

Midreshet Lindenbaum
Course Catalogue 5777/ 2016– 2017

There are several new courses this year!
Make sure you don't miss out...

- Mrs. Inbar Gabay-Zada's new class, **Wicked: Sinners in Torah & their Righteous Counterparts**, will focus on the narrative stories in the Torah that describe sin, punishment and their redemption thereof.
- Rav Yoni Rosensweig is already well known for his *Emunah in the Modern World* class. This year he will also be teaching a new class on the works of **Rav Soloveitchik**
- Rav Rafi Eis, a Gemara Ram, will be joining the Nach team, and teaching a new class on **Leadership and God in Sefer Shmuel**
- Mrs. Nava Finkelman will be joining us this year (due to popular demand) and will be teaching a **Bekiut Nach** class, speed-learning the major books of Jewish history in the Land of Israel
- Rabbi Jeffrey Saks, the director of WebYeshiva, will be teaching an elective on **The Works of S. Y. Agnon**, exploring the themes of: The relationships between tradition and modernity, Eretz Yisrael and the Diaspora, and the pull that the past exerts upon the present.

TORAH: Sunday 9:00 - 11:30 am and Thursday 8:30 – 11:30 am

Parshanut

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.

Language: Hebrew

NEW

Wicked: Sinners in Torah & their Righteous Counterparts

Mrs. Inbar Gabay - Zada

Are there untold stories in the Torah? Have you ever wondered what truly makes a person a sinner according to the Torah? Have you ever realized that these sinners have a righteous counterpart? Have you ever questioned whether you identified with that sinner and his acts or would you have risen above and been the Tzadik? Are Hashem's expectations of mere mortals realistic? What of the way that he/she is portrayed in Midrash? Why would Chazal present someone one way when the the Torah portrays him differently?

In this course we will analyze the narrative stories in the Torah that describe sin, punishment and their redemption thereof. We will study individuals as well as entire societies. We will compare the way that the *pshat* of the Torah portrays them with the way that they are presented in *parshanut*. In addition, we will address the philosophical questions that arise, and also use tools of modern psychology in our analyses.

From Desert to Destiny

Mrs. Shani Taragin

In our study of am Yisrael's sojourn in the desert, we will employ methodologies of both *pshat* and *parshanut*. Through a close reading of the text, we will explore the structure and significance of the major stories and mitzvot found throughout this time period. Our goal is to develop textual and exegetical skills while we internalize the messages of the Torah as we continue on our personal and national - religious journeys.

(preference for registration will be given to those students not enrolled in Shani Taragin's Nach class)

Parshat HaShavua: Living in Jewish Time

Rav Tuvia Kaplan

We will follow the parsha as it sets our agenda for the week. The stories of the avot, exile, yetziat Mitzrayim, Matan Torah, the Mishkan, korbanot and the beginning of life in the desert will be our "news" and topics of discussion for the week. We will be looking at the big picture, narrative themes and questions of *parshanut*. In addition we will focus on central issues in each parsha, develop a sensitivity to the text and discuss religious and philosophical questions that arise in our study. The course will include a Dvar Torah Workshop where we will practice preparing short *divrei Torah* on the parsha.

Emunah: Sunday and Thursday 11:30 am – 12:30 pm

Tefilla

Rav Tuvia Kaplan

Tefilla is one of the basic paths to relate to Hashem. How can we make tefilla a meaningful and inspiring experience? What do the words mean and what is their deeper significance? We will “learn” the siddur, going through our daily tefillot and we will discuss what we are saying about ourselves as we pray, what we are saying about Hashem, and what relationship we are trying to create.

Philosophy of Halacha

Rav Shmuel Klitsner

What are the philosophical underpinnings of the halachic system? In what sense does the term Torah min Hashamayim (revelation) apply to ongoing halachic development? How would a modern Jew find 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? We will analyze primary sources, (gemara, midrash, exegesis and responsa literature) in order to uncover a vibrant debate on the nature and function of halacha. We will not shy away from asking difficult questions and each student will be encouraged to begin forming her own sophisticated relationship with halacha.

NEW

An In-depth Look Into the Thought of Rav Soloveitchik

Rav Yoni Rosensweig

In this course we will be learning some of the major works of Rabbi Yosef Dov Halevi Soloveitchik. "The Rav" - as he is known - was a philosophical giant in addition to being a tremendous Torah scholar, and his insights penetrate and redefine the deepest recesses of our religion. We will plumb these depths, and see how Rav Soloveitchik managed to change the way we look at the modern world.

Faith and Redemption

Mrs. Shani Taragin

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. The processes of individual and national redemption will be dealt with as well as fundamental questions of life and death (and the afterlife). We will raise troubling 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.

HALACHA/Tochnit Tamar: Sunday and Wednesday 2:30 – 5:00 pm

There will be two options on Sunday and Wednesday afternoons.

I. Halacha B'iyun – Rav Yitzchak Blau, Rav David Brofsky, Rav Yonatan Emmett

This class will enable you to student 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 greater understanding of the practice of Halakha.

This course will explore in depth both the positive commandments and the prohibitions (the melachot) of Hilchot Shabbat. We will begin with the relevant sugyot in the Gemara and work our way through the rishonim and achronim until we reach a practical halachic conclusion. We will then turn our attention to the laws of kashrut, the conceptual underpinnings as well as the practical applications. We will discuss the halachot of basar b'chalav, pots and pans, appliances, tevilat keilim, aspects of the modern kashrut industry, and kashrut when traveling. We will pay special attention to the application of these halachot at home, in college, and in the workplace.

II. Tochnit Tamar – Rav Baruch Gigi, Rav Shlomo Koren, Rav Yehuda Stauber, Rav Ohad Teharlev

For those who registered previously, the opportunity to take classes in the Israeli program. Students will be able to choose from four tracks: Halakha, Machshava, Tanakh and Tefilla.

NACH: Monday and Thursday 2:30 - 5:00 pm

Sefer Yirmiyahu

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 study, as well, 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.

Language: Hebrew

NEW

Long Live the King? Leadership and God in Sefer Shmuel

Rav Rafi Eis

What makes a good leader? What is the correct political system? Who rules- the navi or king? This class on Sefer Shmuel (and a good portion of Sefer Shoftim) will explore these questions while gaining an understanding of the characters and their development. We will also look at narrative organization, intertextuality, and themes.

People of the Book

Rav Jonathan Mishkin

Get ready to explore a range of Tanach's most fascinating and dynamic individuals: an uncertain king, a desperate mother, haters of Judaism, confused shoftim, and a fiery prophet. Along the way, we'll encounter political intrigue, deception, and vows of death. We'll meet a frum giant, a prophet who refuses to learn, and Jewish history's most boring leader. You will discover early in this course that Nevi'im Rishonim is far more than an historical account of the nation's first centuries in the Land of Israel. These books raise philosophical and national issues such as: why exile is the worst punishment we can face; what is the true nature of divine inspiration; why prophets have no free will; why gossip isn't as bad as you think; whether spying for your country is a good idea even if you have to marry a gentile to do it; does God make mistakes; and why "where was God during the Holocaust?" is the wrong question altogether.

Five Megillot: On Philosophy, History, Law & Love

Mrs. Shani Taragin

These shiurim will provide an introduction to the world of Ketuvim while focusing on skills of textual analysis and sensitivity to various genres. We will explore the presentation of philosophical outlooks of existentialism in Kohelet, historical satire in Megillat Esther, and the poetry of love in Shir HaShirim. Students will gain a newfound appreciation of familiar and less familiar works as we engage in comparative study of texts (e.g. Ruth-Shoftim, Eichah-Yirmiyahu) to understand and incorporate their respective messages in our lives.

(preference for registration will be given to those students not enrolled in Shani Taragin's Torah class)

Tuesday: 2:30 - 5:00 pm

Registration for this time slot will take place at the beginning of the year

The descriptions below are just to give you a sense of the program.

There is no need to register at this point!

Understanding Israel

Mr. Jamie Salter

The Understanding Israel option provides a comprehensive and in-depth program which will help students understand the complexity of the modern state of Israel. We will look at the following topics:

- The emergence of modern Zionism
- The history of the Israel – Arab conflict
- Peace-making and the current peace process
- Contemporary Israeli society
- What will be in the future?

You will be exposed to all aspects of Israeli society and hear arguments and opinions outside of your comfort zone. In order to properly understand Israel, one must hear many voices. You will also meet with some very important players in Israeli politics and Israeli society. There will also be field-trips outside of the classroom.

An important component of this course will be Israel Advocacy. We will explore what it means to be an 'Israel advocate'. We do this because with the fantastic opportunity that this course presents, comes a big responsibility. There is much anti-Israel feeling on campus in the Diaspora, and when you have the awareness and knowledge you can play an important part in combating the ignorance among many university students that leads them to support anti-Israel sentiment. There will be a practical component where you will learn about how to present and argue your point of view.

Chessed

Several options will be presented to you at the beginning of the year

BEKIUT: Tuesday and Thursday 8:00-10:00 pm

NEW

Bekiut Na"ch

Mrs. 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. For those who survive, after Pesach we will follow Ezra and Nechemia as they lead us back to rebuild the Beit Hamikdash! 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. This course includes both frontal and self-study time.

Bekiut Gemara

Rav Tuvia Kaplan

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

50 Questions People Ask About Judaism

Rav Jonathan Mishkin

50 Classes. 50 Questions. Hundreds of ideas. Does prayer actually work? Does God care if you tear toilet paper on Shabbos? Does a kosher mezuzah protect a house's inhabitants? Do angels really exist? Can a woman be a rabbi? How do we know God wrote the Torah? What's so terrible about intermarriage? Is it OK to sing Christmas carols? Why must we keep mitzvot just because our ancestors agreed to? Is Judaism just one truth among many paths to God? In 50 fast paced and intense classes we'll answer these and dozens of other questions about what it means to be Jewish in the 21st century

Eemunah in the Modern World

Rav Yoni Rosensweig

In this course we will attempt to tackle major philosophical and faith-related problems which we encounter daily in the modern world. We will discuss questions relating to the essence of God and free will, the reasons for doing what we do, and different halachic issues which are affected by our understanding of our faith, including the role secular studies plays in our lives, our relationships with non-Jews, understanding good and evil in the world, and more.

WEDNESDAY EVENING

There are two options for Wednesday evenings.

I. The first is the classic **Torah Seminar** class taught by **Rav Menachem Leibtag**. The class is from **5:15 – 10:00 pm** with a break for supper.

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** 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.

OPTIONAL COURSES

Daf Yomi

Mrs. Sally Mayer

Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday 1:30 – 2:15

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. No prior Gemara experience necessary.

Chavruta: Midreshet Darkaynu

Sunday 8:00-9:00 pm, Monday, Wednesday, or Thursday 5:15 -6:10

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

*Let us know you're interested and once you arrive,
we'll work together with you to find the best time
(the day and time that appear on your schedule are just temporary)*

Sunday: 5:15 – 6:10 pm

Rambam

Dr. Tamar Ross

A course in Maimonides' philosophical system. The major problems of Jewish philosophy are introduced, including science and religion, concepts of God, divine revelation, miracles and free will.

This class meets twice a week, the second time on Thursday at 5:15 pm

Topics in Holocaust Studies

Rav Aharon Wexler

The purpose of this class is to examine Jewish life in pre-war Europe and to try and understand how a modern democracy became a killing machine. We will explore the rich millennia of Torah learning and Yiddish culture. We will discuss the rise of Hitler and Nazism, the road to the Final Solution, life in the ghettos and camps, the atrocities of the Nazis, and world reaction. We will also focus on physical and spiritual resistance as we try to fathom the meaning of the Six Million

Sunday: 6:20 – 7:15 pm

Zionism

Rav Aharon Wexler

An intensive study of the modern political phenomena that created a Jewish state in Eretz Yisrael. Who were the secular and religious Jews who brought about a complete change in the reality of Am Yisrael after 2000 years of galut? What events of the 19th century thrust Zionism into the hearts and minds of the people? Can a political entity be both a Jewish state and a vibrant democracy? This class will introduce the students to the “movers and shakers” who shaped Zionist thinking and will expose the students to the issues and problems that confront Medinat Yisrael.

Monday: 5:15-6:10

NEW

Midrash Agnon

Rabbi Jeffrey Saks

S.Y. Agnon, Hebrew literature’s only Nobel winner, absorbed the entirety of the Beit Midrash, its books and ethos, distilling millennia of Jewish sources and pouring them into the mold of modern literature—what Rav Kook described poetically as Agnon’s “authentic Jewish/Hebrew writing, flowing through the divine channels with no barrier.” In this course we will read a wide variety of Agnon’s short stories (in English translation, with Hebrew texts available for those who will brave them), pulling apart the sources on which he drew, to explore the relationship between text and the master-texts he mined in his writing. Along the way we will consider the major themes he explored: The relationships between tradition and modernity, Eretz Yisrael and the Diaspora, and the pull that the past exerts upon the present. Also: What is the role of literature and reading in the life of a thinking, religious Jew?

Monday: 7:30 – 10:00 pm

Tochnit ORA

Mrs. Nomi Berman

Tochnit ORA is for students who are dedicated to doing more... more learning, more exposure to great Torah scholars, more quality time with faculty, more thought-provoking conversation... Each week, we will visit the home of a guest speaker, alternating between Midreshet Lindenbaum faculty and other Torah scholars in the greater Jerusalem area. Speakers in the past have included Dr. Yael Ziegler, Rabbi Chaim Brovender, Rabbanit Malka Bina, and Rav Elchanan Samet

Tuesday: 6:20 -7:15 pm

Chassidut

Rav Tuvia Kaplan

Through textual study and discussion we will investigate the world of Chassidut. The significance of joy in עבודת ה', the relationship of Chassidut to halacha and Jewish mysticism, the meaning and purpose of Chassidic stories and song, and the role of the Tzaddik or Rebbe in Chassidic practice will be topics of study and discussion. We will learn of the origin of Chassidut, the similarities and differences of the various Chassidic courts and attempt to understand both the revolutionary and ultra conservative aspects of the Chassidic movement.

Wednesday: 5:15 – 6:10 pm

Rav Yitzchak Blau

Modern Rabbinic Thought

This class will explore a wide variety of rabbinic thinkers and ideas. We will study the thought of chassidic rebbes (Rav Tzadok Hakohen from Lublin), rabbis with doctorates (Rav Yechezkel Yaakov Weinberg), Roshei Yeshiva (the Netziv and Rav Hutner), and community rabbis (Rav Shimshon Rafael Hirsch and Rav Meir Simcha from Dvinsk). The many concepts we will encounter include reasons for mitzvot, the nature of sanctity, and different approaches to biblical interpretation and to aggadic literature.

Thursday: 5:15 – 6:10 pm

Am Yisrael, Eretz Yisrael, Medinat Yisrael

Rav Ari Shvat

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. 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 a what? Other topics to be discussed: 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? In addition to rabbinical and contemporary sources, there will be discussions, and song, that hopefully will create a lifelong impression and cause us to take our relationship with Am Yisrael, Eretz Yisrael and Medinat Yisrael much more seriously.

Thursday: 6:20 – 7:15 pm

Rav Kook

Rav Ari Shvat

In addition to being the "Father of Religious Zionism", Rav Kook, the first Chief Rabbi of Israel, is considered among Jews and non-Jews alike to be one of the most original thinkers of the century. His philosophical, harmonic, holistic and optimistic approach deals with just about every question and topic facing the modern Jew, and has proven to be extremely popular, relevant and inspiring to our generation. Topics will be selected from the most famous and classic chapters of Rav Kook's 30 books, as well as unpublished manuscripts from his archives, including: emunah, free will, good-evil in the world, the State of Israel, the pleasant way to tshuva, parent-child relationships, vegetarianism, improving motivation to learn, understanding / identifying with the mitzvot, analyzing the beauty of history, intellect and emotion, love and awe of God, the goal of life, evolution, secular morality, the idealism of youth, and more.