



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, Tanakh, Machshava, and Halakha here in the Beit Midrash of Midreshet Lindenbaum. 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, Tuesday & Wednesday mornings)
 - b. Women and Halakha (Monday/Wednesday)
 - c. Hilkhhot 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. Tanakh, Sunday 9:30 - 11:30am/Thursday 8:45-10:40am
 - b. Tanakh/Beit Midrash, Sunday afternoon: 2:45 - 5:00pm
Tanakh/Machshava/Halakha, Wednesday afternoon: 2:45 - 5:00pm
 - c. Bekiut, Sunday/Tuesday evening: 8:00 - 10:00 pm
 - d. Machshava/Beit Midrash, Monday/Thursday afternoon: 2:45 - 5:00pm
 - e. Torah Seminar/Seder Erev, Wednesday evening: 8:00 - 10:00pm
 - f. Plus at least 2 hours of elective classes (any day from 5:10 - 7:00pm, or Daf 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!

Midreshet Lindenbaum

Course Catalogue 5783/ 2022– 2023

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

Sefer Melakhim

Rav Alex Israel

Sefer Melakhim is an exciting and important sefer because it tells the story of the Beit Mikdash from its inception to its demise.

Although a challenging book to learn due to a plethora of names and lists, we shall find its drama and pulse, meeting powerful characters like Shlomo Hamlekh, Yerovam, Achav and Izevel, Eliyahu and Elisha, King Hizkiyahu, and understanding pivotal events of our national history. We will study both the narrative episodes, and make sense of the technical details, while learning the ebb and flow of the first Temple period.

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 Tanakh as literature will lead to a more profound religious connection to Tanakh as kitvei kodesh.

Origin Stories

Rabbanit Rivky Krestt

Many of the families in Sefer Bereshit have dysfunctional relationships, plagued by sibling rivalry or matrimonial disharmony. Challenges include exile, barrenness, sibling rivalry, economic struggles, and famine. Why are these struggles ubiquitous to our forefathers? If Sefer Bereishit serves as a paradigm for relationships with one another, and ultimately relationships with Hashem, what lessons can we learn from these stories? This course will investigate many of the narratives in Sefer Bereishit through peshat, parshanut, and derash using both classic and modern literary tools.

Sunday 11:40am-12:40pm & Thursday, 10:50am-12:40pm

**Mitzvot Aseh of Shabbat, Melakhot Shabbat, Hilkhhot Kashrut
Rabbanit Nomi Berman, Rav David Brofsky, Rabbanit Dena Rock**

This class, co-taught by our outstanding Halakha faculty, will enable you to study the central and most practical laws of Shabbat, the Chagim, Kashrut, and other relevant and contemporary halakhic issues. Our goals include developing a methodology of learning Halakha, 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 Halakha.

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 Esau, Yaakov and Lavan, and Yosef and his brothers. We shall discover stories of great moral insight and literary power.

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 Melakhim 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 Tanakh

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. In this course we will

take a deeper look at many of these foreigners, and try to figure out how their presence, actions and words help express the theological messages embedded in the texts.

SPECIAL

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.

HALAKHA

הלכה (HEB)

הרב ברוך גיגי

Wednesday 2:45pm - 5:30pm

This shiur will focus on Sefer Mada and Sefer Ahava in the Rambam. During hevruta 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.

MACHSHAVA

מחשבת ההלכה (HEB)

הרב איתיאל אורון

Wednesday 2:45pm - 5:30pm

Through chavruta study and class discussion, we will investigate classic and contemporary halakhic 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

TANAKH

Bekiut Tanakh

**Rabbanit Nomi Berman &
Gabiella Feldman-Stochinsky**

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 Melakhim. Finally, 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.

GEMARA

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.

הקראות 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.

HALAKHA

Bekiut Halakha

Rabbanit Yael Nitzanim

Have you ever wondered what a posek does when answering a question? We will follow the development of different halakhic issues from the Gemara through the Rishonim, the Shulchan Arukh and its commentaries, all the way to the present. By the end of the year, you will have a greater sense of ownership over your halakhic life and will gain confidence in searching halakhic literature for the answers you need to your daily questions, or knowing which questions to ask when consulting a halakhic authority.

בקיאות מחשבה (HEB)

הרב אביעד סנדרס

In this course, we will take a broad look at classic sefarim of Jewish Philosophy, including the Kuzari by Rabbi Yehuda HaLevi, the Rambam's Moreh HaNevukhim, Tanya in the realm of Chasidut, and works by Rav Kook and Rav Soloveitchik. Join us to learn these famous and fundamental sefarim of machshevet yisrael.

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

**Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday mornings,
Beit Midrash and Shiur**

**Gemara - Rav David Brofsky, Rabbanit Rachel Leshaw,
Rabbanit Dena Rock**

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

Tuesday mornings 8:45am - 12:10pm, followed by sicha klalit

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

We will begin the year with Masekhet Rosh Hashana, preparing during Elul for the Yamim Nora'im. After Succot, we will delve into Masekhet Makkot, learning about false witnesses, manslaughter, and many other topics that come up along the way. Gemara meets three 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 Halakha

**Rabbanit Rachel Leshaw, Rabbanit Sally Mayer,
Rabbanit Dena Rock**

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

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

MACHSHAVA

The Big Questions

Rabbanit Avigayil Unterberg Nouriel

Monday 2:45pm-3:45pm

What does it mean to believe in God? Is there space for pluralism in Orthodox Judaism? What does it mean to have free will if God knows what we will choose? Is Hashem involved in everything that happens to us? In an effort to find our place in the world as Ovdei Hashem, Jewish thinkers have attempted to answer these questions and more.

In this course, we will explore ancient and modern Jewish texts in order to grapple with questions that are essential to build and nurture Jewish identity in the 21st century.

TANAKH

Parsha with Darkaynu

Merav Edrei

Monday 2:45pm - 3:45pm

A wonderful opportunity to have a chavruta with a Darkaynu student, closing with a short shiur on the parsha.

MACHSHAVA

Monday 2:45pm - 3:45pm

Aggada

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 halakhic 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 -- halakha 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.

MACHSHAVA

The Thought of Rabbi Soloveitchik

Rav Johnny Solomon

Thursday 2:45pm - 3:45pm

Rabbi Joseph Ber Soloveitchik (1903-1993), known reverentially as “the Rav,” was one of the greatest Talmudic scholars of the 20th century. His lectures were attended by thousands, and his writings - which continue to be published posthumously - play a central role in contemporary discussions concerning Jewish thought and Jewish law. In this course we will read, analyze and discuss a number of Rav Soloveitchik’s essays

and, through doing so, discover his unique approach to topics including: repentance, community, redemption, prayer & the significance of the Modern State of Israel.

Facing Our Emuna Obstacles Rabbanit Avigayil Unterberg Nouriel
Thursday 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 Tanakh 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.

Tehillim - Song of the Soul
Thursday 2:45pm - 3:45pm

Rav Alex Israel

Study perakim of Tehillim that we recite in our tefilla. Become empowered in prayer and explore some exciting and challenging Biblical poetry.

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 B'iyun
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 masekhet 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.

Philosophy of Halakha
Monday & Thursday 4:00pm - 5:00pm

Rav Shmuel Klitsner

What are the philosophical underpinnings of the halakhic system? In what sense does the term Torah min Hashamayim (revelation) apply to ongoing halakhic development? How would a modern Jew find the balance between authority and autonomy? What are the boundaries

and parameters of pluralism within halakhic debate? What are the mechanisms through which a timeless Torah remains timely and relevant? We will analyze primary sources, (Gemara, midrash, exegesis, & responsa literature) in order to uncover a vibrant debate on the nature and function of halakha. We will not shy away from asking difficult questions, and each student will be encouraged to begin forming her own sophisticated relationship with halakha.

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 work with several 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. Students may also intern in places such as Yad L'Isha, an Ohr Torah Stone organization that helps free agunot. We work with each student to find a meaningful way to contribute.

SPECIAL

SPECIAL

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, Rabbanit Sally Mayer, Rav David Brofsky

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 studying. 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. Students must 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

דף יומי (HEB)

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

Rabbanit Sally Mayer

הרב שוקי רייך

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 halakhic concepts and meaningful stories in a short time. No prior Gemara experience necessary. Rabbanit Sally's class will begin with Masekhet Taanit, a tractate full of incredible and inspiring stories. Rav Shuki's class will start with Masekhet Ketubot.

* Rabbanit Sally's shiur will meet on Sunday, Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 1:30 - 2:30pm and will be taught in English.

*Rav Shuki's shiur will meet on Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 1:30 - 2:30 and will be taught in Hebrew.

Sunday: 5:10 – 6:00 pm
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.

Sunday: 5:10 – 6:00 pm
Modern Orthodoxy

Rav Aharon Wexler

This course will expose the student to the issues of Jewish Theology and Philosophy confronting Am Yisrael in the 21st century. The focus of the course will be on hot button issues like the move to the 'Right,' the role of women, evolution, Biblical criticism and the real differences between the Orthodox, Conservative and Reform movements. These and many more issues challenge the Chosen People in a global village; discussing them will prepare the student to take her part in the conversation going on amongst the Jewish People.

Sunday 5:30pm - 7:00pm
קיום ומשמעות מעולם החסידות (HEB)

הרב שלמה שוק

Learn about the rich philosophical world of Chassidut in this class, along with your Israeli peers in the Hadas program.

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

Sunday 6:10pm - 7:00pm
Rambam

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.

Monday, 5:10pm - 6:00pm
Mental Health in Halakha

Rav Yoni Rosensweig

In this class, we will learn about the interplay between halakha 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.

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

Monday: 7:30 – 10:00 pm**Matmidot****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 Kenneth Brander, Dr. Yael Ziegler, Rabbi 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.

Tuesday, 6:00pm - 7:00pm**Israel: Behind the Headlines****Jamie Salter**

Each week 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!

Wednesday 5:10pm - 6:00pm**The Variety of Modern Rabbinic Thought****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, and R. Yechiel Yaakov Weinberg on modern women and Judaism.

Wednesday 5:30 - 7:00pm

משנה (HEB)

הרבנית שלומית שבות

We will uncover the principles of Torah She be'al Peh as we go through many masekhtot of Mishna and celebrate siyumim together!

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

Thursday 5:10 - 6:10pm

Am Yisrael, Eretz Yisrael, u'Medinat Yisrael & The Thought of Rav Kook
Rav Ari Shvat (Chwat)

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?

Thursday 5:10 - 6:00pm**Controversial Teshuvot****Rav Johnny Solomon**

A deep understanding of halakha demands engagement with and study of She'elot U'Teshuvot (Responsa), and a deep understanding of She'elot U'Teshuvot requires a learner to be familiar with the responsa writer and their social and historical context. In this course we will study some of the most influential - and controversial - teshuvot that have been penned over the past thousand years. In doing so we shall delve into the halakhic creativity expressed in the teshuvot, and consider the halakhic and social impact of these rulings.

Thursday: 5:30 – 7:00 pm

הרב חנן גפני (HEB) ארון הספרים היהודי

הרב חנן גפני

This course is for anyone who would like to feel at home in the Jewish library. We will learn about the authors of the fundamental texts of our canon, understand how these works build upon one another and work in tandem, and learn to feel comfortable with the texts themselves. This course is cross-listed on the Israeli program schedule.

Thursday: 6:20 – 7:10 pm

The Evolution of Minhag: Sources of Sephardic and Ashkenazic Traditions

Despite sharing a common heritage of Tanakh and Talmud, Jewish communities across the world have evolved distinct religious customs and practices that differentiate them. Smacking relatives with scallions at the seder, sitting down while the shofar is blown, affixing a mezuzah vertically rather than diagonally, or singing selihot on Yom Kippur with a joyful melody may seem unusual to Jews from one background but perfectly natural and normal to Jews from another. In this course, we will examine some of the most noteworthy cases in which Sephardic and Ashkenazic traditions diverge as well as the fascinating stories behind these variations.