



Dear Students,

You are about to begin an incredible year of Torah learning, growth, 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 Tanakh, Gemara, Machshava and Halakha here in the Beit Midrash of Midreshet Lindenbaum. We have added even more options for taking classes along with your Israeli counterparts in Tochnit Hadas. These choices are indicated by an Israeli flag on the schedule – among them a class taught in English, one in elementary Hebrew, and a number in advanced Hebrew, allowing you to choose the level of challenge as you get to meet new people and learn different perspectives.

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 in a few weeks, be'ezrat Hashem!

Kol tuv,
Rabbanit Sally Mayer
Rosh Midrasha

Midreshet Lindenbaum

Course Catalogue 5780/ 2019– 2020

Sunday* morning, 8:45 - 10:40am

Five Megillot

Rabbanit Nomi Berman

These shiurim will provide an introduction to the world of Ketuvim while focusing simultaneously on skills of textual analysis and sensitivity to religious thought. In the fall semester, we will explore the presentation of philosophical outlooks of existentialism in Kohelet, delve into the "love story" between Hashem and Am Yisrael as told allegorically in Shir Hashirim, and mourn the churban with the moving poetry of Eichah.

In the spring semester, we will meet the colorful characters of Megillot Esther and Ruth respectively; we will feel their losses, celebrate their victories, and be inspired by their stories. Students will gain a newfound appreciation of familiar and less familiar works as we engage in a comparative study of texts to understand and incorporate their respective messages into our lives.

וְפַרְעֹם יְרֵמִיָּהוּ (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.

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 Hizkiyah, 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.

Leadership Mentors**Rabbanit Rivky Krestt**

Leadership. It is a modern buzz word but not a new concept. In a world that increasingly seems to lack strong leaders, we will consider: What is leadership? What does it look like? How did Avraham convince an entire generation to believe in monotheism? What went wrong with Reuven's attempt at leadership, and what were the consequences for the Jewish people? What made Moshe the one person uniquely qualified to lead Bnei Yisrael out of Egypt? Through this study, we will think about implications for our lives as well.

**These classes will meet twice a week - on Sunday and Thursday mornings.*

Sunday* morning, 10:50am-12:40pm**Halakha B'Iyun**

**Rabbanit Dena Freundlich, Rabbanit Devorah Rosensweig,
Rabbanit Shira Zimmerman**

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 practice of Halakha.

**These classes will meet twice a week - on Sunday and Thursday mornings.*

Sunday* afternoon 2:30 - 5:00pm**Sefer Shemot: From Slavery to Sinai Rav Yitzchak Blau**

This shiur will combine two powerful approaches to *Tanakh*. On the one hand, we will study *Shemot* with the best of our traditional commentaries and gain religious and moral insight from Ramban, Ibn Ezra, Seforno, Netziv and more. At the same time, we will utilize the techniques of the modern literary approach, such as key words, intertextuality, and type scenes to appreciate the literary beauty and psychological wisdom of our scriptures. In this way we will appreciate one great aspect of Chumash - how each reading inspires novel insights and fresh appreciation.

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.

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

Foreigners in Tanakh**Rabbanit Nava Finkelman**

The Tanakh 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.

*Rav Blau's and Rav Klitsner's classes will meet twice a week - on Sunday and Wednesday afternoons.

Sunday* evening 8:00-10:00pm - BEKIUT**Bekiut Tanakh****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 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.

Bekiut Halakha**Rav Yoni Rosensweig**

In our Bekiut Halakha class, we will explore a single halakhic issue each class session, with the goal of understanding how and why various halakhic authorities rule differently on the same question. Furthermore, we will gain an understanding of who the main halakhic authorities of the last 500 years were, and how their time periods may have at times also affected their rulings.

Bekiut Gemara**Rav Tuvia Kaplan**

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 ראש השנה.

(HEB) בקיות גמרא**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 soon.

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

(HEB) בקיות מחשבה**הרב עדיאל כהן**

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.

*These classes will meet twice a week - on Sunday and Wednesday evening.

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings 8:45 - 11:40am

**Gemara - Rav David Brofsky, Rabbanit Dena Freundlich,
Rabbanit Rachel Leshaw, Rav Yoni Rosensweig**

We will begin the year with Masekhet Rosh Hashana, preparing during Elul for the Yamim Nora'im. After Succot, we will delve into Masekhet Baba Metzia, learning about the rules of responsibility to our neighbors and friends as we study הלכות בין אדם לחברו. 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.

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

Monday and Wednesday mornings, 11:50am-12:40pm**Women and Halakha****Rabbanit Nomi Berman, Rabbanit Dena Freundlich, Rabbanit Rachel Leshaw, Rabbanit Sally Mayer**

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

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

Monday* afternoon 2:30 – 3:20pm**Pirkei Avot B'iyun****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 grow from their teachings about middot and attitudes that shape our outlook on life.

The Thought of Rav Soloveitchik**Rav Johnny Solomon**

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.

Letters Through 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, the Ramban, R' SR Hirsch, R' Kook, Ben Gurion, R' Dessler, Nechama Leibowitz, the Lubavitcher Rebbe, the Baal Shem Tov, Spinoza and Prof. Yeshayahu Leibowitz.

*These classes will meet twice a week - on Monday and Thursday afternoon.

Monday* afternoon 3:30-4:20pm

Lifecycles

Rav David Brofsky

Halakha and minhag accompany, enrich and guide us throughout our lives. In this source-based class, we will study the various laws and customs related to marriage, divorce, birth, bar/bat mitzvahs, death and mourning, and conversion. We will pay special attention to practical, real-life situations, while attempting to reveal the Torah's view of these important life milestones.

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.

Radical Responsibility

Rav Johnny Solomon

Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks is one of the world's leading Jewish thinkers, teachers and writers who has developed a unique style of communicating profound Jewish ideas in a manner that can be understood and appreciated by religious Jews, irreligious Jews and non-Jews around the world. In this course we will explore some of the themes addressed by Rabbi Sacks in his many books and talks (eg. Faith, God, Forgiveness), consider the Torah sources that have shaped his worldview, and try and apply some of the skills he employs to our own writing and speaking.

Beit Midrash

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 supervising each beit midrash and will be happy to help you as you explore topics, gain skills, and make the beit midrash your home.

*These classes will meet twice a week - on Monday and Thursday afternoon.

Monday afternoon 4:30-5:30pm**Tehillim - Song of the Soul****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.

Modern Israeli Thought**Rav Aviad Sanders**

In this course, we will learn together basic sources from the Torah of modern Israeli Rabbis and Spiritual leaders. We will springboard into important and exciting challenges and issues that arise from the modern and post-modern religious life. Major topics will include attitudes towards the State of Israel and its ramifications, moral issues and more. We will emphasize learning and appreciating the various approaches to each issue, and to understanding the hashkafic underpinnings of each opinion.

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 three opportunities per week to register for a Darkaynu chavruta – we encourage each student to find one that fits into your schedule.

Monday afternoon 4:30-6:00pm**Philosophy of Halakha****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 and 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.

Tuesday morning 8:45am - 12:40pm

Gemara classes. See description on Monday morning above.

Tuesday afternoon*: 2:30 - 5:00pm

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?

*Registration for this time slot will take place at the beginning of the year. The descriptions are just to give you a sense of the program. There is no need to register at this point!

You will be exposed to all aspects of Israeli society and hear arguments and opinions outside of your comfort zone, for 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 awareness and knowledge, you can play an important part in combating the ignorance among many university students that leads them to support anti-Israel sentiments. 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, 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. Representatives from various organizations will visit us at the beginning of the year, and you will be able to register at that point for a specific placement.

Tuesday afternoon: 5:15 – 10:00pm

There are two options for Tuesday evenings.

- I.** The first is our 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.

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

- 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. There will be faculty in the beit midrash for help and guidance.

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

Wednesday morning 8:45am - 12:40pm

Gemara and Women and Halakha classes. See description on Monday morning above.

Wednesday afternoon 2:30-5:00pm

Tanakh classes. See description on Sunday morning above.

הרב איתי אל אורון
(HEB)

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.

הרב ברוך גייגי
(HEB)

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 mitzvoth of kriat shma 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.

Wednesday evening 8:00-10:00pm

Bekiut classes. See Sunday for description.

Thursday morning 8:45am-12:40pm

Tanakh and Halakha classes. See Sunday for description.

Thursday afternoon 2:30-4:20pm

See Monday afternoon

Thursday afternoon 4:30-5:30pm

Shiur Klali

Rabbanit Sally Mayer and Rabbanit Nomi Berman, as well as guest speakers, will share a timely topic.

This is a required slot for all students.

Thursday afternoon 5:45pm

Darkaynu Chavruta

Thursday* evening 8:00-10:00pm

Seder Erev - all students

At seder erev, you get 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**Sunday, Monday, Wednesday & Thursday 1:40 – 2:25pm****Daf Yomi**
(HEB) דף יומי**Rabbanit Sally Mayer**
הרב שוקי רייר

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 Ta'anit, a tractate full of amazing stories and life lessons. Rav Shuki's class will learn Masekhet Avoda Zara, all about our interactions with the non-Jewish world.

* Rabbanit Sally's shiur will meet on Sunday, Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 1:40 – 2:25pm and will be taught in English

*Rav Shuki's shiur will meet on Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 1:45 – 2:30 and will be taught in Hebrew

Sunday: 5:10 – 6:00 pm**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.

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: 5:30 – 7:00 pm**ארון הספרים היהודי (HEB)****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.

Sunday: 6:10 – 7:00 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.

Monday: 5:30 – 7:00 pm

(HEB) אתגרי האמונה בדורנו

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.

(HEB) משנה

הרבנית שלומית שבות

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

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

Monday: 7:30 – 10:00 pm**Tochnit ORA****Rabbanit Dena Freundlich**

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.

Matmidot

Matmidot Scholars will participate in Tochnit ORA, leadership training, and Torah Seminar and/or Daf Yomi. They will also be working throughout the year on a research and writing project, under the guidance of a faculty mentor.

Wednesday afternoon 5:10 - 6:00pm**The Aggada as a Source of Wisdom & 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 messages 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.

Wednesday afternoon 5:30 - 7:00pm**(HEB) טעמי המקרא****הרבענית שקמה כוֹפִי-יניב**

We hear the reading of the Torah and haftara every Shabbat in shul, but many of us are not familiar with the function of the ta'amei hamikra, the notes that guide the kri'ot. In this course, we will learn what these ta'amim are, how they sound, and how they affect the understanding of the pesukim.

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

Thursday 5:30-7:00pm**(HEB) התלמוד במבט היסטורי****הרב חנן גפני**

We immerse ourselves in Gemara study and gain so much from both the halakhic and aggadic portions. This course will take a step back and look at the historical context of the Talmud – the personalities, their towns, their livelihoods and even the food they ate.

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

Thursday: 5:45-7:15pm**Am Yisrael, Eretz Yisrael, Medinat Yisrael Rav Ari Shvat
& The Thought of Rav Kook**

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 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?