.



Educational Philosophy

It is a basic tenet of the educational philosophy of the Midrasha that Torah study should not be viewed as merely an academic and intellectual pursuit but should, first and foremost, help shape one's personality. With this in mind, each student at the Midrasha is encouraged to maximize her personal growth according to her individual needs and interests. The educational program at the Midrasha emphasizes independence in learning through chavruta study, while at the same time offering an extraordinary array of courses designed to allow each student the opportunity to delve into areas of personal interest. While class size varies, the average class size is roughly 18 students per class, thus facilitating a high degree of student faculty interaction.

The educational philosophy that drives the Midrasha views the Overseas Program as a holistic experience, neither limited to the classroom nor bound by the traditional academic calendar. The Midrasha never closes its doors, even during times that classes are not in session, so students are never at a loss for activities during vacation time. During their time in Israel, Midrasha students tour extensively, participate in enriching seminar programs, and are introduced to a wide swath of Israeli society, all the while deepening their attachment to the people and the Land of Israel.



Overseas Program

The Overseas Program at Midreshet HaRova is an intensive program designed for the highly motivated student who wishes to accomplish the maximum during her time at the Midrasha. Classes begin at 8:30 am and continue until 10:00 pm, with many students staying in the Beit Midrash past that time.

Overseas students also benefit from the close relationship with the Midrasha's programs for Israeli women. Overseas students have the option to maintain at least one weekly chavruta with their Israeli counterparts. Socially, participants on the two programs interact freely, sharing rooms, spending Shabbatot together and enjoying joint tiyulim.



Faculty

The Overseas Program is directed by the Rosh Midrasha, Rav David Milston. Originally from London, Rav Milston was ordained by the Chief Rabbinate of Israel after many years of study at Yeshivat Har Etzion, where he studied under Rav Yehuda Amital, zt"l, and Rav Aharon Lichtenstein, zt"l. Prior to that, he earned his bachelor's degree at Jews' College in England, where he was a Talmid Muvhak of Rabbi Isaac Bernstein, zt"l.

With an ideal blend of youth and experience, the faculty provides the intellectual spark which illuminates the Midrasha. Their varied educational backgrounds provide a broad canvas for students seeking direction and searching for answers. Through the warmth of their personalities, women coming to the Midrasha find a group of role models to whom they can relate and who they can strive to emulate.



Student Life

Students are housed in either the Midrasha dormitory or in local apartments, all located a short walk from the main building. With airy public spaces, balconies and landscaped courtyards, the Midrasha housing provides an ideal atmosphere for students to relax during their free time.

Shabbat becomes a singular experience when spent in the Old City. Whether singing and dancing at the Kotel on Friday night, or enjoying meals and programs in the company of friends and visiting faculty members, students infuse the spiritual setting of the Rova with the ruach of the Midrasha.

All students are strongly encouraged to participate in a weekly volunteer program, travelling to area hospitals, schools, clinics, and homes, lending a hand to less fortunate individuals. The Midrasha views these and other acts of chesed organized independently by the student body as inseparable parts of the program.

The Midrasha provides three nutritious meals daily. Constant supervision is provided by experienced madrichot, who are overseen by our on-campus house mother.

Midreshet HaRova Timetable • 5781

Numbers in parentheses indicate page in catalog where course can be found

Time	Sunday	Monday
8:30 am – 9:55 am	Halacha Bekiut (9:00 am – 9:55 am)	Torah Bekiut
	Rav Shames [Beg/Int] (25)	Rav Yonny Sack [Int] (8)
	Rav Susman [Int] (25)	Rav Milston [Adv-NH] (8)
	Rav Bailey [Adv] (25)	Rav Yonatan [Adv-SH] (8)
	Gemara Bekiut – Megillah – Rav Avigdor (28)	A Dvar Torah for Shabbat – Rav Berg (8)
	Nevi'im Bekiut – Rav Yonatan (9)	
10:05 am – 12:45 pm	Torah Shebe'al Peh	Chumash Be'lyun
	Dr. Judith Fogel [Beg] – 4th chapter Berachot (27)	Walking with the Commentators – Rav Berg (6)
	Rav Susman [Int-E] – Berachot (27)	From Galut to Geula – Rav Bailey [Int] (6)
	Rav Bailey [Int] – 1st/3rd chapters Beitzah (27)	Sefer Shmot – Rav Yonny Sack [Int] (6)
	Rav Shames [Int-H] – Rosh Hashanah (28)	Sefer Vayikra – Esther Grossman [Int] (6)
	Rav Avigdor [Adv-H] – Makkot (28)	Parshat Hashavua – Rav Avigdor [Adv] (7)
		Breishit/Devarim – Rav Yonatan [Adv-H] (7)
12:45 pm – 3:00 pm		
3:00 pm – 4:15 pm	Electives	Electives (3:00 pm – 4:00 pm)
	Mehalchim B'Emunah – Rav Kanterovitz (22)	Massechet Derech Eretz – Rav Ron (29)
	Sefer HaTanya – Rav Shames (20)	Strive for Truth – Rav Milston (18)
	Growth in the Parsha – Rav Yonny Sack (8)	Gateway to Emunah – Rav Yonny Sack (18)
	Hilchot Kashrut – Rav Berg (23)	Zaddik V'ra Lo (fall) – Dara Unterberg (10)
	Hilchot Berachot (fall) – Rav Yonatan (23)	Making a Prophet (spring) – Dara Unterberg (13)
	Modern Orthodoxy (spring) – Rav Yonatan (22)	Tefilla Workshop – Rav Shames (17)
	Jewish Literacy – Atara Starr (26)	Aggada (fall) – Rachel Himelstein (10)
	Bet Midrash – Rav Milston	Family Redeemed (spring) – Rachel Himelstein (20)
	Bet Midrash – Rav Susman	
4:25 pm – 5:40 pm	Chassidic Masters – Atara Starr (21)	4:15 pm – 5:15 pm
	Loving the Land – Rav Shames (26)	Chagai Zecharia and Melachi – Rav Ron (9)
	Writings of Rav Soloveitchik (fall) – Rav Yonatan (19)	Mitzvot – How and Why – Rav Bailey (25)
	Writings of Rav Lichtenstein (spring) – Rav Yonatan (19)	Current Affairs – Rachel Himelstein (15)
	Meaning in Tefilla – Rav Yonny Sack (17)	Portraits and Parshanut (fall) – Dara Unterberg (14)
	Contemporary Halacha – Rav Bailey (24)	Shivat Zion (spring) – Dara Unterberg (11)
	Kuzari – Rav Kanterovitz (18)	Zionist Personalities – Rav Shames (17)
	Hilchot Shabbat – Rav Berg (23)	Bet Midrash – Rav Milston
Bet Midrash – Rav Susman		
5:50 pm – 7:00 pm	Writings of Rambam – Rav Kanterovitz (26)	Announcements
	Off the Beaten Track in Tenach – Rav Yonatan (12)	Shiur Klali – Rav Milston
	Leadership Workshop – Rav Berg (15)	
	The Jewish Self – Rav Yonny Sack (20)	
	Shaul and David – Rav Bailey (10)	
	The Jewish Ethicist (fall) – Rav Susman (26)	
Faith in Times of Darkness (spring) – Rav Susman (16)		
8:00 pm – 10:00 pm	Seder Erev (8:00 pm – 9:00 pm)	
	Soulmates – Rav Yonny Sack (22)	
	Bet Midrash Supervisor – Rav Yonatan	
	9:00 pm – 10:00 pm	
	Shemirat Halashon – Aviah Rosby (24)	
	Bet Midrash Supervisor – Rav Yonatan	

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Electives 8:30 am – 9:50 am	Halacha Bekiut	Torah Bekiut
Pirkei Avot – Rav Bailey (19)	Rav Shames [Beg/Int] (25)	Rav Yonny Sack [Int] (8)
Midrash Parshat Hashavua – Rav Ron (10)	Rav Susman [Int] (25)	Rav Milston [Adv-NH] (8)
Hilchot Shabbat – Rav Berg (23)	Rav Bailey [Adv] (25)	Rav Yonatan [Adv-SH] (8)
Advanced Kashrut – Dr. Judith Fogel (23)	Nevi'im Bekiut – Rav Yonatan (9)	A Dvar Torah for Shabbat – Rav Berg (8)
Gemara Bekiut – Rav Avigdor (28)	Gemara Bekiut – Rav Avigdor (28)	
The Mussar Masters – Rav Yonny Sack (20)		
10:00 am – 11:10 am	Torah SheBe'al Peh	Chumash Be'lyun
Beit Midrash – Rav Bailey	Dr. Judith Fogel [Beg] – 4th chapter Berachot (27)	Walking with the Commentators – Rav Berg (6)
Tikkun HaMiddot – Rav Yonny Sack (22)	Rav Susman [Int-E] – Berachot (27)	From Galut to Geula – Rav Bailey [Int] (6)
Drama and Tenach – Devorah Starr (14)	Rav Bailey [Int] – 1/3rd chapters Beitzah (27)	Sefer Shmot – Rav Yonny Sack [Int] (6)
Torah Shebe'al Peh – Rav Avigdor [Adv-H] – Makkot (28)	Rav Shames [Int-H] – Rosh Hashanah (28)	Sefer Vayikra – Esther Grossman [Int] (6)
Walking Through Shas – Dr. Judith Fogel (28)	Rav Avigdor [Adv-H] – Makkot (28)	Parshat Hashavua – Rav Avigdor [Adv] (7)
Eternity – Rav David Milston (12)		Breishit/Devarim – Rav Yonatan [Adv-H] (7)
Avot D'Rabbi Natan – Rav Ron (29)		
11:20 am – 12:30 pm	Machshava	
Sipurei Rebbe Nachman – Rav Milston (22)	Interpersonal Relationships in Navi – Atara Starr (12)	
Aggada – Rav Ron (29)	Classical Jewish Thought – Miriam Wolf (19)	
Advanced Hilchot Shabbat – Rav Shames (23)		
Everyday Inspiration – Devorah Starr (26)		
Practical Halacha – Rav Yonny Sack (25)		
Torah Shebe'al Peh – Rav Avigdor [Adv-H] cont'd (28)		
Electives (1:30 pm – 3:45 pm)	Electives	Electives
From Holocaust to Redemption – Rav Milston (17)	Bet Midrash – Rav Susman	The Teachings of Rav Tzadok – Rav Kanterovitz (22)
Siyurim – Rav Susman, Rav Yonatan (from 1:15 pm) (16)	Intro to Chassidut – Rav Yonny Sack (21)	Halachic Woman – Dr. Judith Fogel (20)
Hitnadvut Option 1	Sefer Daniel (fall) – Rav Ron (11)	The Written Word – Leiba Smith (14)
Art Option 1 – Rachel Himelstein (1:45 pm – 3:45 pm) (14)	Post-Talmudic History (spring) – Rav Ron (16)	Chassidut – Jeremy (SH)
	Questions in Emunah – Rav Shvat (19)	Poetry and Song in Prayer – Rav Shames (25)
	Discovering Texts – Rav Bailey (26)	Before There was Gemara – Rav Bailey (29)
	Bechol Deracheha Daehu – Mrs Rivka Kahan (21)	The Third Perek of Taanit – Esti Sacher (29)
		Bet Midrash – Rav Milston
	Torat, Am v'Medinat Yisrael – Rav Shvat [H] (17)	Parsha Belyun – Rav Kanterovitz (9)
	Derech Hashem – Rav Ron (19)	Hilchot Kashrut – Rav Berg (23)
	Shemirat Halashon (fall) – Rav Yonny Sack (24)	Halachic Woman – Dr. Judith Fogel (20)
4:00 pm – 7:00 pm	Big Questions People Ask (spring) – Rav Yonny Sack (19)	Mesilat Yesharim – Rav Milston (18)
Art Option 2 – Rachel Himelstein (until 6:00 pm) (14)	Contemporary Halacha – Rav Bailey (24)	Eliyahu and Elisha (fall) – Rav Yonatan (11)
Hitnadvut Option 2	Chamesh Megilot – Mrs Rivka Kahan (10)	Yirmiyahu and Yechezkel (spring) – Rav Yonatan (10)
	Bet Midrash – Rav Susman	Bet Midrash – Rav Bailey
	Nashim B'Tanach – Miriam Wolf (10)	Sefer Yehoshua (fall) – Esti Sacher (9)
		Shoftim (spring) – Esti Sacher (9)
	Sin and Redemption – Mrs Rivka Kahan (12)	Poskim of the 20th Century – Rav Kanterovitz (27)
	Torat, Am v'Medinat Yisrael – Rav Shvat (17)	Moral Dilemmas in Tanach (fall) – Esti Sacher (13)
	Minhagim and Halacha – Rav Ron (26)	Family in Tanach (spring) – Esti Sacher (13)
	The Thinking Jew – Tanya HaLevi (21)	Personal Status in Jewish Law – Rav Berg (24)
	Tikkun HaMiddot – Rav Yonny Sack (22)	Confronting Modernity – Rav Yonatan (19)
	Sefardi Halacha – Rav Susman (25)	Bein Isha LaMakom – Dr. Judith Fogel (25)
	Nashim B'Tanach – Miriam Wolf (10)	
Seder Erev (8:00 pm – 9:00 pm)	Seder Erev (8:00 pm – 9:00 pm)	Seder Erev
Guest Speaker	Bet Midrash Supervisor – Tanya Halevi	Bet Midrash Supervisor – Rav Kanterovitz
Bet Midrash Supervisor – Dr. Judith Fogel	Israeli Chavrutot	
9:00 pm – 10:00 pm	9:00 pm – 10:00 pm	8:30 pm – 10:00 pm
Bet Midrash Supervisor – Dr. Judith Fogel	Bet Midrash Supervisor – Tanya Halevi	JU Israel Course (15)

DEPARTMENT OF BIBLE

תורה שבכתב

BIB 103–104

Torah SheBichtav • Intermediate Level • Book of Genesis/Exodus

Understanding that the Torah is our manual for life, it is incumbent upon us to understand its moral and ethical value system even through its characters and their stories. In this class we study the final chapters of Sefer Bereishit and the first half of Sefer Shemot. Through the focused utilization of textual analysis along with a complement of classical commentaries, we not only learn the skills with which to properly dissect the Torah's text, but walk away with a greater and deeper understanding of Hashem's intended messages as conveyed through the biblical narrative and enumerated mitzvot.

- **Rav Jonathan Bailey**
- **Monday and Thursday 10:05 am – 12:45 pm**
- 4 credits per semester

BIB 105–106

Torah SheBichtav • Intermediate Level • Book of Exodus

This course takes an in-depth look at Sefer Shemot, with the goal of drawing relevant and practical guidance for spiritual growth from the deeper messages contained within. Emphasis is placed on developing textual skills and delving deeply into classical commentaries such as Rashi, Malbim, Maharal, Or HaChaim, and many others, as well as later meforshim, mussar texts, chassidic thought, and gemara.

- **Rav Yonny Sack**
- **Monday and Thursday 10:05 am – 12:45 pm**
- 4 credits per semester

BIB 107–108

Torah SheBichtav • Intermediate/Advanced Level • Book of Leviticus

This course provides students with the opportunity to go through the entire Book and become well-versed in the sacrifices, narrative and plethora of mitzvot contained within Sefer Vayikra. We draw from classical and modern commentaries to enhance our understanding of the material and improve textual skills. This class seeks to enrich one's observance of Shabbat and the chagim, ignite student's anticipation of the geulah, enhance one's davening and strengthen each individual's

Important Note: Students register for courses **101-108** based on skill level. The topics covered may vary from year to year; second year students may therefore register for the same course they have taken previously.

BIB 101–102

Walking with the Commentators

In this course we focus on a pivotal issue in the weekly Torah reading, and we explore that topic together with the great Torah commentators. When being introduced to each commentator for the first time we study the biography of that personality as well as his exegetical approach. We spend time studying the texts independently, followed by a classroom discussion focused on revealing the deeper message that the commentator wished to impart.

- **Rav David Berg**
- **Monday and Thursday 10:05 am – 12:45 pm**
- 4 credits per semester

understanding of kedusha in an effort to improve one's relationship with Hashem, others and the Land of Israel

■ **Esther Grossman**

■ **Monday and Thursday 10:05 am – 12:45 pm**

■ 4 credits per semester

BIB 107A-108A

Torah SheBichtav • Advanced Level •

The Weekly Torah Portion in Depth

The central aim of this course is to develop the ability to study and formulate a comprehensive understanding of an issue in the Parashat Shavua as learned by the mefarshim, as well as to develop ideas independently. After a brief overview of the Parasha we analyze a chosen topic from the Parasha through the prism of both early and later commentators. As the year progresses and our learning skills develop, students are encouraged to present their ideas either in writing or verbally to the students in the class.

■ **Rav Avigdor Meyerowitz**

■ **Monday and Thursday 10:05 am – 12:45 pm**

■ 4 credits per semester

BIB 107B-108B

Torah SheBichtav • Advanced Level •

Genesis/Deuteronomy

Genesis – We will explore the various relationships described in Sefer Bereishit. By means of textual analysis, and a wide range of classical and modern commentaries, we will delve deeply into the well-known stories and events and endeavor to understand their significance as part of the Torah.

Deuteronomy – Is this Book a repetition of what came earlier or does Sefer Devarim have its own unique message? We will delve into both the episodes and mitzvot which are repeated in this sefer as well as learning about the mitzvot which appear here for the first time. We will be studying a large amount of sources, both classical and modern.

■ **Rav Yonatan Horovitz (Hebrew)**

■ **Monday and Thursday 10:05 am – 12:45 pm**

■ 4 credits per semester



BIB 109–110***Bekiut Torah • Survey of the Pentateuch***

This is a survey course designed to familiarize students with large sections of the Torah and select passages with the commentary of Rashi.

- **Rav Yonny Sack – Intermediate**
- **Rav Yonatan Horovitz – Intermediate**
- **Rav David Milston – Advanced**
- **Monday and Thursday 8:30 am – 9:55 am**
- 3 credits per semester

BIB 109A–109B***A D'var Torah for Shabbat***

The main goal of the course is to prepare a meaningful “Dvar Torah” to be able to share on Shabbat. The first part of the class is spent reviewing the parasha with the guidance of parasha sheets. Ideas are then taken from the classical commentators such as Rashi, Ramban, Ohr Hachaim, Kli Yakar as well as Chassidic

sources such as the Sfat Emet, Netivot Shalom. Pages of divrei Torah from contemporary Torah personalities are also given each session. Students are encouraged to compile a notebook of divrei Torah which covers the entire year.

- **Rav David Berg**
- **Monday and Thursday 8:30 am – 9:55 am**
- 3 credits per semester

BIB 111–112***Growth Through the Torah***

This class draws out fundamental relevant, practical lessons for personal spiritual growth from the weekly Torah portion through learning of a wide variety of commentaries. The sources brought shed a new level of depth and wisdom to the Torah and its eternal relevance to our daily lives.

- **Rav Yonny Sack**
- **Sunday 3:00 pm – 4:15 pm**
- 1.5 credits per semester



BIB 113–114**Parasha B'lyun • The Weekly Torah Portion**

In this course we will seek new insights and perspectives, shedding new light on the text of the Parasha through the eyes of both Classical and subsequent commentators. By beginning with the text and then moving through the classical commentators and then examining the views of the later teachers we can discover how they see patterns emerge in commentary and narrative.

■ **Rav Chaim Kanterovitz**

■ **Thursday 4:25 pm – 5:40 pm**

■ 1.5 credits per semester

BIB 115**Sefer Yehoshua • The Book of Joshua**

The story of Am Israel reaching Eretz Israel, the goal ever since we left Egypt and the one that continues until today.

It is said that if Am Israel would not have sinned we would only have the Torah and the book of Yehoshua. The stories of Yehoshua may seem simple and known but these are the defining moments when we became an independent nation in our own land. During this course we will learn the story of Yehoshua in depth and understand the base of our connection to the Land of Israel and the core of our history and Emunah.

■ **Esti Sacher**

■ **Thursday 4:25 pm – 5:40 pm**

■ 1.5 credits per semester • Fall semester only

BIB 116**Sefer Shoftim • The Book of Judges**

Sefer Shoftim is one of the most complicated books in Tanach. Though it may seem like an easy read, in reality these stories are complex and deep and require a great deal of commentary in order to understand why they were included in the Canon in the first place, and why they are such an important part of Tanach. During this course we will learn the stories of Gideon, Shimshon, Pilegish Bagiva and many others and discover the significance of each one of these chapters being recorded for the ages and why they are such an essential part of our story.

■ **Esti Sacher**

■ **Thursday 4:25 pm – 5:40 pm**

■ 1.5 credits per semester • Spring semester only

BIB 119–120**Haggai, Zecharia and Malachi**

The last three prophets ever in the history of prophecy! Learn the final words of God as transmitted through the final prophets, from the encouragement of Haggai, the mysterious visions of Zecharia and the admonition of Malachi.

■ **Rav Zvi Ron**

■ **Monday 4:15 pm – 5:15 pm**

■ 1.5 credits per semester

BIB 123–124**Bekiut Tanach • Survey of the Prophets**

In this survey course, students are required to prepare five or more chapters of Tanach a week. The weekly lecture summarizes the general themes of the chapters covered together with the highlights of the stories. The aim of this course is to provide a general overview of the books of Nevi'im Rishonim.

■ **Rav Yonatan Horovitz**

■ **Sunday 9:00 am – 9:55 am**

■ **Wednesday 8:30 am – 9:55 am**

■ 3 credits per semester



BIB 125**Midrash and Aggada**

Midrashei Agadda, which we first hear as stories in early childhood, are often later dismissed as silly and simplistic, or simply incomprehensible. In this course, we delve into both the content and form of Midrashic literature, discover different styles of Midrash, its use of language and metaphor, its relationship to the Biblical text, and above all its meaning and purpose. A reasonable command of Hebrew text is recommended.

■ **Rachel Himmelstein**

■ **Monday 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm**

■ 1.5 credit per semester • Fall semester only

BIB 127–128**Nashim BeTanach • Women in the Bible**

This course covers portraits of the women who appear in Tanach through the eyes of Chazal. Individuals studied will include Sarah, Rivka, Rachel, Leah, Miriam, Tzipora, Devora, Esther and Ruth.

■ **Miriam Wolf**

■ **Wednesday 4:25 pm – 5:40 pm**

■ **or 5:50 pm – 7:00 pm**

■ 1.5 credits per semester

BIB 131A–132A**Saul and David • The Book of Samuel I**

This course covers the entire first book of Shmuel. We begin each new chapter with a quick, independent reading of the text and answering of accompanying 'directive' questions (provided on separate sheets); this process helps us familiarize ourselves with the chapter's general contents. We then analyze more deeply, using only selected excerpts, specific pesukim of that chapter and cross-referenced sections throughout the rest of Tanach, the chapter's specific themes and ideas, while also appreciating its overall place in the entire work. Along the way, we also build the invaluable skills of textual analysis. Some of the themes which we discuss are: the rise of Shmuel as Shofet and King's navi; the rise and fall of Shaul, the first King of Israel; the rise of David, from shepherd to 'next-in-line'; Shaul's tragic obsession for eradicating the usurper to his throne.

Required text: Tanach

■ **Rav Jonathan Bailey**

■ **Sunday 5:50 pm – 7:00 pm**

■ 1.5 credits per semester

BIB 135A**Tzaddik V'Ra Lo • Why the Righteous Suffer**

This course focuses on the question of why the righteous suffer as represented in the book of Iyov. Within this process we attempt to understand the human motivation to do good, as understood by the Satan and by the author of Iyov. Furthermore, we try to put ourselves in the place of Iyov's friends, and attempt to answer Iyov's questions. Finally, we touch upon the connection between Iyov's questions and our questions concerning the Holocaust.

■ **Dara Unterberg**

■ **Monday 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm**

■ 1.5 credits per semester • Fall semester only

BIB 137–138**Five Megillot**

We will explore each of the Five Megillot through the lenses of literary analysis and parshanut, to understand the themes and artistry of each megillah, and its messages for our appreciation of the Yamim Tovim and avodat Hashem all year long.

■ **Rivka Kahan**

■ **Wednesday 4:25 pm – 5:40 am**

■ 1.5 credits per semester

BIB 140**Survey of the Later Prophets:
Yirmiyahu and Yechezkel**

This course will cover the main themes and prophecies in the books of Yirmiyahu and Yechezkel. Following the chronological order as found in the Book of Kings we will study the prophecies related to the time period from the days of Uziya until the exile in Bavel. The sessions will comprise self-study followed by a discussion and summary.

■ **Rav Yonatan Horovitz**

■ **Thursday 4:25 pm – 5:40 pm**

■ 1.5 credits per semester • Spring semester only

BIB 143–144**Midrash from the Weekly Portion**

Each week we will study the classic and not yet classic midrashim related to the weekly Torah reading (parasha). The source material for all Torah commentaries and divrei Torah is right here. We will study the mid-

rashim together and extract the insights and lessons encoded within.

- **Rav Zvi Ron**
- **Tuesday 8:30 am – 9:50 am**
- 1.5 credits per semester

BIB 145

Eliyahu and Elisha

In this course we study, in depth, the chapters of Sefer Melachim which encompass the stories of these two Nevi'im. Issues discussed include the role of the prophet, miracles, and their place in Tanach.

- **Rav Yonatan Horovitz**
- **Thursday 4:25 pm – 5:40 pm**
- 1.5 credits per semester • Fall semester only

BIB 149A

Shivat Tzion • The Return to Zion in the Book of Ezra and Nechemia

This course follows the books of Ezra, Nechemia, Chagai, Zecharia, and Malachi. Topics discussed include: the First Aliya – Zerubavel and Yehoshua; the prophe-

cies of Chagai and Zecharia – the religious standing of the First Aliya; the Second Aliya – Ezra and Nechemia, external and internal problems; the meaning of the prophecy of Malachi; discussion of the role of Shivat Tzion and the Second Bet HaMikdash in the history of Am Yisrael.

- **Dara Unterberg**
- **Monday 4:15 pm – 5:15 pm**
- 1.5 credits per semester • Spring semester only

BIB 153

The Book of Daniel

Daniel is possibly the most mysterious book in the Tanach. Can we unravel the mysteries of Daniel's visions? Were these visions purely Messianic, or were they relevant to Daniel's own historical period? Was Daniel a prophet? We approach the Book of Daniel as an important window into the life of the Jews in Babylonian exile, and as the historical link between the First and Second Temple periods.

- **Rav Zvi Ron**
- **Wednesday 3:00 pm – 4:15 pm**
- 1.5 credits per semester • Fall semester only



BIB 155–156**Off The Beaten (Biblical) Track**

This course attempts to discover more about some of the less-discussed characters in Tanach. Examples include: Calev, Rachav, Reuven, Pinchas, Elkana, Yonatan. We draw on textual analysis and comparison, Midrashic comment and metaphor and a range of commentaries in order to determine how each character affected his time period and Biblical history in general.

This course was formerly titled Biblical Personalities.

- **Rav Yonatan Horovitz**
- **Sunday 5:50 pm – 7:00 pm**
- 1.5 credits per semester

BIB 167–168**Early Prophets: Eternal Messages**

At a first glance, much of Nevi'im Rishonim appears to be a collection of stories in Jewish History beginning with the people entering the land of Israel with Yehoshua, and concluding with the destruction of the first Bet HaMikdash at the end of Melachim Bet. Yet above and beyond the story of the development, progression, and ultimate demise (albeit temporarily), of Am Yisrael in Eretz Yisrael, each episode in Tenach has an eternal message. As we study each and every chapter of Nevi'im Rishonim together, we are able to reap lessons that are of fundamental importance to us as individuals, and to the people of Israel as a nation. We firstly learn the relevant chapter in the Bet Midrash,

then aim to fully understand the lessons therein. Our objective is to reveal the eternal lessons of the Nevi'im.

- **Rav David Milston**
- **Tuesday 10:00 am – 11:10 am**
- 1.5 credits per semester

BIB 169–170**Interpersonal Relationships in the Prophets**

Building and maintaining healthy relationships is both challenging and rewarding. In this class we examine selected texts in Sifrei Nevi'im in order to better understand and appreciate the complexity of interpersonal relationships. We explore the dynamics of relationships between parent and child, siblings, friends, leaders and followers, teachers and students, among others. We develop critical thinking skills as we view each encounter through the lens of our own understanding as well as classical and contemporary parshanut. Topics include David and Batsheva, Eliyahu and Elisha, David and Yonatan, Devorah and Barak, Chana/Penina and Elkanah etc. Each unit ends with a discussion of the practical application and relevance of the tools and lessons we are learning to our everyday lives.

- **Atara Starr**
- **Sunday and Wednesday 10:05 am – 12:45pm**
- 4 credits per semester

BIB 177–178**Drama and Tanach**

This class is identical to JA 103–104

BIB 179–180**Sin and Redemption**

Much of Tanakh is structured around stories of sin, punishment, and redemption, which often raise challenging questions about human nature, predestination, and Divine justice. In this course, we will learn in depth about narratives of sin and redemption throughout Tanakh to better understand these complex narratives and their messages about humanity and our relationship with Hashem.

- **Rivka Kahan**
- **Wednesday 5:50 pm – 7:00 pm**
- 1.5 credits per semester



BIB 181–182**Portraits and Parshanut**

This class is identical to JA 105–106

BIB 183**Nevuah Ledorot • Making a Prophet**

How do the messages of the later prophets guide us today? We uncover the relevance and urgency of their messages on an individual, national, and universal level. Sample discussion topics:

- Which prophecies have been fulfilled? Which have not?
- How to know who is a false or true prophet? Who are the modern “prophets”?
- How will Israel realistically become a “Light to the Nations”?
- What do the Nevi'im have to say about modern Aliya, poverty, governmental power, religious tolerance?

■ **Dara Unterberg**

■ **Monday 3:00 pm – 4:15 pm**

■ 1.5 credits • Spring semester only

BIB 187**Moral Dilemmas in the Bible**

Throughout the Tanach, biblical figures are frequently faced with difficult choices which present moral dilemmas. In this course, we will study and analyze, in depth, selected stories from the Tanach that present us with moral dilemmas. From Chava's debate with the snake and her ensuing decision, through Sarah's choice to send Yishmael to the desert, to Eliyahu's hesitation to resume the rains, each story represents a difficult choice with significant moral implications. We will examine each figure, understand the dilemmas they face, what that means for each individual biblical character and how they make their decisions, in order to understand and explore the deeper meaning behind the story. Through the different stories we will understand the importance of the story, the greatness of our biblical role models, the relevance to our lives, and look for tools that we can apply in our everyday moral debates.

■ **Esti Sacher**

■ **Thursday 5:50 pm – 7:00 pm**

■ 1.5 credits per semester • Fall semester only

**BIB 188****Family in Tanach**

Our Tanach, the story of our people and our religion is about belief, a journey and a nation. But it all started out with a family. And throughout the entire story we meet many families. These are the families of exquisite leaders and role models and yet still are human, flesh and bone, handling the complicated and amazing relationships of marriage, parenting, sibling rivalry and friendship. During this course we will study selected stories, analyze them through classic Prashanut, psychology and our own personal view on families and relationships.

■ **Esti Sacher**

■ **Thursday 5:50 pm – 7:00 pm**

■ 1.5 credits per semester • Spring semester only

DEPARTMENT OF JEWISH CREATIVE ARTS אומנות

JA 101–102

Artistic Expression

This course is designed both to give students guidance in a variety of art forms and techniques and to teach students a form of self-expression that can be used to enhance their learning and living as Jewish women. The program allows students to experiment with materials, styles and mediums including painting, sculpture and drawing, and to work on individual art pieces of each student's choice. Students may choose a common theme which they research in traditional sources in order to express the theme through a variety of artistic mediums. A further description of the Jewish Art program and its aims can be found elsewhere in this catalog.

- **Rachel Himmelstein**
- **Tuesday 1:45 pm – 3:45 pm**
- **and/or Tuesday 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm**
- Each session: 2 credits per semester

JA 103–104

Drama and Tanach

This class explores and analyzes the narrative portions of Tanach from a dramatic perspective. Student use theater arts as a means of increasing their understanding of various Biblical personalities and pesukim in the Torah in a hands-on approach to Torah learning which is both challenging and transformative. The performance elements of this class serve as a form of expression as well as an assessment of the areas of study.

This course is also numbered **BIB 177–178**.

- **Devorah Starr**
- **Tuesday 10:00 am – 11:10 am**
- 3 credits per semester

JA 105–106

Portraits and Parshanut

In this course we broaden our perspectives on the parameters of parshanut by looking beyond the words of the commentaries. Is a picture worth a thousand words? How do the masterpieces of the world's greatest artists contribute to our appreciation of Tanach? Every session focuses on a different episode in Tanach, such as Migdal Bavel, Akeidat Yitzchak, Mechirat Yosef, David and Golyat, Eliyahu Hanavi, etc.

This course is also numbered **BIB 181–182**.

- **Dara Unterberg**
- **Monday 4:15 pm – 5:15 pm**
- 1.5 credits per semester • Fall semester only

JA 107–108

The Written Word

Creative writing is a means to explore both the world within us and that which surrounds us through written language. This course is a hands-on writing workshop where we will practice techniques for inner exploration and greater creative written expression while exploring the relationship of the written word to our inner spiritual life. Writing topics will include those related to the Jewish yearly cycle and those that arise from our learning. Previous writing experience not required. Be sure to come with a willingness to explore and share in a group setting.

This course is also numbered **JUD 183–184**.

- **Leiba Smith**
- **Thursday 3:00 pm – 4:15 pm**
- 1.5 credits per semester



DEPARTMENT OF JEWISH EDUCATION

חינוך

JED 105-106

Introduction to Principles in Education • Leadership Workshop

This course prepares the student for teaching in a classroom situation using group dynamics for informal education. Participants in this class are introduced to the following educational issues and needs:

- Preparation of group activities, plays, ceremonies and end of year events
- Using games and drama in the classroom
- A mini-course in First Aid
- Identifying and assisting students with learning difficulties or disabilities. Emphasis is placed on understanding the social implications for these students.
- Educational psychology – students are introduced to concepts in child development, learning disabilities and more.
- Practical Training – training experience in Israeli schools, principal and teacher interviews

■ **Rav David Berg**
■ **Sunday 5:50 pm – 7:00 pm**
■ 2 credits per semester

JED 109-110

Current Events

In Current Events we discuss and debate various Israeli and international news items, examining how these issues impact our daily lives, from the perspective of religious women, and as people who are exposed to journalism outside of Israel. This class enables students to expand their Israel experience by learning about Israeli news as it develops, and becoming acquainted with local politicians and culture. On a weekly basis, we analyze the latest updates in Israeli local news and international journalism and learn what is going on behind the scenes. We follow news items and watch how they develop over the weeks while familiarizing

ourselves with Israeli newspapers and becoming acquainted with their particular slant. Together we reflect on these topics and expand our understanding of our role in these changing times.

■ **Rachel Himmelstein**
■ **Monday 4:15 pm – 5:15 pm**
■ This class is not for credit

DEPARTMENT OF JEWISH HISTORY

היסטוריה

JHI 109-110

JU Israel Course

Recent years have seen a sharp increase in negative sentiments toward Israel on North American college campuses. This course is intended to help students confront this challenge by instilling them with a deeper understanding of the complexities and nuances of the Arab-Israeli conflict. The students also gain leadership and activism skills to effectively make the case for Israel. The course is divided into four segments:

- The connection of the Jewish people to the Land of Israel
- Understanding the Arab-Israeli conflict
- The fundamentals of effective activism
- Leadership development and personal growth

The goal of this course is not simply to leave students with a greater knowledge and understanding of Israel and the conflict, but also to provide them with the skills necessary to step up for Israel on their campuses and within their communities. To that end, significant emphasis is placed on developing students' leadership potential and on empowering students to view themselves as actors in Jewish history with the ability to make a meaningful impact in the world. Using the latest multimedia educational resources, including film and video, this course features interactive workshops, guest speakers, and uses current events as the backdrop for class discussion.

■ **Rav Michael Unterberg**
■ **Thursday 8:30 pm – 10:00 pm**
■ 2 credits per semester

JHI 111***Jerusalem through Time***

These walking tours explore different historical periods of the city of Jerusalem: the period of the First Bet Ha-Mikdash, the Second Bet HaMikdash, the Middle Ages, the Modern Era, the expansion of Jerusalem outside of the Old City, and the battles in 1948 and 1967. In addition, we study secondary sources and tell stories and folklore of the various sites. We use the tours as a springboard, not only for the study of Jerusalem, but to learn about famous personalities and events.

■ **Rav Yonatan Horovitz, Rav Michael Susman**

■ **Tuesday 1:15 pm – 3:45 pm**

■ This is a one-semester course • 3 credits per semester

JHI 116***Faith in Times of Darkness***

Since the time that the Talmud was completed, Jews have applied the precepts of Halacha to the changing social, legal and economic aspects of both their personal and communal lives. One of the most common tools to accomplish this goal has been the use of Responsa, answers given to specific issues raised by individual questioners. Remarkably but unsurprisingly, even during the darkest chapter of Jewish History, the Holocaust, believing Jews continued to seek halachik

guidance help them confront the daily horrors forced upon them by the Nazi regime. In this class we study selected responsa which help us to appreciate the personal heroism which enabled individuals, and a nation to retain personal and communal dignity while trying to survive the genocidal goals of the Nazi killing machine.

■ **Rav Michael Susman**

■ **Sunday 5:50 pm – 7:00 pm**

■ 1.5 credits per semester • Spring semester only

JHI 123***Post-Talmudic History***

This course covers the period from the close of the Talmud to the end of the Geonim. The focus is on why events developed the way they did and how that period of history impacts us today. Among other topics, we will learn about the first siddur, how and when the Talmud was written, the first responsa literature, the first legal codes, what brought the Geonic period to a close, and why yeshivot today study Gemara the way they do.

■ **Rav Zvi Ron**

■ **Wednesday 3:00 pm – 4:15 pm**

■ 1.5 credits per semester • Spring semester only



JHI 125–126***From Holocaust to Redemption***

The aim of this course is to follow, chronologically, the rise of Hitlerism until its eventual downfall, showing the plight of the Jewish people at each stage of these developments. We also explore the birth of the Jewish State in the aftermath of the Holocaust. We use audio-visual sources with much original footage as a starting point for each subject matter. The course aims to emphasize the factual side of the Holocaust. On occasion, as time permits, we deal with certain moral or ethical issues that arise directly from our studies.

- **Rav David Milston**
- **Tuesday 1:30 pm – 3:45 pm**
- 2 credits per semester

JHI 127–128***Topics in Zionism***

This course follows the unbroken chain of the connection between the Jewish people and their land. We track the efforts of individuals to settle in the land in the medieval period and the more popular movements in the last 200 years. We study the major figures and organizations and examine the landmark events that have shaped the modern State of Israel.

- **Rav Ari Shames**
- **Monday 4:15 pm – 5:15 pm**
- 1.5 credits per semester

**DEPARTMENT OF
JEWISH PHILOSOPHY
מחשבה**

JPH 103–104***Finding Meaning in Prayer • Tefilla Workshop***

Connecting to prayer is a challenge that many face, despite prayer being an integral pillar of Jewish living. Learning to unlock the true power of one's Tefilla is something that takes deep understanding of the spiritual mechanics of Tefilla, both philosophical and prac-

tical. In this class we learn sources to help us build our personal world of Tefilla, our understanding of what Tefilla is, what we are saying, how to use Tefilla properly and explore practical methods of making Tefilla more meaningful, harnessing its tremendous power in our avodat Hashem and lives in general.

- **Rav Yonny Sack**
- **Sunday 4:25 pm – 5:40 pm**
- **or Rav Ari Shames**
- **Monday 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm**
- 1.5 credits per semester

JPH 105–106***Torat Eretz Yisrael •******The Philosophy of Religious Zionism***

This is a foundation course on the philosophy of Religious Zionism. It covers four main units.

- The Role of Am Yisrael – the State of Israel / the “3 vows” / fixing new festivals / the Israeli Army / the Hebrew language / relations between religious and non-religious
- The Redemption – with or without repentance / Mashiach Ben Yosef / signs of Geula
- The Land of Israel – the center of Judaism / Torah and mitzvot / mitzvat Yishuv HaAretz / leaving Eretz Yisrael
- Torah VeAvoda, Yerushalayim – Temple and Kingship, seat of Hashem, of justice, and the House of David / king, prophet, sage and priest / balance and separation of power.

- **Rav Ari Shvat**
- **Wednesday 4:25 pm – 5:40 pm (Hebrew)**
- **or Wednesday 5:50 pm – 7:00 pm (English)**
- 1.5 credits per semester

JPH 113–114***Thirteen Principles of Faith • Gateway to Faith***

What is Emunah? How do we acquire it? What effects does it have on our life? These classes explore some of the deeper concepts and sources in Judaism by delving into the world of Emunah in general and the Rambam's 13 Principles of Faith in particular. The course examines these foundational principles one by one, tackling the tough questions and drawing out enlightening practical insights as to how to utilize the power of Emunah to illuminate and transform our Avodat Hashem and our lives.

- **Rav Yonny Sack**
- **Monday 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm**
- 1.5 credits per semester

JPH 115–116***Strive For Truth***

This course deals with the mussar of Rav Eliyahu Dessler through his sefer, *Michtav Me'Eliyahu*. The following topics are discussed: truth, choice, nature, faith, and kindness.

- **Rav David Milston**
- **Monday 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm**
- 1.5 credits per semester

JPH 117–118***Messilat Yesharim • Path of the Just***

We study this sefer from the very beginning, with an aim to complete an initial study by the year-end. The work comprises 27 chapters including the introduction. However, our real objective is more emphatically in the qualitative area. The work is a compendium of wisdom and real understanding of life. By intense study, and introspection, we hope to discover the pathway to Hashem.

- **Rav David Milston**
- **Thursday 4:25 pm – 5:40 pm**
- 1.5 credits per semester

JPH 119–120***The Case for Judaism • Sefer HaKuzari***

Sefer HaKuzari explores the greatness of the Jewish people, our connection to Eretz Yisrael and the Torah through the eyes of Rabbi Yehudah Halevi as brought to life in the record of the disputation between the Sage and the King of Kahzar. The classic text comes to life when examining themes and approaches of R. Yehuda Halevi, which often differ from the common perspective. This enables the opening of a window into the theology of Jewish sages of the early middle ages.

- **Rav Chaim Kanterovitz**
- **Sunday 4:25 pm – 5:40 pm**
- 1.5 credits per semester



JPH 125***Introduction to the Philosophy of Rav Soloveitchik***

In this course we examine some basic and recurring themes in the Rav's philosophy, using a number of texts written in English.

- **Rav Yonatan Horovitz**
- **Sunday 4:25 pm – 5:40 pm**
- 1.5 credits per semester • Fall semester only

JPH 127-128***Confronting Modernity***

This is an informal course focusing on discussion of how traditional Judaism confronts modern problems. Source material is taken from classical and modern Jewish philosophers as well as articles reflecting contemporary issues of interest.

- **Rav Yonatan Horovitz**
- **Thursday 5:50 pm – 7:00 pm**
- 1.5 credits per semester

JPH 131-132***Machshava • Jewish Thought***

This foundation course discusses some of the key components of Jewish philosophy throughout the ages. Study is done through primary sources. Topics covered include Torah and Mitzvot, the place of the individual in Klal Yisrael, Torah SheBe'al Peh, and others.

- **Miriam Wolf**
- **Sunday and Wednesday 10:05 am – 12:45 pm**
- 4 credits per semester

JPH 141-142***Derech Hashem • The Path of God***

This course is an in-depth analysis of Derech Hashem, a presentation of the mystical approach to understanding the way God runs the world and the purpose of our existence. We will compare Derech Hashem to other works of Ramchal, and to differing approaches within the world of Jewish thought.

- **Rav Zvi Ron**
- **Wednesday 4:25 pm – 5:40 pm**
- 1.5 credits per semester

JPH 143-144***Ethics of Our Fathers***

In this course we analytically study the text of the mishnayot from the tractate Avot. Using the symbolic, structured and metaphoric nature of the chosen texts, we are able to glean the integral lessons of our ancestors as they apply to our lives as Jews.

This course is also numbered **TAL 123-124**.

- **Rav Jonathan Bailey**
- **Tuesday 8:30 am – 9:50 am**
- 1.5 credits per semester

JPH 151***By His Light •
The Thought of Rav Aharon Lichtenstein***

Rav Aharon Lichtenstein was one of the most eloquent and refined Jewish thinkers of recent times. In this course, we gain insight into his philosophy and ideas. We study several of his English essays which will also allow us to explore the analytical method Rav Lichtenstein employs when discussing complex concepts.

- **Rav Yonatan Horovitz**
- **Sunday 4:25 pm – 5:40 pm**
- 1.5 credits per semester • Spring semester only

JPH 155-156***Issues of Faith***

Using a variety of sources, this course examines basic issues of faith. Both text and discussion are utilized. Topics discussed include: proving the existence of God, the Chosenness of Israel, the truth of the Torah, defining emunah, man and his destiny, free choice, evil in the world, repentance, understanding mitzvot, life after death, and other topics of interest raised by the students.

- **Rav Ari Shvat**
- **Wednesday 3:00 pm – 4:15 pm**
- **or Rav Yonny Sack**
- **Wednesday 4:25 pm – 5:50 pm** (Spring semester only)
- 1.5 credits per semester

JPH 165–166***Torat Halsha • Women in Modern Society***

In this course we discuss issues pertinent to women in modern society. Special attention is paid to the interaction between religious and modern values, as well as possible conflicts between them.

This course is also numbered **JUD 127–128**.

- **Dr. Judith Fogel**
- **Thursday 3:00 pm – 4:15 pm**
- **or 4:25 pm – 5:40 pm**
- 1.5 credits per semester

JPH 169–170***The Masters of Mussar (Ethics)***

This class delves into the awe-inspiring lives, Torah teachings, and guidance of the angels amongst men known as the Baalei HaMussar (Masters of Mussar). These men set out to revive, restore and inspire the Jewish heart and soul through a spiritual revolution focused on sincere spiritual growth known as the Mussar Movement. From the Torah and lives of such spiritual giants as Rav Yisrael Salanter, the Alter of Kelm, the Alter of Slobodka and many others we will discover the unique sincerity, passion, soul and integrity that exemplify Mussar teachings, with the goal of awakening our own authentic inner soul connection to Hashem and His Torah.

- **Rav Yonny Sack**
- **Tuesday 8:30 am – 9:50 am**
- 1.5 credits per semester

JPH 171–172***The Book of Tanya***

The Book of Tanya, written by Rabbi Shneur Zalman of Liadi, the founder of the Chabad Lubavitch Chassidic

dynasty, is recognized as one of the basic guides to the philosophy of Chassidut in general and to the philosophy of Chassidut Lubavitch in particular. In this course we attempt to understand the “Torah of the Soul” of Lubavitch, as well as examine the path of a loyal Jew and his inner conflicts as seen by this sect of Chassidim.

- **Rav Ari Shames**
- **Sunday 3:00 pm – 4:15 pm**
- 1.5 credits per semester

JPH 176***Family Redeemed***

Family Redeemed is one of the many books written by Rav Soloveitchik that demonstrate his keen understanding and depth of Torah knowledge. Whilst the Rav was world renowned for his vast scholarly abilities, this book is set apart precisely because it focuses on relationships. Using the first two chapters of the Book of Genesis, the Rav directed us to explore the roles and duties of individuals seeking to form community. We learn how these values and concepts are so relevant today, eye opening in their insight, and serving to enlighten us in a world with ever changing definitions and concepts on family. Group discussion is highly encouraged in response to this fascinating text.

- **Rachel Himmelstein**
- **Monday 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm**
- 1.5 credits per semester • Spring semester only

JPH 177–178***The Jewish Self***

This class builds a deeply spiritual yet practical guide to genuine connection in Avodat Hashem through delving into a wide range of sources from the Mussar classics to Chassidut. Through the course we learn



to understand the deeper psychological and spiritual mechanics of the Jewish Self and how to use this self-knowledge to attain and reveal holiness, purity and sincerity in all aspects of life.

- **Rav Yonny Sack**
- **Sunday 5:50 pm – 7:00 pm**
- 1.5 credits per semester

JPH 179–180

The Thinking Jew • Fundamental Existential Questions

This is a course that encourages us to think about the “Why” and “How” of what we do as Torah observant Jews. Through use of biblical and sage sources as well as historic and contemporary thinkers (philosophers, scientists, contemporary thinkers and entrepreneurs) we will discuss and understand topics of importance and relevance to our lives as Jews.

- **Tanya HaLevi**
- **Wednesday 5:50 pm – 7:00 pm**
- 1.5 credits per semester

JPH 181–182

Bekhol Derakheha Da-ehu • The Torah and the Human Psyche

We will explore the Tanach’s multifaceted depiction of fundamental areas of human experience and psychology, including personal identity, loss and healing, the search for meaning, friendship and love, and more. Through deep analysis of narratives throughout Tanakh, we will develop understanding of the Torah’s rich insights into human nature and the relationship between life experience and avodat Hashem.

- **Rivka Kahan**
- **Wednesday 3:00 pm – 4:15 pm**
- 1.5 credits per semester

JPH 183–184

Introduction to Chassidic Thought

Chassidic Torah is known to inspire, revive and inflame Jewish souls with passion, joy and deep devotion. As the modern Jew searches for meaningful connection to Torah, Chassidut provides a profoundly deep, practical, authentic spiritual system of Torah thought. This course enables students to taste of the warmth, joy, passion, and intellectual and spiritual depth of Chassidic Torah thought, opening the door to new dimensions of understanding and connection.

- **Rav Yonny Sack**
- **Wednesday 3:00 pm – 4:15 pm**
- 1.5 credits per semester

JPH 183A–184A

Chassidic Masters

Our great Chassidic masters were (and continue to be) devoted to a Jewish life that infuses even the mundane with spirituality. When it comes to Torah study it is not enough to look at what is revealed to us, rather Chassidut begs us to look further into the depths of the Torah and bring meaning to every word that we read and every mitzvah that we keep. In this class we will be exploring the history, unique stories, messages and Torot of our great Chassidic masters, from the holy Baal Shem Tov to R’ Levi Yitzchak of Berditchev, Rebbe Nachman, R’ Menachem Mendl of Rymanow, R’ Elimelch of Lizhensk, the Baal HaTanya and many others.

- **Atara Starr**
- **Sunday 4:25 pm – 5:40 pm**
- 1.5 credits per semester



JPH 185–186***Soul Mates: A Deeper Look at Men and Women***

This class builds a clear and profound understanding of the spiritual root of gender and works to apply this knowledge to the practical Jewish pathway to relationships and marriage. Topics such as what is love, platonic relationships, dating, soul mates, and marriage are all examined in depth as a means of gaining greater insight into this critical subject.

- **Rav Yonny Sack**
- **Sunday 8:00 pm – 9:00 pm**
- This class is not for credit

JPH 187–188***Explorations of Faith • Mahalachim B'Emunah***

Join us as we explore approaches to the cultivation and development of faith by the greats of the 20th Century. We will focus on the teachings of sages such as the Piaseczna Rebbe, R' Nachman of Breslov, Rav Kook and others who explore the structure and components of faith rooted in belief of God.

- **Rav Chaim Kanterovitz**
- **Sunday 3:00 pm – 4:15 pm**
- 1.5 credits per semester

JPH 189–190***Thinking God:******Teachings of Rav Tzadok HaKohen of Lublin***

Mystic, scholar, chassidic master and teacher, rabbinic authority, intellectual and halachic authority. The combination of all these worlds was brought to life by the magnificent mind of one spectacular sage, Rav Tzadok HaKohen of Lublin. By studying his commentary to the Torah, Pri Tzadik, as well as other works, we will gain a glimpse into the revolutionary mind of a master of all aspects of the Torah.

- **Rav Chaim Kanterovitz**
- **Thursday 3:00 pm – 4:15 pm**
- 1.5 credits per semester

JPH 191–192***The Thought of Rav Nachman of Breslav***

Towards the end of his life Rebbe Nachman said to his followers, "All these years, I have been teaching you Torah, but many things you have just been unable to grasp – so now, I will tell you stories..." In this course we explore the teachings of Rebbe Nachman of Breslov through the exploration of his 'Sippurey Maasiyot', a collection of stories he told over to his students, compiled by his primary disciple Rav Natan of Breslov. Wildly imaginative, often funny and more often perplexing, these stories – while entertaining – are laden with mysterious parables communicating deep teachings and life lessons in Avodat Hashem.

- **Rav David Milston**
- **Tuesday 11:20 am – 12:30 pm**
- 1.5 credits per semester

JPH 195–196***Modern Orthodoxy***

When did Modern Orthodoxy begin and why? What message does it have for Judaism today? What distinguishes it from other streams of Judaism? Do I want to be Modern Orthodox? All these questions and more will be discussed by use of articles and papers written by Modern Orthodox thinkers.

- **Rav Yonatan Horovitz**
- **Sunday 3:00 pm – 4:15 pm**
- 1.5 credits per semester • Spring semester only

JPH 197–198***Tikkun HaMiddot***

In this class students discover an organized practical approach and guide to working on one's inner self. The course systematically works through a wide range of the fundamental Middot (character traits) which guide our thoughts, actions, speech and avodat Hashem in every aspect of our lives. A wide range of classical Torah, Mussar and Chassidic sources are studied in depth with emphasis placed on drawing out a relevant and very practical working guide to personal spiritual growth.

- **Rav Yonny Sack**
- **Tuesday 10:00 am – 11:10 am**
- **or Wednesday 5:50 pm – 7:00 pm**
- 1.5 credits per semester

DEPARTMENT OF JEWISH STUDIES

הלכה ויהדות

JUD 101-102

Hilchot Shabbat • Laws of the Sabbath

This is a thorough and intensive course in which all aspects of Shabbat are studied in depth. Together with texts, we explore all the positive and negative mitzvot of Shabbat. Our aim is to cover all Halachik aspects of Shabbat in a complete manner as well as delving into Chassidic insights to the holiness of Shabbat.

- **Rav David Berg**
- **Sunday 4:25 pm – 5:40 pm**
- **or Tuesday 8:30 am – 10:00 am**
- 1.5 credits per semester

JUD 103-104

Hilchot Shabbat • Laws of the Sabbath • Advanced Level

This course offers an in-depth study of hilchot Shabbat, firmly based in the primary sources, and their application to present day issues. The course requires an ability to read the Shulchan Aruch with the Mishna Brura.

- **Rav Ari Shames (Hebrew)**
- **Tuesday 11:20 am – 12:30 pm**
- 1.5 credits per semester

JUD 107-108

Hilchot Kashrut • Dietary Laws

This is a thorough course covering all aspects of kashrut. We explore important issues such as hechsherim, halachik problems with milk and meat in the kitchen, food prepared by non-Jews, bugs in food, and general kashrut issues. Upon completing the course one should know how to keep kosher in the best possible way.

- **Rav David Berg**
- **Sunday 3:00 pm – 4:15 pm**
- **or Thursday 4:25 pm – 5:40 pm**
- 1.5 credits per semester

JUD 109-110

Hilchot Kashrut • Dietary Laws • Advanced Level

This course offers an in-depth study of hilchot Kashrut. We learn the major topics in Kashrut from the Gemara through the rishonim and Shulchan Aruch focusing on halacha lemaaseh.

- **Dr. Judith Fogel**
- **Tuesday 8:30 am – 9:50 am**
- 1.5 credits per semester

JUD 113

Hilchot Berachot • Laws of Blessings

Which bracha (blessing) does one recite on cornflakes? Or on fruit juice? Is there a minimum amount you must eat in order to make a bracha? What should you do if you're not sure what bracha to make on a certain food? We will try to answer these and many other questions as we delve into this complicated area of halacha. We will investigate the principles and reach practical conclusions for these laws which affect us every day of our lives.

- **Rav Yonatan Horovitz**
- **Sunday 3:00 pm – 4:15 pm**
- 1.5 credits per semester • Fall semester only



JUD 115–116***Personal Status in Jewish Law***

This course deals with areas that affect the personal status of a Jew. The aim is to develop a deep halachik understanding of the issues of marriage, conversion, adoption and many other interpersonal issues.

- **Rav David Berg**
- **Thursday 5:50 pm – 7:00 pm**
- 1.5 credits per semester

JUD 119–120***Shemirat HaLashon • Laws of Slander***

This course delves into the Halachot and the deeper spiritual mechanics of the words we speak. We learn the halachik work, Chafetz Chayim, and its Mussar accompaniment, Sefer Shemirat HaLashon, both by Rav Yisrael Meir Ha Kohen Kagan, in depth as well as other Torah sources on this topic. The course gives students the Halachik know-how and inspiration to work toward completely refining their speech, focusing also on the motivations behind how we communicate and the true power of words.

- **Rav Yonny Sack**
- **Wednesday 4:25 pm – 5:15 pm** (Fall semester only)
- **or Aviah Rosby**
- **Sunday 9:00 pm – 10:00 pm**
- 1.5 credits per semester

JUD 125–126***Contemporary Issues in Jewish Law***

In this class we follow the path of the modern-day posek and discover, through the texts that he would have used, the modern application of our previously established halachik rulings. Averaging a new question every two classes, we learn through the relevant texts, understanding the principle to be gleaned from each of them and then applying them, step-by-step, to our halachik query. Issues addressed include: Can a kohen who caused a fatal driving accident join in blessing the congregation? Are dolls idolatrous? Can one join a minyan over the internet? Is an electric blanket prohibited on Shabbat?

- **Rav Jonathan Bailey**
- **Sunday 4:25 pm – 5:40 pm**
- **or Wednesday 4:25 pm – 5:40 pm**
- 1.5 credits per semester

JUD 127–128***Torat Halsha • Women in Modern Society***

This course is identical to **JPH 165–166**.



JUD 129–130***Bekiut Halacha •******Survey of Basic Concepts in Jewish Law***

This class, which focuses on independent Beit Midrash study, is designed to give participants a wide breadth of knowledge of Jewish Law, as well as to teach skills required for independent study of the Mishna Berura. The Basic/Intermediate section uses the Peninai Halacha as a primary text. The Intermediate section uses the Mishna Berura as a primary text while the advanced section uses the Aruch HaShulchan as its primary text.

- **Rav Ari Shames (Basic/Intermediate)**
- **Rav Michael Susman (Intermediate)**
- **Rav Jonathan Bailey (Advanced)**
- **Sunday 9:00 am – 9:55 am,**
- **Wednesday 8:30 am – 9:55 am**
- 3 credits per semester

JUD 129A–130A***Practical Halacha •******Survey of Basic Concepts in Jewish Law***

This course works through a wide range of relevant, practical halachik topics, learning from the primary sources down to the practical halachik conclusions with an emphasis on clarity and understanding in daily observance. Students also learn sources that reveal some of the depth behind the halachik practice learned, building a meaningful connection to observance.

- **Rav Yonny Sack**
- **Tuesday 11:20 am – 12:30 am**
- 1.5 credits per semester

JUD 129B–130B***Practical Halacha • Survey of Basic Concepts in Jewish Law/Oriental Communities***

This course is similar to **JUD 129A–130A** but emphasis is placed on the practice of Edot Mizrach (Oriental) communities, using the positions of Maran Rav Ovadia Yosef and Rav Mordechai Eliyahu as a template.

- **Rav Michael Susman**
- **Wednesday 5:50 pm – 7:00 pm**
- 1.5 credit per semester

JUD 135–136***Poetry and Song in Prayer***

This course studies the text of the various poems used in our tefilot and the “zemiroth” of Shabbat. Before each holiday we study a specific work related to the holiday, for example Avinu Malkanu or Maoz Tzur, and for mid-year sessions concentrate on Shabbat. We learn about the authorship of each work and study the text itself in detail in order to track the sources that inspired the poem. Each session focuses on a separate poem.

- **Rav Ari Shames**
- **Thursday 3:00 pm – 4:15 pm**
- 1.5 credits per semester

JUD 137–138***Defining The Changeless Relationship Between Woman and God in Changing Times***

In this class we will cover the role of women in ritual observance – specifically those that take place in the community, the Beit Knesset, and the private home – through an examination of Talmudic sources, responsa, and articles.

- **Dr. Judith Fogel**
- **Thursday 5:50 pm – 7:00 pm**
- 1.5 credits per semester

JUD 139–140***Mitzvot: How and Why?***

As a special amalgamation of practical halacha and meaningful symbolism, this class explores the mitzvot of our chagim along with a collection of the mitzvot we commonly observe. The learning of each mitzvah includes the practical, relevant step-by-step process of how to perform these mitzvot correctly, along with an elucidation of the mitzvah’s symbolic significance based on the Torah’s descriptions. Note: Halachik practices to be discussed will generally reflect Ashkenazi tradition.

- **Rav Jonathan Bailey**
- **Monday 4:25 pm – 5:15 pm**
- 1.5 credits per semester

JUD 147–148***Jewish Literacy 101***

For a description of this course, please refer to the Academic Opportunities section on page 30.

- **Atara Starr**
- **Sunday 3:00 pm – 4:15 pm**
- 1.5 credits per semester

JUD 149***The Jewish Ethicist***

Over the course of our lifetimes, we are confronted with innumerable ethical challenges. How do we respond to them? How much guidance can we in fact draw from traditional sources? How do we react if those sources seem to send us in different directions than the ethical compass of contemporary society might suggest? In this class we will employ a source based approach to the Torah view of various moral and ethical issues and, where relevant, contrast our conclusions with the conclusions of contemporary ethicists.

- **Rav Michael Susman**
- **Sunday 5:50 pm – 7:00 pm**
- 1.5 credits per semester • Fall semester only

JUD 151***Discovering Texts***

In this course we have a unique opportunity to explore and elucidate some of Judaism's fundamental concepts through Torah texts and World Literature. Employing poems from poets such as Wordsworth, Donne and Blake, excerpts from Shakespeare's plays, a variety of short stories along with many other samplings of great literature, the precepts of our faith, religion, philosophy and thought are more deeply understood and appreciated. This class involves a heavy focus on textual analysis of all the texts we will study.

- **Rav Jonathan Bailey**
- **Wednesday 3:00 pm – 4:15 pm**
- This is a one-semester course • 1.5 credits per semester

JUD 165–166***Minhagim and their Origins***

This class is an exploration of various minhagim, concentrating on tracing the evolution of each particular minhag and the reasons behind it. The focus will be on minhagim associated with the holidays – connecting

the study of particular minhagim with chagim as they occur. We will also explore minhagim of the Jewish life-cycle. Over the course of the year we will gain a deeper understanding of the unique role minhagim have in Jewish life.

- **Rav Zvi Ron**
- **Wednesday 5:50 pm – 7:00 pm**
- 1.5 credits per semester

JUD 167–168***Writings of Rambam***

In this class we will be introduced to the “Great Eagle” and his particular approach to Jewish thought. Using selections from the Laws of Teshuva, Foundations of the Torah, Commentary to the Mishna and the Guide to the Perplexed, we will explore the teachings of the premier halachist, philosopher and Jewish communal leader of his era and see how these teachings helped form and influence Jewish life.

- **Rav Chaim Kanterovitz**
- **Sunday 5:50 pm – 7:00 pm**
- 1.5 credits per semester

JUD 171–172***Chibat HaAretz • Love of the Land of Israel***

The course is designed to familiarize the students with the actual physical land of Israel. We study general issues including: geography, topography, water resources, flora and fauna. In addition, we examine various specific areas of the country in order to better understand the events of the Tanach and history that unfolded in those areas.

- **Rav Ari Shames**
- **Sunday 4:25 pm – 5:40 pm**
- 1.5 credits per semester

JUD 180–181***Everyday Inspiration***

Through the fusion of contemporary articles, music, videos and movie clips from the secular world and Torah sources and Rabbinic literature, this class focuses on finding meaning and examining our thoughts on a variety of topics and ideas. The world is filled with inspiration; it is up to us to open our eyes to it.

- **Devorah Starr**
- **Tuesday 11:20 am – 12:30 pm**
- 1.5 credits per semester

JUD 183-184***The Written Word***

This course is identical to **JA 107-108**

JUD 185-186***Contemporary Halachic Decisors • Poskim of the 20th Century***

Engaging modernity, from the State of Israel to use of electricity and everything in between, Halachic decisors (poskim) issue rulings which shape our lives in ways which we may not always appreciate.

Rav Moshe Feinstein, Rav Yosef Dov Soloveitchik, Rav Ovadiah Yosef, Rav Yosef Elyashiv and R Shlomo Zalman Aurbach were among the leading poskim of the previous century. We will examine the methodology of these greats as they navigate the challenges posed by the emerging modern world to Jewish law.

■ **Rav Chaim Kanterovitz**

■ **Thursday 5:50 pm – 7:00 pm**

■ 1.5 credits

**DEPARTMENT
OF TALMUD
תורה שבעל פה**

Important Note: Students register for courses **101-109** based on skill level. The topics covered may vary from year to year; second year students may therefore register for the same course they have taken previously.

TAL 103-104***Torah SheBe'al Peh • Intensive Talmud • Beginner Level***

This course introduces the uninitiated into the world of Gemara. Gemara is primarily a sophisticated study of Mishna by Amoraim. Gemara analyzes Mishna and its relationship with Braita. It then engages in halachik analytic discussion based upon the earlier sources. Therefore, the course begins with the in-depth study of Mishna, focusing on certain basic skills: understanding mishnayot, identifying the structure of a mishna and



its central arguments, tracing wider trans-perek and masechet themes. Our Gemara study aims to familiarize students with the page of the Gemara, its language, and style. Emphasis is placed on both understanding the text and the halachik process.

■ **Dr. Judith Fogel**

■ **Sunday and Wednesday 10:05 am – 12:45 pm**

■ 4 credits per semester

TAL 103A-104A***Torah SheBe'al Peh • Intensive Talmud • Lower Intermediate Level***

This course is designed for students who have had some exposure to the study of Gemara but do not feel that they are yet prepared for a higher level class. Emphasis is placed upon acquiring reading skills as well as following the Gemara's development of an issue and then tracing that issue's resolution in halacha.

■ **Rav Michael Susman**

■ **Sunday and Wednesday 10:05 am – 12:45 pm**

■ 4 credits per semester

TAL 105-106***Torah SheBe'al Peh • Intensive Talmud • Intermediate Level • Tractate Beitza***

This class has two basic goals: the development of the student's ability to independently read Gemara (every word, start to finish) and the intensive and careful learning of the text of the Gemara itself. The former is

achieved through a system that focuses on the repeated structures, words and phrases of all Gemara, therein giving the student the ability to recognize and punctuate any Gemara she may see in the course of her study; the latter trains the student in her ability to truly recognize the motivation, meaning and direction of the Gemara's complex arguments. While Rishonim are used throughout the course of the year, the main focus is the intense study of the Gemara text, with a compliment of Rashi and Tosfot. Some of the themes to be addressed include: The origin, concept, approaches and halachot regarding muktzah; the history behind one vs. two days of Yom Tov and why we can't 'fix it' today; application of several melachot of Shabbat, including squeezing and picking fruit; the intricate concepts of nullification of prohibited objects ('issur ve'heter'); why we have two days of Rosh Hashanah even in Israel..

- **Rav Jonathan Bailey**
- **Sunday and Wednesday 10:05 am – 12:45 pm**
- 4 credits per semester

TAL 105A–106A

Torah SheBe'al Peh • Intensive Talmud • Upper Intermediate Level

This class focuses on the development of skills in the study of Gemara and analysis of Talmudic language. The thrust of the course is based on self-study with lectures devoted to reinforcing independently prepared material while more thoroughly developing the topics encountered. The year plan is to study, in-depth, the tractate of Rosh Hashanah. Students are expected to devote time independent of official class hours in order to cover all assigned material.

- **Rav Ari Shames (Hebrew)**
- **Sunday and Wednesday 10:05 am – 12:45 pm**
- 4 credits per semester

TAL 107–108

Torah SheBe'al Peh • Intensive Talmud • Advanced level

This course is designed for students who are interested in devoting a substantial part of their year to developing their Talmudic skills far beyond their present state. The aim is to reach a high level of learning independence through the mastery of Talmudic texts. The bulk of time will be devoted to self-(chavruta) study of the Gemara text with Rashi and Tosafot. Class time supplements self-study by assuring a thorough understanding of what was learned, while also introducing additional material. Emphasis is placed on constant revision (chazara) as a tool for retaining material and developing independent study skills.

- **Rav Avigdor Meyerowitz (Hebrew)**
- **Sunday 10:05 am – 12:45 pm**
- **Tuesday 10:00 am – 12:30 pm**
- **Wednesday 10:05 am – 12:45 pm**
- 6 credits per semester

TAL 111–112

Bekiut Gemara • Talmud Survey

Students study selected chapters of the Talmud covering a variety of subject matter in order to acquire a wider perspective of Talmudic concepts and methodology. We start with Masechet Megillah, with the goal completing two masechtot by the end of the year.

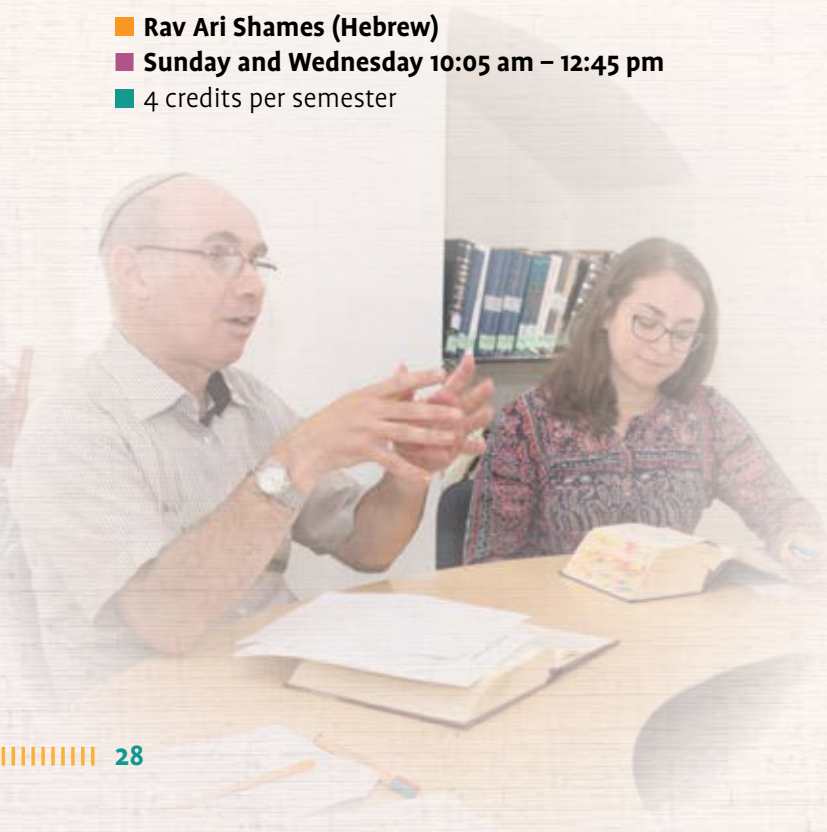
- **Rav Avigdor Meyerowitz**
- **Sunday 9:00 am – 9:55 am,**
- **Tuesday 8:30 am – 9:55 am**
- **Wednesday 8:30 am – 9:55 am**
- 4 credits per semester

TAL 113–114

Bekiut Mishna • Walking Through Shas/Survey of Mishna

This course is designed to give students a familiarity with basic Rabbinic concepts. Students spend the year doing a survey of selected Mishnayot in Seder Moed, focusing on the principles that each Mishna contains.

- **Dr. Judith Fogel**
- **Tuesday 10:00 am – 11:10 am**
- 1.5 credits per semester



TAL 121-122***Massechet Derech Eretz***

The earliest mussar sefer ever, this compilation from the early post Talmudic period collects the instructions of the Sages for living the life of a talmid chacham. We will learn the ten chapters of this often overlooked treasure and see how Chazal explain the “derech erez” lifestyle.

- **Rav Zvi Ron**
- **Monday 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm**
- 4 credits per semester

TAL 123-124***Ethics of Our Fathers***

This course is identical to **JPH 143-144**.

TAL 123A***Ethics of Our Fathers***

This course is identical to **JPH 143A**.

TAL 129-130***Before There Was Talmud •
Recreating Talmudic Methodology***

We strive to create our ‘own’ gemara, thinking like the Amoraim thought as they elucidated the mishnayot. This is not an exercise in recreating a gemara, but rather, by employing similar thought-processes, allows for a deeper understanding of the truncated language of the mishnayot.

- **Rav Jonathan Bailey**
- **Thursday 3:00 pm – 4:15 pm**
- 1.5 credits per semester

TAL 131-132***Avot d’Rabbi Natan***

This early work is the expanded version of Pirkei Avot containing an eclectic blend of ethical teachings, midrashim, sayings and generally interesting observations. During each class we will delve into another part of this rarely studied work and gain new insights and instruction from our sages (Chazal).

- **Rav Zvi Ron**
- **Tuesday 10:00 am – 11:10 am**
- 1.5 credits per semester

TAL 133-134***Talmudic Legends***

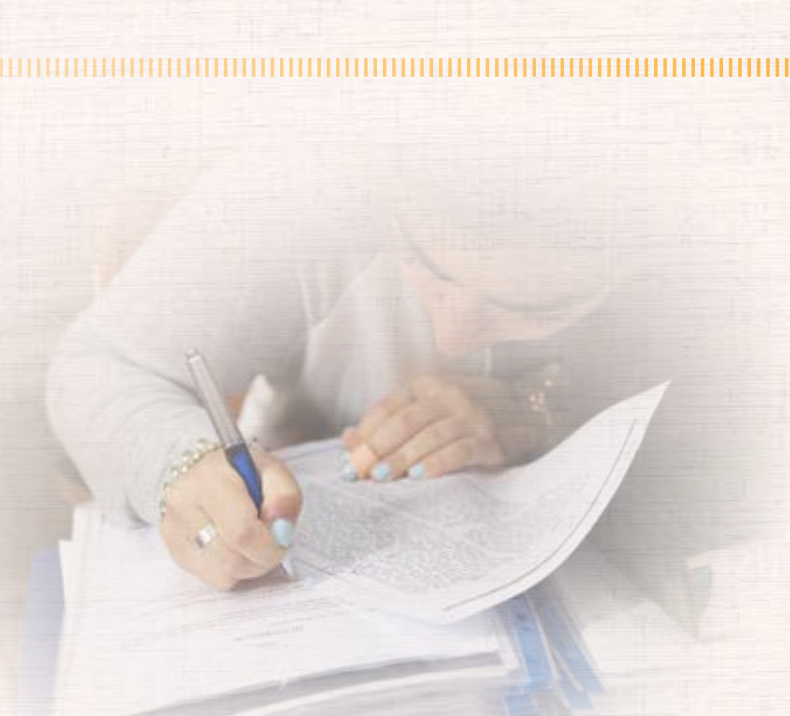
Study the strange and exciting legends, stories and teachings that make up the non-halachic portions of the Talmud. Each week we will study and analyze together classic and less well known legend (aggadic) portions from the Talmud, and see what they come to teach and how they were understood throughout the ages.

- **Rav Zvi Ron**
- **Tuesday 11:20 am – 12:30 pm**
- 1.5 credits per semester

TAL 135-136***Masechet Taanit • Topics in Tractate Taanit***

The third chapter of Masechet Taanit is full of ‘chassidic stories’ of our Sages from the time of the Gemara. These stories teach us a lot about what it means to be a tzadik, a leader, and the importance of Faith as demonstrated in our dependence on rainfall. During this course we will study this chapter in depth, analyze the stories and characters and learn from their actions and messages to us, as people and as Jews.

- **Esti Sacher**
- **Thursday 3:00 pm – 4:15 pm**
- 1.5 credits per semester



Academic Opportunities

Jewish Literacy 101

One of the fundamental tenets of the educational philosophy of the Midrasha is that knowledge of basic Jewish concepts is essential for an individual to thrive and develop as an educated Jew. The Jewish Literacy program is designed to give students the solid foundation necessary to achieve this goal. In this class you will acquire a broad based familiarity with a wide range of topics, including: Biblical and halachic concepts, Jewish history, books, authors, important dates and events, commonly used abbreviations, famous quotations and more. Students who successfully complete the program will earn 1.5 credits per semester for **JUD 147-148**.

Bekiut Program

As a cornerstone of the study program at the Midrasha, a strong emphasis is placed on developing a wide breadth of knowledge and skills in basic areas of Jewish Studies. All students are required to register for a section of Bekiut Halacha (**JUD 129-130**), Bekiut Gemara (**TAL 111-112**) or Bekiut Nach (**BIB 123-124**) every Sunday and Wednesday, and Bekiut Torah (**BIB 110-111**) every Monday and Thursday. In addition, students may take an optional course in Bekiut Mishna (**TAL 113-114**). These survey courses all emphasize mastery of a wide range of material in each of these topics, as well as the development of skills for independent study of basic texts in each area.

Seder Erev

Seder Erev offers a range of study options designed to appeal to the varied interests of our students. Consult the course listings for further information. Seder Erev runs from 8:00 pm – 10:00 pm, Sunday and Tuesday through Thursday evenings. Faculty members – Dr. Judith Fogel, Tanya HaLevi, Rav Yonatan Horovitz and Rav Chaim Kanterovitz – supervise the Seder Erev program. Attendance is mandatory.

Israeli Chavrutot

Students in the Overseas Program have the option to study a topic of their choice with a chavruta from the Israeli program. Students should register for this Chavruta as part of the overall course registration process.

Judaism Through the Creative Arts

In response to the growing number of creatively-talented young women who join the Midrasha every year, we have developed courses allowing students to explore and expand their artistic, dramatic and writing skills within the structure of their studies at the Midrasha. All courses in the Creative Arts program are designed to guide students in the specific art form and teach techniques used in enhancing students' learning

and living as Jewish women. Attention is given to the specific halachik issues that might arise for religious art students.

In “Artistic Expression” students learn a variety of specific techniques and experiment with materials, styles and mediums including painting, sculpture and drawing in order to produce individual art pieces of each student’s choice or to create a combination exhibit or production with a shared theme. Students are encouraged to create personal projects to build up their own private portfolio, engaging in research in preparation for each work of art. Attention is paid to the Jewish calendar year, with related art projects that will reflect the nature of the Chagim, as well as to themes in Jewish art.

In “Drama and Tanach” students use theater arts as a means of increasing their understanding of various Biblical personalities and pesukim in the Torah in a hands-on approach to Torah learning which is both challenging and transformative. The focus is on deepening one’s appreciation for the text of Tanach and creating greater understanding of the personalities who are central to our study of Tanach.

“The Written Word” is a hands-on writing workshop where student learn techniques for greater creative written expression while exploring the relationship of the written word to their inner spiritual life. Writing topics include those related to the Jewish yearly cycle and those that arise from the learning.

The inspiring location of the Midrasha allows our work to be influenced on a spiritual level that only the Old City of Jerusalem can provide. We are privileged to be studying and participating in creative endeavors at this historic time and the Creative Arts program aims to reflect this.

Guest Speakers

Throughout the year, guest speakers are regularly invited to address the student body. The speakers include rabbanim, educators, as well as leaders and scholars from a wide variety of areas. This part of the schedule provides the students with an excellent opportunity to meet, talk to and interact with prominent personalities from Israel and the Diaspora, as well as to be exposed to topics and ideas not included in the weekly timetable.

Shiur Klali

Shiur Klali takes place on Mondays from 5:50 pm – 19:00. The shiur, generally given by Rav Milston, focuses on Parashat HaShavua. Attendance is mandatory for all students.

Hitnadvut – Voluntary Work

An integral part of the educational program at the Midrasha consists of volunteer work. Hitnadvut opportunities include assisting the aged, the sick or handicapped children and their parents, and tutoring in English. All placements are done through the Hadracha staff. While not mandatory, participation in the Hitnadvut program is strongly recommended. Students register for the program as part of the overall registration process.

Tiyulim

The educational philosophy of Midreshet HaRova stresses the link between Eretz Yisrael and Torat Yisrael. In order to strengthen this link, there are a number of one, two and three-day tiyulim over the course of the year. Tiyulim span the length and breadth of the country and have been organized both in terms of educational structure, as well as seasonal and agricultural stages of the year. Participation in all tiyulim is mandatory.

Poland Trip

The Midrasha conducts two yearly trips to Poland, one in the winter or spring for Northern Hemisphere students and the second during the summer, in conjunction with the MTA program, for Southern Hemisphere students. The trip focuses on both the beauty and legacy of the Jewish community of Eastern Europe, as well as on the destruction of that community at the hands of the Nazis and their collaborators. Trip participants are required to dedicate several hours to special preparatory lectures prior to their departure, as well as prepare ceremonies and presentations which are given in Poland. The cost of the trip is not included in tuition. (There is no additional charge for MTA participants.)

Zionism Seminar

The Zionism Seminar (Zeminar) program offers an enriching in-depth seminar experience focusing on the development of Zionism and the Modern State of Israel for Northern Hemisphere students who choose not to participate in the Poland Trip. The Zeminar takes students through an historical and visual tour of the events, places and people which made the modern State of Israel possible – from visits to the museums connected to the founders and movements at the start of the State, to places as far as the Golan and Acco, and as close as Har Herzl and the Knesset – students learn about what was and the transformation to the Israel that is today, greatly enriching their understanding of and identification with the Land and its people. There is no additional charge for the Zionism Seminar.



Special Study Options

Students in the Overseas Program can take advantage of additional study options beyond the standard timetable. Participation on these tracks is contingent upon approval of the program director.

Beit Midrash Option/ Independent Study

Students may choose this option for any time other than Sunday, Monday, Wednesday or Thursday mornings from 10:05 am – 1:00 pm. Participation in this option involves mentored independent study. Participating students may be required to submit a project or paper on the topic studied. Credits will be granted either in parallel to existing courses or, in the case of students who are taking that course, as increased credit for the course. Thus it is possible for a student to earn an extra credit and a half beyond the stated credit value of a given course if she submits additional work done independent of the required course work.

Tochnit Chayil – Education Leadership Program

This program seeks to enable students with leadership potential to acquire necessary skills in formal and informal education. The program exposes students to a wide range of methodologies and materials, enabling them to develop their leadership skills.

Students who successfully complete the program receive a certificate from the Midrasha. While the certificate has no legal standing it attests to the students' participation in and completion of all the requirements of the program.

The Program is comprised of the following modules:

- Educational methodology
- Educational theory
- Field work

Students in the program must take **JED 105–106**. As part of **JED 105–106** students are required to prepare

educational programs on each of the chagim and present educational material to their peers. Students are also taught how to prepare for an interview and to create a CV.

All enquiries should be directed to the program director, Rav David Berg.

Second Year Program

The second year program is designed to allow students who wish to dedicate another year to learning, the opportunity to develop to the utmost. Each second year student personally designs a program of study with the program director in order to ensure that she meets her personal goals. Second year students may take advantage of a series of courses designed especially for them, or enter any first year class of their choice. Second year classes are numbered 200 and above, and registration in these classes is limited to second year students only.

Seminars

In addition to the regular schedule of shiurim, Midreshet HaRova sponsors a number of annual seminars. Past seminar topics have included: Zionism, the Holocaust, Yerushalayim, the Evolving Role of Women in Judaism, Jewish Business Ethics, and the Jew in the Modern World.

All seminars involve Midrasha staff, experts in relevant fields and renowned Torah personalities. Participation in these seminars is mandatory, unless otherwise noted.

General Information

Shabbatot

Shabbat at the Midrasha is an unforgettable experience. The seudot, combined with tefilla at the Kotel, create a truly spiritual atmosphere, unique to the Midrasha. Shabbat is shared with faculty members and their families who spend Shabbat with the students, giving shiurim and leading discussions and activities.

Shabbatot spent outside the Old City provide our students with the opportunity to encounter different segments of Israeli society and experience Israel in an exciting, yet very real fashion. The Hadracha team supplements these Shabbatot with varied educational activities.

There is generally a Midrasha shabbat once every three weeks. Students are expected to attend all of these Shabbatot. In the case of a conflict with a family simcha, or other event, permission may be received to miss a maximum of three shabbatot. The dates of Midrasha Shabbatot can be found in the annual schedule printed in this guide.

Guests on Shabbat

The Midrasha is always happy to enable its students to invite guests for Shabbat. However, space limitations require that this be coordinated with the Eim Bayit. Guests may only be invited for scheduled in-Shabbatot.

Living Arrangements

The Midrasha offers students the opportunity to live in either the Berman Dormitory or in area apartments. Students are provided with three meals daily. Meals are served only at the times indicated on the schedule. Students are required to participate in various toranuyot.

Please remember that the Midrasha is home. Students are expected to keep both their rooms and all public areas neat and clean.

Security

For security reasons the doors of all Midrasha buildings are locked at all times. Students will be given the code necessary to enter the buildings. **Under no circumstances should these codes be given to anyone outside the Midrasha.**

There is a daily curfew of 12:15 am which is strictly enforced. Students must be in any one of the Midrasha buildings by the designated time. At the time of curfew, the Madrichot check that all students are in. It is each student's responsibility to ensure that she has been checked in. In case of breach of this critical security regulation, the program director will, in the company of the offending student, contact that student's parents and inform them that if the situation recurs, the Midrasha will have no option other than to ask the student to leave.

Students who are travelling for Shabbat, must note this on the 'Shabbat list' before 12:45 pm on Wednesday afternoon. Students must leave an additional phone number at which they can be reached before they leave for Shabbat. Please note that these rules are purely a security matter and are for your own safety.

Men are not allowed either inside or in front of the Midrasha, or the Midrasha dormitories or apartments, at any time.

Security regulations are continually reviewed and updated in light of the security situation in Israel. Any changes to the regulations will be communicated to both students and their parents in a clear and timely fashion. Students who fail to adhere to posted regulations are subject to action, up to and including suspension from the program.

Dress and Behavior

The Midrasha believes that Tzniyut is a central value in Judaism, for both men and women. The educational philosophy of the Midrasha views modesty in dress and behavior as a reflection of internalized values and not of an imposed code. Nonetheless, students often find general guidelines helpful. Students at the Midrasha are required to wear skirts that cover the knee, even when seated. Tight skirts, or skirts with excessive slits (ie. slits above the knee) are unacceptable. All shirts must have sleeves covering the elbow, and appropriate necklines. Shirts should not rise above the

top of the skirt at any time. Tight shirts of any kind are inappropriate, and necklines should minimally come near the collarbone. If clothing is layered, there should be no gap between the layers of clothing. Excessive ear piercings, as well as all other body piercings, are considered inappropriate for Midrasha students. Visiting pubs, smoking, drinking, and use of any controlled substance are strictly forbidden and are grounds for immediate dismissal from the program. It goes without saying that students are expected to adhere to these norms at all times, whether the Midrasha is in session or not.



Midreshet HaRova Faculty



HaRav David Milston
Rosh HaMidrasha

Semicha, Rabbanut HaRashit L'Yisrael; Yeshivat Har Etzion; BA, Jewish Studies, Jews College; Teachers Certificate, Machon Herzog



Rachel Himelstein

Michlalah Yerushalayim; University of Middlesex; Teacher's Certificate, Special Education, English and Toshba, Michlalah Yerushalayim; BEd, Bible and Education, Michlelet Herzog



Tanya HaLevi
Director

Matan; Claudia Cohen Graduate Institute, Ohr Torah Stone; B.SC, B.OPT, Hadassah College



HaRav Yonatan Horovitz

Semicha, Yeshivat Har Etzion; BA, Jewish Studies, Jews College



HaRav Jonathan Bailey

Semicha, HaRav Zalman Nechemia Goldberg and The Joseph Straus Rabbinical Seminary; Yeshivat Hamivtar-Orot Lev; Yeshivat Shaarei Mevasseret Zion; BA, English Literature, Yeshiva University



Rivka Kahan

Nishmat; MA, Bible, Yeshiva University; Certification, Talmud/Jewish Law, Drisha Institute Scholars Circle; BA, Psychology, Barnard College



HaRav David Berg

Semicha, Rabbanut HaRashit L'Yisrael; Yeshivat Beit El; Kolel Meretz; Teachers Certificate, Lifschitz Institute



HaRav Chaim Kanterovitz

Semicha, Rav Zalman Nechemia Goldberg, Rav Halbershtam, Rabbanut HaRashit L'Yisrael; Yeshivat Har Etzion; MA, Jewish Studies, University of London, BA Psychology and International Politics, University of South Africa



Dr. Judith Fogel

Yoetzet Halacha, Nishmat; MA, Jewish History, Hebrew University; Bruria Scholar, Midreshet Lindenbaum; BA, Religion, Education, Columbia University, Barnard College



HaRav Avigdor Meyerowitz

Yeshivat Beit El



Esther Grossman

Michlalah Yerushalayim, Teachers Certificate; MS, Secondary Jewish Education, BA, Judaic Studies/ Psychology, Yeshiva University



HaRav Zvi Ron

Semicha, Rabbanut HaRashit L'Yisrael; Yeshivat Shaalvim; Sha'al Rabbinic and Educational Leadership Institute; Doctorate, Jewish Theology, Spertus University; BA, Counseling Psychology, Empire State College



Esther Sacher

Nishmat; BEd, Biblical Studies and History (Excellence Program), Herzog College



HaRav Yonatan (Yonny) Sack

Semicha, HaRav Zalman Nechemia Goldberg; Yeshivat HaMivtar; Yeshivat Har Etzion; Teaching Certificate, Machon Herzog; BA, Marketing, University of Technology, Sydney



HaRav Ari Shames

Semicha, Rabbanut HaRashit L'Yisrael; Yeshivat Har Etzion; BA, Psychology, Bar-Ilan University



HaRav Ari Shvat

Semicha, Rabbanut HaRashit L'Yisrael; Yeshivat Ohr Etzion; MA equivalent, Herzog Institute



Atara Starr

Michlalah Yerushalayim; MA, Jewish Education, BA Jewish Studies, Yeshiva University



Devorah Starr

Bnot Torah Institute; MA Educational Theatre, New York University; BA, Elementary Education, Yeshiva University



HaRav Michael Susman

Semicha, Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary; Yeshivat Kerem B'Yavneh; MS, Secondary Jewish Education, BA, Political Science, Yeshiva University



Dara Unterberg

Drisha Institute, Bruria Scholar, Midreshet Lindenbaum, Michlalah Yerushalayim; BA, Judaic Studies, BS, Psychology, Yeshiva University



Yakira Wald

BEd, Orot Israel College for Women; BA Psychology, UNISA



Miriam Wolf

MA, Jewish Studies, Touro College, Jerusalem; BA, Psychology, Northeastern Illinois University; Teachers Certificate, Orot Israel College

ADMINISTRATION



Jeremy Kurnedz
Executive Director

Yeshivat Har Etzion; BSc, Economics, University of London



Aviah Rosby

Midreshet HaRova; BA Elementary Education, Yeshiva University; Teaching Certification, David Yellin Institute; MA TaNach, Michlelet Herzog



Leiba Smith
Office Manager

Midreshet Lindenbaum; BA, Comparative Religion/Anthropology, University of Manitoba

Annual Schedule 5781

תוכנית שנתית תשפ"א

Ellul Zman

Shabbat Midrasha	ט"ז אלול	Shabbat, September 5
Shabbat Midrasha	כ"ג אלול	Shabbat, September 12
Rosh Hashanah	א'-ב' תשרי	Shabbat, September 19 – Sunday, September 20
Tzom Gedaliah Regular classes until 12:45 pm, no afternoon classes	ד' תשרי	Wednesday, September 21
Erev Yom Kippur No classes	ט' תשרי	Sunday, September 27
Yom Kippur in the Midrasha	י' תשרי	Monday, September 28
End of Ellul Zman No classes	י"א תשרי	Tuesday, September 29

Choref Zman

Return to Midrasha	כ"ה תשרי	Tuesday, October 13 (evening)
Shabbat Midrasha	כ"ט תשרי	Shabbat, October 17
Shabbat Midrasha	כ' חשוון	Shabbat, November 7
Shabbat Midrasha	י"ט כסלו	Shabbat, December 5
Chanukah Break	כ"ו כסלו-כ"ט כסלו	Shabbat, December 12 – Tuesday, December 15
Shabbat Midrasha	ד' טבת	Shabbat, December 19
Home hospitality in Mashgichot communities	כ"ה טבת	Shabbat, January 9
Shabbat Midrasha	כ"ד שבט	Shabbat, February 6
Ta'anit Esther Regular classes until 12:45 pm	י"ג אדר	Thursday, February 25

Purim in Yerushalayim (Shabbat in the Midrasha)	י"ד-ט"ז אדר	Friday, February 26 – Sunday, February 28
Tiyul to Eilat	כ"ה-כ"ז אדר	Tuesday, March 9 – Thursday, March 11
Last day of Choref Zman	כ"ז אדר	Thursday, March 11

Kayitz Zman

Return to the Midrasha	כ"ה ניסן	Wednesday, April 7 (evening)
Yom HaShoah	כ"ו ניסן	Thursday, April 8
Shabbat Midrasha	כ"ח ניסן	Shabbat, April 10
Yom HaZikaron	ב' אייר	Wednesday, April 14
Yom HaAtzmaut	ג' אייר	Thursday, April 15
Shabbat Midrasha – Tzfat	י"ב אייר	Shabbat, April 24
Yom Yerushalayim	כ"ח אייר	Monday, May 10
Erev Shavuot No classes	ה' סיוון	Sunday, May 16
Shavuot in the Midrasha	ו' סיוון	Monday, May 17
Shabbat Midrasha	י"א סיוון	Shabbat, May 22
Shabbat Midrasha	כ"ה סיוון	Shabbat, June 5
Mesibat Siyum	כ"ח סיוון	Tuesday, June 8
End of Northern Hemisphere year	כ"ט סיוון	Wednesday, June 9

There will be tiyulim approximately once every three weeks. • Exact dates will be posted throughout the year.
This schedule is tentative and may be significantly impacted by Covid-19 regulations.

Academic Policy

Courses are yearlong, unless otherwise noted. For credit purposes titles are split into two, i.e. **BIB 110–111**.

Courses are in English unless otherwise noted.

Transcripts issued by the Midrasha come in two formats: P/F or with letter grades. The standard transcript is P/F, based upon the evaluation of the teacher. Students wishing to earn letter grades are required to submit written exams or projects.

Credits are based on one classroom hour per week per semester.

Semester length = 15 weeks

The grading scale is as follows:

A	=	94–100
A-	=	90–93
B+	=	87–89
B	=	84–86
B-	=	80–83
C+	=	77–79
C	=	74–76
C-	=	70–73
D	=	65–70

W = Withdrew from course with permission

INC = Incomplete

For courses graded Pass (P) or Fail (F): P is equivalent to C+ and above

Students should note that universities in their home country might only grant transfer credit for graded, as opposed to Pass/Fail, courses. In general, the Midrasha cannot guarantee that a student will receive transfer credit at universities in Israel or abroad. It is the individual student's responsibility to check the transfer credit policy of whichever university she plans on attending. Midreshet HaRova is a participant in the Yeshiva University Israel Program and the Hebrew Theological College/Blitstein Teacher's Institute Israel Experience Program (IEP). IEP students do not fulfill their requirements with a P/F transcript, and must earn letter grades. Students planning on attending Stern College are strongly advised to opt for graded transcripts in order to receive full credit.





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הרובע

Midreshet HaRova

The André Veres Advanced Torah Academy for Women

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Midreshet Harova • 50 Rechov Chabad, Jerusalem, Israel
Mailing Address • P.O. Box 1109, Jerusalem 9101001
T: +972-2-626-5970 • F: +972-2-628-4690 • E: office@harova.org

www.harova.org • 