

Midreshet Lindenbaum
Course Catalogue 5779/ 2018– 2019

Torah: Sunday* morning 8:45 - 10:40

פרשנות

Rav Shmuel Klitsner
Language: Hebrew

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.

The Chumash as Parshan

Rabbanit Ora Ziring

Commentary plays a critical role in Jewish interpretative tradition. However, commentary did not start with Chazal or Rishonim. A sensitive reader will find that many laws and stories in Chumash and Tanach more generally shed light on previous narratives. This course will explore several representative examples, with a focus on developing critical reading skills and gaining literary sensitivity.

***Both of these classes will meet twice a week - on Sunday and Thursday morning.**

Emunah: Sunday* morning 10:50 – 11:40

Pirkei Avot B'iyun

Rabbanit Sally Mayer

"If not now, when?", "The reward for a mitzva is a mitzva," "Who is wealthy?" 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 grow from their teachings about middot and attitudes that shape our outlook on life.

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.

***Both of these classes will meet twice a week - on Sunday and Thursday morning.**

Emunah: Sunday* morning 11:50 – 12:40

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.

Letters Throughout the Ages

Rabbanit Davina Wanderer-Kriel

This course will explore important moments in the development of Jewish Thought through the analysis of a weekly 'letter' to be used as a base-text. Considered today as a 'lost art', we will delve into the rich and interesting medium of 'letter writing' – placing letters in their historical and philosophical context and trying to understand how their themes and content could be relevant to a committed Jew in the twenty-first century. Our journey across time will allow for encounters with an array of different Jewish thinkers, such as the Rambam, R' SR Hirsch, R' Kook, Ben Gurion, R' Dessler, Nechama Leibowitz, the Lubavitcher Rebbe, Lord Rabbi Jonathan Sacks and Rabbi Nathan Lopez Cordozo.

***Both of these classes will meet twice a week - on Sunday and Thursday morning.**

Halacha: Sunday* afternoon 2:30 – 4:00 pm

Halacha B'iyun

Rav Yitzchak Blau, Rav David Brofsky

This class 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 greater understanding of the practice of Halakha.

We 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 and tevilat keilim. We will pay special attention to the application of these halachot at home, in college, and in the workplace.

***Rav Blau's section of this course will meet twice a week - on Sunday and Wednesday afternoon.**

***Rav Brofsky's section will meet only on Sundays and will allow you the option to learn in different classes on Wednesday afternoon. He will cover the same topics in an abridged fashion.**

Sunday afternoon 4:10-5:00

Halacha BaParasha

Rav David Brofsky

Contemporary and Relevant Halakhic Topics from the Parasha

In this class we will discuss a different parsha-related halakhic topic each week. Topics will be timely and relevant, and will enable a greater and more in-depth understanding of the halakhic process and the contours of contemporary halakhic discussions. Topics will include honesty and misrepresentation (advertising), relating to non-religious Jews, assisted suicide, civilian casualties during war, abortion, issues relating to marriage and reproduction, lashon hara in the modern world, among others.

The Aggada as a Source of Wisdom and Inspiration

Rav Yitzchak Blau

In the history of Talmudic study, the halakhic sections of Gemara have often received more attention than the aggadic sections. This shiur will explore aggadic (non legal) portions including stories about the sages and about biblical figures, ethical maxims, and psychological advice. We will discover that the sages used this medium to convey profound message in a subtle and powerful fashion. The shiur will provide exposure to the best aggadic commentaries of our rabbinic tradition (Maharsha, Maharal, Rav Kook etc.) as well as to some contemporary trends in aggadic study. In addition, we will explore literary questions such as the use of symbols and the meaning of details.

הרב אביה הכהן

ספר במדבר

Language: Hebrew

Sefer Bamidbar discusses the building of the community and nation, with all the messiness that comes when fiercely independent individuals form a community. In each class we will focus on a different story or topic, delving into the text to discover a message.

NACH: Monday* afternoon 2:30 - 5:00

ספר ירמיהו

Rav Shlomo Brown
Language: Hebrew

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.

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 Hamelekh, Yerovam, Ahab and Jezebel, 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.

***Both of these classes will meet twice a week - on Monday and Thursday afternoon.**

Monday afternoon 5:15-6:10

Chavruta: Midreshet Darkaynu

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.

There will be two opportunities per week to register for a Darkaynu chavruta – Monday afternoon and Wednesday evening. We expect each student to choose one of these slots.

Song, Love and Prayer

Rav Alex Israel

This course will study selected segments of Tehillim and Shir Hashirim and other Biblical passages so that we can gain an insight into some of our most familiar prayers. Course will include: Shir shel yom, Ashrei, Tachanun, Kabbalat Shabbat, Yedid Nefesh, and other texts. Our aim will be to feel the emotions that underpin our tefillot.

Monday afternoon 5:30-7:00

הרב צבי קורן

אתגרי האמונה בדורנו
Language: Hebrew

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.

רבנית שלומית שבות

משנה
Language: Hebrew

This shiur will accompany independent bekiut learning of ש"ס משניות. Beginning after Sukkot students will be expected to learn two perakim of mishnayot a day, with the goal of completing ש"ס משניות by Shavuot. The shiur will focus in depth on selected material.

Tuesday afternoon: 2:30 - 5:00

Understanding Israel

Mr. Jamie Salter

Understanding Israel 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

We work with several partner organizations in Yerushalayim who 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, participated in the local chapter of Friendship Circle, volunteered weekly at Shalva, the Israel Association for the Care and Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities, or visited Beit Sababa, a local nursing home.

Representatives from various organizations will come at the beginning of the year and you will be able to register at that point for a specific placement.

Tuesday afternoon: 2:45 – 4:30

הרב אביעד סנדרס

הרב סולוביץ'יק
Language: Hebrew

Through a close reading of Rav Soloveitchik's Halachic Man, we will raise existential and fundamental questions related to halacha and life.

ד"ר קרן קירשנבוים

עולמם העשיר של התנאים
Language: Hebrew

In this course, we will study Seder Zeraim, Seder Nashim, and parts of Seder Taharot, concentrating on themes which reflect the rich world of the Tannaim. The study of Mishna offers a unique window and foundation into all Talmudic literature. We will investigate the multiplicity of Rabbinic positions, differing outlooks regarding the various sects of Judaism during the Second Temple period, Rabbinic enactments and their logic, the role of minhag, the social reality of the Second Temple period, the early development of psak Halacha, and the principles behind the redaction of the Mishna. It is recommended that the students learn bekiut mishna independently and each class will present an overview of an entire Massechet, zeroing in on one topic in depth.

BEKIUT: Tuesday* evening 8:00-10:00 pm

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 study and complete מסכת סוכה.

Bekiut Tanach

Rabbanit Nomi Berman

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, we will follow Ezra and Nechemia as they lead us back to rebuild the Beit Hamikdash! Students will learn all of the material in hevruta, 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.

***Both of these classes will meet twice a week - on Tuesday and Thursday evening.**

Wednesday afternoon 2:30-5:00

Halacha B'iyun – Rav Yitzchak Blau

This course meets twice a week, Sunday and Wednesday afternoon. See description on Sunday afternoon above.

Wednesday afternoon 2:45-5:15

הרב ברוך גיגי

הלכה

Language: Hebrew

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 kriat shma and tefilla as well as gaining depth of understanding into the concepts of *ahavat* and *yirat Hashem*.

הרב עדיאל כהן

מחשבה

Language: Hebrew

In this course we will study some of the foundational texts of Jewish Thought, including ספר הכוזרי, מורה נבוכים, תניא, כתבי הרב קוק והרב סולוביצ'יק. You will be given the opportunity to grapple with these texts in guided chavruta before convening in shiur for discussion for concepts as diverse and impactful as our understanding of the what it means to be a “chosen nation,” our relationship to the Land of Israel, and reasons for mitzvot.

הרב שוקי רייך

גמרא

Language: Hebrew

In this shiur, you will have an opportunity to advance your gemara b'iyun study, to hone your reading skills, and to challenge yourself to delve more into the world of *sevara*.

Wednesday afternoon/evening* 5:15 – 10:00

Torah Seminar

Rav Menachem Leibtag

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.

Wednesday evening* 8:00 – 9:00

Darkaynu Chevrotot

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.

There will be two opportunities per week to register for a Darkaynu chavruta – Monday afternoon and Wednesday evening. We expect each student to choose one of these slots.

Wednesday evening* 9:00 – 10:00

Character Explorations in Tanach

Rabbanit Dena Freundlich

Each week, we will focus our attention on a different character in Tanach. Our goal will be to learn from these characters, to aim to emulate their strengths and contemplate their weaknesses.

***Please make sure you choose either Torah Seminar or both Darkaynu and Rabbanit Dena's class**

Thursday afternoon 2:30-3:20

Parshat Hashavua: Lessons in Leadership

Why did Hashem choose Avraham? Why those particular ten makkot in Mitzrayim? What is the Torah teaching us in the stories it chooses to tell us -- and the stories it doesn't? What is the meaning behind the mitzvot and how can we relate to them on a deeper level? Hashem chose Am Yisrael to lead the world in tikkun olam. Each week we will learn the parsha in-depth and uncover a lesson in leadership that the Torah reveals to us.

This class is a *shiur klali* for all students.

Thursday* afternoon 3:30-5:00

ירמיהו

Rav Shlomo Brown
Language: Hebrew

Sefer Melakhim

Rav Alex Israel

*These courses meet twice a week, Monday and Thursday afternoon. See description on Monday afternoon above.

Thursday* evening 8:00-10:00

Bekiut Gemara

Rav Tuvia Kaplan

Bekiut Tanach

Rabbanit Nomi Berman

*These courses meet twice a week, Tuesday and Thursday evening. See description on Tuesday evening above.

ELECTIVES

Daf Yomi
דף יומי*

Rabbanit Sally Mayer
רב 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 halachot and stories in a short time. No prior Gemara experience necessary.

*** Rabbanit Sally's shiur will meet on Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday
1:30 – 2:15 and will be taught in English**

***Rav Shuki's shiur will meet on Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday
1:30 – 2:15 and will be taught in Hebrew**

Sunday: 5:15 – 6:10 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. These and many more issues challenge the Chosen People in a Global Village and will prepare the student to take her part in the conversation going on amongst the Jewish People.

הרב אביה הכהן

חמש מגילות/ספר יונה
Language: Hebrew

These shiurim will provide an introduction to the world of Ketuvim while focusing on skills of textual analysis and sensitivity to various genres. Students will gain a newfound appreciation of familiar and less familiar works as we engage in comparative study of texts to understand and incorporate their respective messages in our lives.

הרב חנן גפני

ארון הספרים היהודי
Language: Hebrew

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.

Sunday: 6:20 – 7:15 pm

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.

Monday: 7:30 – 10:00 pm

Tochnit Ora Rabbanit 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, Dr. Avivah Gottlieb Zornberg, Rabbi Shlomo Riskin and Rav David Stav.

Thursday: 5:15-6:10

Am Yisrael, Eretz Yisrael, Medinat Yisrael & The Thought of Rav Kook 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. It includes as well, 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 for example: 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? 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: 6:20 – 7:15 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.