



Dear Students,

You are about to begin an incredible year of Torah learning, growth, and connection to Israel and to our wonderful staff and your fellow students.

We have put together a rich and diverse set of choices for you, as you learn Gemara, Tanach, Machshava, and Halacha here in the Beit Midrash of Midreshet Lindenbaum. With our **new Tanach and Gemara Tracks**, you can really learn what you love! We have many options for taking classes along with your Israeli counterparts in Tochnit Hadas. These choices are indicated by an Israeli flag on the schedule and will give you the opportunity to improve your Hebrew as you get to meet new people and learn different perspectives. There are also slots for beit midrash time throughout the afternoons and evenings, to allow you to explore *sefarim* and topics that interest you, with a friend or with a teacher.

Please read the instructions and the course catalogue carefully as you choose from the array of shiurim in all the different areas of Torah learning. Feel free to try more classes than are required; you can always adjust as you settle into life at the midrasha.

Please feel free to be in touch with any questions. Can't wait to greet you here soon, be'ezrat Hashem!

Kol tuv,
Rabbanit Sally Mayer
Rosh Midrasha

Rabbanit Nomi Berman
Rosh Beit Midrash

How the Schedule Works:

1. The following courses will appear on your schedule, with no need to register for them:
 - a. Gemara chavruta and shiur (Monday & Wednesday mornings)
 - b. Women and Halacha (Monday/Wednesday)
 - c. Hilchot Shabbat and Kashrut (Sunday/Thursday)
 - d. Chessed/Internships (Tuesday)
 - e. Sicha Klalit (Tuesday) & Seder Erev (Thursday).
2. Every student is encouraged to choose a slot for a chavruta with a Darkaynu student.
3. Please read the course catalogue carefully. You are required to choose:
 - a. Tanach/Halacha/Gemara, Sunday 9:30 - 11:30am/Thursday 8:45-10:40am
 - b. **NEW!** Tanach or Gemara seminars on Tuesdays, 8:45am-12pm
 - c. Tanach/Beit Midrash, Sunday afternoon: 2:45 - 5:00pm
Tanach/Machshava, Wednesday afternoon: 2:45 - 5:00pm
 - d. Bekiut, Sunday/Tuesday evening: 8:00 - 10:00 pm
 - e. Classes/Beit Midrash, Monday/Thursday afternoon: 2:45 – 5:00pm
 - f. Torah Seminar/Seder Erev, Wednesday evening: 8:00 - 10:00pm
 - g. Plus at least 2 hours of elective classes (any day from 5:10 – 7:00pm, or Daf Yomi or Nach Yomi at lunchtime)

You will be able to switch classes during Elul Zman, and to add or drop electives, so feel free to choose more than two hours of electives and see what works for you. We are here for any questions!

The Tanach and Gemara tracks work as follows:

Tanach track: Take ten hours a week of Tanach, put together from our wide range of Tanach options throughout the day and evening. (For example, Sunday & Thursday mornings, Tuesday mornings, and Bekiut Tanach at night, or Nach Yomi, Torah Seminar, and Sunday/Wednesday afternoons, or any combination you like!). Your “major” will be Tanach, but there are still many hours to explore all of the other fascinating topics in the schedule.

Gemara track: Take ten hours of Gemara, put together from all of the different opportunities throughout the day and evening. (For example, Monday & Wednesday mornings and Bekiut Gemara at night, or four or five mornings a week, or Daf Yomi, or any combination you like!) Your “major” will be Gemara, but there are still many hours to explore all of the other fascinating topics in the schedule.

Your Perfect Balance: No need to count hours – choose whatever interests you in each slot and find the exact balance that is right for you :).

All of you get to **learn what you love!**

Midreshet Lindenbaum

Course Catalogue 5785/ 2024 – 2025

Sunday 9:30am - 11:30am & Thursday 8:45am - 10:40am

Sefer Bamidbar – Building a Nation; Overcoming Obstacles **Rav Alex Israel**

We shall study Sefer Bamidbar with its unique story of trying, failing, and trying again to reach the Promised Land. Bamidbar is unique in describing a nation struggling with very human challenges: Vision, leadership, fear, temptation, holding on to your goals, and learning how to move beyond your comfort zone. We shall speak about leadership and different models of leadership, about challenge and adversity and much more.

We shall study this Sefer Be-Iyun, using and gaining skills in reading peshat carefully and sensitively, learning how to study the classic mepharshim – Rashi, Ibn Ezra, Rashbam and Ramban – but also exploring Midrash and modern commentators from Rabbi Hirsch to Rav Medan and Rabbi Sacks. This will be a class where methodology meets meaning.

פרשנות (Elementary HEB)

Rav Shmuel Klitsner

We will examine Sefer Breishit and other Biblical texts with the classic parshanim as well as with modern literary commentaries. The aim of this course will be to attune the reader's ear to the sophisticated deployment of subtext, context, and inter-text (allusions), as well as to the artistic use of ambiguity, repetition, key words, and wordplay. A greater appreciation of Tanach as literature will lead to a more profound religious connection to Tanach as kitvei kodesh.

Gemara B'Iyun

Rabbanit Nomi Berman

Bring your Gemara learning to the next level! We will supplement the Monday / Wednesday morning shiur with additional iyun on the Masechtot we are learning this year (Rosh HaShana in Elul, Gittin and Megilla during the choref zman). We will become more familiar with the schools of Rishonim, with a focus on concepts and connections with other “shas topics.”

Conversion - from the Talmud to the State of Israel**Rav David Brofsky**

In this course we will research a fundamental question which impacts upon our understanding of the nature of Judaism: How does one become a Jew? We will trace different attitudes towards conversion in Chazal and the Rishonim. We examine the process of conversion, including milah, tevilah, and kabbalat mitzvot, delving into the sources which relate to each topic. We will discuss the different motivations for conversion, and how rabbinic sources, throughout the ages, related to different changing societal realities. Throughout the semester, we will trace the sources from the Talmud until modern day rabbinic responsa, as we develop the tools and skills necessary for the in-depth study of halacha. Aside from engaging this fascinating topic, this course will focus on developing essential skills necessary for the in-depth study of Halacha. The second semester will focus on the laws of marriage.

Sunday 11:40am-12:40pm & Thursday, 10:50am-12:40pm**Hilchot Shabbat and Hilchot Kashrut****Rav David Brofsky, Rabbanit Dena Rock,
& Rabbanit Avigayil Unterberg Nouriel**

This class, co-taught by our outstanding Halacha faculty, will enable you to study the central and most practical laws of Shabbat, the Chagim, Kashrut, and other relevant and contemporary halachic issues. Our goals include developing a methodology of learning Halacha, acquiring a familiarity with important Rabbinic figures and texts, improving textual and analytical skills, and gaining a greater understanding of the development and practice of Halacha.

Sunday and Wednesday, 2:45pm - 5:00pm**Yaakov, Yosef & the Expansion of the Jewish Family****Rav Yitzchak Blau**

This shiur integrates traditional *mefarshim* and modern literary approaches to enhance our understanding of the second half of Sefer Bereishit. Starting with Rivkah's giving birth to twins, we shall explore the drama of family conflict between Yaakov and Esav, Yaakov and Lavan, and Yosef and his brothers. We shall discover stories of great moral insight and literary power. This class meets from 2:45-4pm on Sundays and from 2:45-5pm on Wednesdays.

ספר ירמיהו (HEB) Rav Shlomo Brown

In this class we will study Yirmiyahu, the prophet of the churban. His prophecies begin in the reign of King Yoshiyahu and continue until the destruction of the Beit HaMikdash.

We will study the prophecies chronologically, which is different from the order in which they appear in the sefer. We will also learn the parallel perakim in Sefer Melachim and in Divrei HaYamim in an attempt to understand the prophecies from a more encompassing perspective. In addition we will study central concepts of prophecy, the nevuot hahakdasha, the symbolic acts performed by Yirmiyahu, the prophet's prayer, and others.

Foreigners in Tanach**Dr. Nava Finkelman**

The Tanach was written by, for, and about Jews. However, its stories contain many foreigners as well: some friends, some enemies, both individuals and groups, commoners and kings. This is a skills course, where we will explore the multiple possible meanings that emerge from a close reading of the text. These skills will then help us figure out how the foreigners' presence, actions, and words help express the theological messages embedded in their stories. No previous knowledge required.

Beit Midrash**Sunday afternoon 2:45pm - 5:00pm**

If you choose Rav Gigi or Rav Oron's classes on Wednesday, you will have Beit Midrash time on Sunday.

Open Beit Midrash time is a wonderful opportunity to learn a sefer you're interested in, or to investigate an issue that is on your mind. A teacher will be there during each beit midrash slot and will be happy to help you as you explore topics, gain skills, and make the beit midrash your home.

If you choose to take the Religion and State class, your beit midrash time will end at 4pm to accommodate the class.

Religion & State: Can They Coexist?**Rav Itiel Oron****Sunday, 4:10-5:00pm**

The establishment of the State of Israel is not just one of the most significant events in the history of the nation of Israel, it is also one of the most significant landmarks in the world of Halacha. The reality of a modern Jewish state raises many halachic questions - the style of government, the economic and legal system, service in the army & the laws of war, redeeming captives, intelligence and espionage operations, and many other questions.

Above all of them hovers the great question - how can a halachic ruling be formulated on questions that have no halachic foundation or

precedent from the sources? Is there a difference between a halachic ruling from the perspective of a Jewish state and a halachic ruling from the perspective of a Jewish community abroad? We will explore all this and more on a halachic and philosophical level, as an issue that is still being developed and written about.

This class is for students who are in Beit Midrash or in Rav Blau's class on Sunday afternoons.

יסודות בעבודת ה' (HEB)

הרב ברוך גיגי

Wednesday 2:45pm - 5:30pm

This shiur will focus on Sefer Mada and Sefer Ahava in the Rambam. During chavruta time, students will have the opportunity to gain experience with the fundamental works of Halacha. The goal of the shiur will be to enrich our understanding and connection to the mitzvot of kri'at shema and tefilla as well as gaining depth of understanding into the concepts of ahavat and yirat Hashem.

This course is cross-listed on the Israeli program schedule.

מחשבת ההלכה (HEB)

הרב איתיאל אורון

Wednesday 2:45pm - 5:30pm

Through chavruta study and class discussion, we will investigate classic and contemporary halachic issues from the Gemara through modern sources, with a focus on understanding the meaning and ideas behind them.

This course is cross-listed on the Israeli program schedule.

Sunday and Tuesday, 8:00pm- 10:00pm
Bekiut

Bekiut Tanach

Dr. Nava Finkelman

In this course we will speed-learn the major books of Jewish history in the Land of Israel. We will struggle with Yehoshua as he leads us to conquer the land (or not); follow the downhill trend during the time of the Shoftim; immerse ourselves in the political intrigues of Shmuel; and cringe while we prepare ourselves for the train-wreck at the end of Melachim. Finally, if time allows, we will follow Ezra and Nechemia as they lead us back to rebuild the Beit Hamikdash! Students will learn all of the material in chavruta, and in shiur we will discuss the "big ideas." By the end of the year you will have a clear grasp of how our nation

coped with their political and military challenges while creating a social and religious identity.

Bekiut Gemara

Rabbanit Rachel Leshaw

Through learning all of Masechet Rosh Hashana, students will improve their independent Gemara learning skills, while also gaining a wider exposure to different types of Talmudic conversations. We'll focus on targeting chavruta skills and using shiur time to enrich our understanding of the topics being discussed. If you're ready to invest time in growing as a Gemara learner, this is the class for you.

בקיאות גמרא (HEB)

הרבנית שלומית שבות

Through a combination of chavruta preparation and class instruction, students will develop skills to prepare a Gemara text independently while gaining a deeper understanding of Talmudic methodology. We will study and complete מסכת ברכות.

This course is cross-listed on the Israeli program schedule.

Bekiut Machshava

Rabbanit Avigayil Unterberg Nouriel

What does it mean to believe in God? What will the time of Mashiach look like? To what extent is God involved in our day-to-day lives? Bekiut Machshava is the place where we will address these questions and more! The goal of this course is to encounter great debates throughout Jewish Philosophy. Through these encounters we will get to know different Jewish thinkers like Rabbi Yehuda HaLevi, the Ramban, the Rambam, Rav Soloveitchik, Rav Aharon Lichtenstein, and many more. We will analyze both primary and secondary sources and connect to age-old questions asked by tannaim, rishonim and modern thinkers alike. Our analysis of the sources will contribute to the growth of our spiritual personalities and help us actualize ourselves as ovdei Hashem navigating our complicated world.

בקיאות הלכה (HEB)

הרב אביעד סנדרס

In this course, we will cover many topics in Halacha over the year, with a focus on Hilchot Shabbat, using chavruta time as well as shiur time to delve into the sources and discuss the issues. We will be using the צורבא מרבנן series of sefarim.

This course is cross-listed on the Israeli program schedule.

Monday & Wednesday mornings Beit Midrash and Shiur

There is no need to register for these classes; they will appear on your schedule.

GEMARA

Gemara - Rabbanit Nomi Berman, Rabbanit Rachel Leshaw, Rav Itiel Oron, Rabbanit Dena Rock

Monday & Wednesday mornings 8:45am - 11:40am

We will begin the year with Masechet Rosh Hashana, preparing during Elul for the Yamim Nora'im. After Succot, we will delve into Masechet Gittin. Gemara meets two mornings a week, with the time divided between chavruta preparation and shiur time. Your Ra'm is with you both in the beit midrash and in the classroom, helping you develop and hone your ability to decipher the Gemara and consider the conceptual underpinnings and practical and hashkafic implications of the topic at hand. You'll also enjoy special programming and spend Shabbatot with your Ramim.

Monday & Wednesday mornings, 11:50am-12:40pm

Women and Halacha

Rabbanit Nomi Berman, Rabbanit Rachel Leshaw, Rabbanit Sally Mayer

In this source-based course, we will explore the world of women in halacha - women and mitzvot, issues of sexuality, women in leadership positions, and more. We will understand where the halachot come from, what the debates are all about, and discuss how this all relates to our lives.

HALACHA

NEW! Tuesday mornings 8:45am - 12:00pm followed by sicha klalit

Relevance & Resonance in Tanach **Rabbanit Yael Leibowitz**

How does Tanach respond to tragedies, particularly when they happen to good people? Why were so many of Tanach's heroines barren and why is the older brother always rejected? Does Tanach excuse the fact that so many of its protagonists lied? What about the graver mistakes they made? Is Tanach chauvinistic, as so many modern scholars claim? What does it say about building societies? Temples? Why is the notion of a Chosen Land so pivotal? And why, ultimately, does it make a difference if we believe in One God, or in many?

TANACH

Taking into account the historical and cultural contexts in which the works of Tanach were written, this course will delve into the questions you have always wanted to ask about Tanach, its seemingly troubling aspects, and its enduring relevance in our modern lives.

Scandals: Controversial Stories in Tanach
Rabbanit Rivky Krestt

Scandals in the Torah? Come and learn the topics that they skipped in school. We will explore the narratives that delve into morally complex, shocking, or ethically challenging events and characters – that may not be G rated. These are the stories that provoke questions and debates. We will examine narratives through both the plain text (p'shat) and the insights of the Chazal. Through this dual lens, we aim to uncover the timeless lessons these characters and their actions offer us today.

Essential Sugyot Every Talmida Chachama Should Know
Rabbanit Dena Rock

Each week we will explore a sugya that develops a fundamental halachic or Talmudic concept. These are the principles that appear over and over again throughout Shas and halachic discourse. If you want to be a Talmida Chachama who knows the lingo, recognizes the concepts, and has a grasp of the most essential sugyot in Shas, come learn with us!

Talmudic Personalities

Rabbanit Rachel Leshaw

Did you ever wonder about the characters behind the halachic opinions in the Mishna and Gemara? Maybe you've heard some stories about the rabbis but aren't sure when they lived, or why it matters? In this class we'll scour the Gemara to answer fascinating questions like why did Rabban Gamliel lose his job as head of the Beit Midrash, and what does it have to do with davening maariv? If Rabbi Akiva loved his wife so much, why did he leave her to study Torah for 14 years? How did Reish Lakish's first career as a bandit make him the perfect chavruta for Rabbi Yochanan? And don't forget the women! From Bruria winning a halachic debate to Ima Shalom dealing with a feud between her husband and her brother, we'll make sure the Talmudic women get the attention they deserve too.

Monday and Thursday afternoons, 2:45pm-5:00pm

Facing Our Emuna Obstacles Rabbanit Avigayil Unterberg Nouriel **Monday 2:45pm - 3:45pm**

How can I connect to God when he asks Avraham to sacrifice his own son? What does it mean that God wrote the Torah? How can I reconcile Halacha and modern values? Did Chazal struggle with the same questions as I do? Being a believing Jew in the modern world is not always an easy task. When learning Tanach and Gemara, we find things that may challenge us in our day to day avodat Hashem and our overall emuna. In this course we will tackle tough questions that arise from our traditional texts and challenge ourselves to face them head on. We will work to find relevant answers and embrace nuance.

Parsha with Darkaynu **Monday 2:45pm - 3:45pm**

Merav Edrei

A wonderful opportunity to have a chavruta with a Darkaynu student, using creative initiatives for fun activities connecting to the parsha.

Aggada **Monday 2:45pm - 3:45pm**

Rav Tuvia Kaplan

Aggada is the treasure house of the wisdom of Chazal. In creative interpretations of Tanach, in stories and in metaphors, our Sages share with us their profound and inspiring understandings of man and God. Their philosophical, moral, theological, and psychological insights in aggada are the complement to their halachic brilliance in making Talmud Bavli the foundational book of Talmud Torah. As does every living thing, our living Torah has a body and a soul -- halacha is the indispensable body of Torah; aggada is its soul. We will look for the simple meanings and deeper messages the aggadot of Talmud Bavli.

The Discussion Club **Thursday 2:45pm - 3:45pm**

Rabbanit Sally Mayer

Join us as we read and discuss articles on contemporary topics: How do I achieve faith in Hashem? Is Modern Orthodoxy a legitimate path to avodat Hashem, or is it just another name for big compromises in שמירת המצוות? Is Orthodoxy “shifting to the right,” and if so, why? Does how I spend my leisure time matter? We will focus on articles by Rav Joseph Dov Soloveitchik, Rav Aharon Lichtenstein, and others, to understand their thought and how their ideas relate to us personally and as a community.

The Halachic Process
Thursday 2:45pm - 3:45pm

Rabbanit Dena Rock

In this course, we will delve into questions that are fundamental to understanding how the halachic system works. For example, we will explore: What exactly did God give Moshe on Har Sinai? Who were Chazal and what gave them the authority to interpret the Torah? How binding is minhag? Do I have to choose one Rabbi to follow? Why is there so much machloket? How do poskim arrive at psak halacha? What's the balance between authority and autonomy? What are the boundaries and parameters of pluralism within halachic debate? What are the mechanisms through which a timeless Torah remains timely and relevant? The goal is to develop a deeper understanding of the system as a whole so that it shouldn't seem chaotic and arbitrary but rather meaningful and compelling.

From Galut to Geula
Thursday 2:45 - 3:45pm

Rabbanit Davina Wanderer-Kriel

What does it mean to be in Galut? How did living in Galut shape our Jewish self-understanding? Is there a difference between Exile and Diaspora? Is our existence in Galut a mutation or a fulfillment of our roles as Jews? Is the Geulah meant to come? What is the meaning of redemptive concepts such as Mashiach, End of Days and Tikkun Olam? In what ways did the language of redemption feature and function in Zionism? This course will consider questions such as these through studying seminal texts penned by a variety of Jewish thinkers throughout the ages.

Chassidut
Monday & Thursday 4:00pm - 5:00pm

Rav Tuvia Kaplan

We will study how Chassidut added new insights into basic Torah concepts. The significance of simchah, the centrality of prayer, the power of Torah study, the meaning of emunah, and the importance of songs and stories.

Pirkei Avot
Monday & Thursday 4:00pm - 5:00pm

Rabbanit Sally Mayer

"If not now, when?", "The reward for a mitzva is a mitzva," "Judge everyone favorably" - these famous lines and so many others come from Pirkei Avot, a masechet often read through quickly and without much thought. Join us as we delve into the wisdom of Chazal, seeking new insight into their statements, and growing from their teachings about middot and attitudes that shape our outlook on life.

Halachot You Didn't Know You Want to Know**Rabbanit Yael Nitzanim****Monday & Thursday 4:00pm - 5:00pm**

The words "What?! This is a thing?!" and "I've always wondered about this!" have actually been uttered in this class. This course will explore practical halachot you never realized are relevant to your day-to-day life... as well as some you've always wondered about but never had the answers to. We'll make our way through units including Navigating Your Caffeine Needs, Jewelry in Halacha, and Halacha for College and the Workplace, discussing both the topic at hand as well as some broader questions in halachic methodology.

Beit Midrash**Monday / Thursday 2:45pm-3:45pm (can choose one or both)****Monday & Thursday 4:00pm - 5:00pm (these two go together)**

Open Beit Midrash time is a wonderful opportunity to learn a sefer you're interested in, or to investigate an issue that is on your mind. A teacher will be there during each beit midrash slot and will be happy to help you as you explore topics, gain skills, and make the beit midrash your home.

Tuesday afternoons, 2:45pm**Chessed / Internships**

We believe that developing a Chesed mindset is a crucial part of Avodat Hashem. We work with numerous partner organizations in Yerushalayim that welcome our students as volunteers a few hours per week. In previous years, students have become "Big Sisters" for One Family, an organization that provides support for victims of terror and their families, helped at the local chapter of Friendship Circle, volunteered at Shalva, the Israel Association for the Care and Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities, or made weekly visits to Beit Sababa, a local nursing home. In recent years, we have also done a lot of work in our local community of Arnona/Armon Hanatziv, including providing significant help & support for miluim families over the past year.

Students may also intern in places such as Yad L'Isha, an Ohr Torah Stone organization that helps free agunot, and the Eden Center that synthesizes women's health and spirituality.

Our students volunteer, and also learn how to look for needs to fill and how they can fill them. We work with each student to find a meaningful way to contribute.

Wednesday evenings

There are two options for Wednesday evenings.

I. The first is our classic **Torah Seminar** class taught by **Rav Menachem Leibtag**. The class is from **5:30pm – 10:00 pm** with a break for dinner.

This seminar class will study Torah by methods of textual analysis. Through extensive study of medieval commentaries, we will examine the major themes of each *sefer* and their connection to the details of the individual narratives.

II. The second is **Seder Erev** with **Rav Alex Israel** from **8:00 – 10:00 pm**.

Seder Erev enables you to learn a topic / *sefer* of your choice together with a chavruta or to use the time to review material that you are studying. Rav Alex will be with you in the beit midrash for help and guidance.

*8-9pm is one of the three potential slots for a **chavruta** with a **Darkaynu** student.

Chavruta: Midreshet Darkaynu

This is a unique in-house opportunity to combine learning and inclusivity. Join a Darkaynu student for a weekly chavruta. This meaningful experience will enhance your year by enabling a friendship with someone with special needs.

There will be three opportunities per week to register to learn with Darkaynu students – we encourage each student to find one that fits into your schedule. They are: Sunday 5:10-6:00pm, Monday 2:45-3:45pm, or Wednesday 8-9pm.

Seder Erev in the Beit Midrash

Thursday 8:00pm - 10:00pm

Rabbanit Rivky Krestt & Cheryl Burnat

At seder erev, you have the opportunity to learn a topic / sefer of your choice together with a chavruta or to use the time to review material that you are learning. There will be faculty in the beit midrash for help and guidance. It's a wonderful atmosphere of Torah learning at night!

ISP: Individual Spiritual Plan - half an hour in your schedule

Each student at Midreshet Lindenbaum has a faculty mentor, who is there for you to meet with once every two weeks - to discuss questions, have a chavruta on a topic that you're interested in, or talk about an issue in Torah or hashkafa that is on your mind. A wonderful opportunity to have a faculty mentor dedicated to your growth and progress, at your pace.

ELECTIVES

Electives are another opportunity to customize your learning experience at Midreshet Lindenbaum. Please choose at least two hours of electives per week - feel free to choose as many as you would like to try out; you can see what you enjoy most and find the right rhythm for your day.

Daf Yomi

Rabbanit Sally Mayer

Sunday, Monday, Wednesday & Thursday 1:30 - 2:30pm

Are you interested in covering a lot of ground in Gemara in a short time? Join us for a fast-paced, fun experience as we make siyum after siyum together! A great and easy way to improve your Gemara skills and learn lots of halachic concepts and meaningful stories in a short time. No prior Gemara experience necessary. We will begin with Masechet Taanit, a tractate full of incredible and inspiring stories.

Nach Yomi

Rabbanit Nomi Berman

Sunday, Monday, Wednesday & Thursday 1:30 - 2:30pm

We will gain exposure to some of the less commonly learned books of Nach. The goal will be to complement (and avoid overlap with) the other Nach classes on the schedule. Our meetings will alternate between chavruta learning of the daily Prakim, and shiurim which will tie together some of the overarching themes that emerge from the texts. We will absorb the lessons of the neviim, be inspired by the poetry of David, learn from the wisdom of Shlomo, experience the chagim through the prism of their Megillot, and take a peek into the visions of Daniel.

SPECIAL

GEMARA

TANACH

Chavruta: Midreshet Darkaynu
Sunday 5:10 – 6:00 pm

This is a unique in-house opportunity to combine learning and inclusivity. Join a Darkaynu student for a weekly chavruta. This meaningful experience will enhance your year by enabling a friendship with someone with special needs.

Taamei Hamitzvot
Sunday 5:10 – 6:00 pm

Rabbi Aaron Feigenbaum

"Wait... Why do we do that?" In this class we will look at the Mitzvot in an attempt to answer that one essential question. After a brief study of the philosophical advantages, drawbacks, and limitations of assigning rationales for Hashem's directives, we will look at the breadth of Mitzvot to try to discern why we do them and how they enlighten our lives. So, why do we put a mezuzah on our door? Why is meat good, cheese good, but a cheeseburger bad? Why can't I text on Shabbat? Why do we shake a Lulav branch? Why, why, why, that's what we will learn to figure out.

The Siddur: Beyond the Surface
Sunday 6:10 - 7:00pm

Rav Aaron Feigenbaum

In this class we will study Tehillim as a source text of prayer. Learning the mizmorim b'Iyun, we will appreciate the history, structure, and nuanced meaning of Tehillim as a means of unlocking the depths of our ancient and yet amazingly relevant prayers.

The Philosophy of Rabbi Jonathan Sacks
Sunday 6:10 - 7:00pm

Rav Alex Israel

There is no contemporary teacher of Judaism who is quoted more than Rabbi Sacks. But what are the major pillars of his philosophy? Among other themes, we shall study the following topics:

Judaism as Protest; Covenant and Contract; The Power of Words; Responsibility, Kiddush Hashem and Tikkun Olam; Prayer; Faith; Dignity of Difference and Religious Tolerance; Not in God's Name and Rabbi Sacks' "Rejection of Rejection"; Storytelling as a mode of Building Society; Fate and Hope; Attitudes to Medinat Yisrael; Happiness and the Search for Meaning.

Mental Health in Halacha
Monday 5:10 - 6:00pm

Rav Yoni Rosensweig

In this class, we will learn about the interplay between halacha and mental health, gain a deeper understanding of the legal mechanisms involved in this topic, and show how practical questions can be answered in this complicated field.

אתגרי האמונה בדורנו (HEB)
Monday 5:30 – 7:00 pm

הרב צבי קורן

We will study the foundations of Jewish belief as we explore topics such as the purpose of man's existence, faith in God particularly in times of crises, the nature of man's character and expressions of belief. We will raise questions and seek answers through classical and modern Jewish philosophy. The goal of our learning is to engage, internalize, and transform the philosophical ideas into our pragmatic Torah lives for now and for years to come.

This course is cross-listed on the Israeli program schedule.

Matmidot
Monday 7:30 – 10:00 pm

Rabbanit Dena Rock

Each Monday night, the Matmidot Scholars have the opportunity to visit the home of a different leader, scholar, or innovator to meet and learn personally with him or her. Past years have included sessions with Rabbi Dr. Kenneth Brander, Dr. Yael Ziegler, Rabbi Dr. Shlomo Riskin, and Rav David Stav, among many others. Under the guidance of a faculty mentor, each Matmida will also work throughout the year on an independent research and writing project, culminating in the publication of the Matmidot Scholars Journal.

Israel: Behind the Headlines
Tuesday 6:00 - 7:00pm

Jamie Salter

This course will meet twice a month. In each session, we will take a look together at the big stories in the Israeli news. We will dig a little deeper into the background, try and make the issues clearer, and probably have a few debates and arguments amongst ourselves!

The Variety of Modern Rabbinic Thought
Wednesday 5:10 - 6:00pm

Rav Yitzchak Blau

Our community has some familiarity with Rav Soloveitchik and Rav Kook but is largely unaware of other major rabbinic thinkers from the past two centuries. In this elective, we will encounter, among other topics, Rav Hirsch on reasons for mitzvot, Netziv on the dangers of religious passion, R. Meir Simcha from Dvinsk on the nature of sanctity, R. Zadok of Lublin's quest for meaning, Rav Hutner's poetic beauty and psychological insight, Nechama Leibowitz's biblical wisdom, R. Jonathan Sacks on a moral society, and R. Yechiel Yaakov Weinberg on modern women and Judaism.

הרב קוק (HEB)

Wednesday 5:30 - 7:00pm

הרב שאול ויזר

In this course, we will learn about and understand the fundamentals of Religious Zionist philosophy, through meeting some of the foundational texts of Rav Kook that influenced and shaped the movement. Through this study, we will gain skills to consider these ideas ourselves.

This course is cross-listed on the Israeli program schedule.

Am Yisrael, Eretz Yisrael, u'Medinat Yisrael & The Thought of Rav Kook

Rav Ari Shvat (Chwat)

Thursday 5:10 - 6:10pm

This course deals with the most relevant issues facing the individual Jew and the State of Israel in our historic, exciting and complex generation - in an intellectual, inspiring, and practical way. We will study various writings of Rav Kook, the "Spiritual Father of Religious Zionism," considered among Jews and non-Jews alike to be one of the most original thinkers of the century. Topics include: Can we be sure that the modern State of Israel is really the atchalta d'geu'la and not just another false messiah? How can we, as religious Jews, support a secular Jewish State? Are we a religion, a nation or something else? Tzahal (the Israeli army) - victories, dilemmas and halachic questions; Aliya, Israeli politics - The Right, Left, and the Chareidim; "The Focus on Israel"- why is the world preoccupied with us?

Rambam

Thursday 5:10 - 6:00pm

Dr. Tamar Ross

In this course on Maimonides' philosophical system, we will introduce the major problems of Jewish philosophy, including science and religion, concepts of God, Divine revelation, miracles and free will.

Leadership Training: Empowering You for Today's World
Rabbanit Jennifer Raskas
Thursday 6:10 - 7:00pm

Our world needs bright, creative, compassionate, and thoughtful leaders. Our world - needs you.

The goal of this course is to empower you to reach your full potential so you can create visionary, transformational impact in your chosen profession and community. Throughout the course we will explore vibrant frameworks for leadership portrayed in Tanach and Gemara. We will learn and practice leadership concepts taught at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government, as well as wisdom developed specifically for women who want to “play big”, create, and lead. We will cover concepts including quieting your inner critic while elevating your inner mentor, identifying your calling, leading organizations to clarify their values and develop new strategies, mapping the field, and utilizing your personal story to grow your impact.