



## CONSERVATIVE YESHIVA

### Course Catalog - 2021-2022

#### **Talmud: An Aerial Tour of the Bavli - Ilana Kurshan**

This class will offer a sweeping overview of the tractates in the Babylonian Talmud. Each class will focus on one sugya from a particular tractate while also providing an introduction to the issues addressed in the tractate as a whole -- beginning with Berakhot and proceeding in order through the masekhtot in Seder Moed, Nashim, and Nezikin. The goal of the class is to offer students a sense of the range of issues covered in each Masekhet, the relationship between Halakhah and Aggadah, the questions that animate the rabbis, and the way they go about seeking answers and making meaning.

#### **Talmud Level Two- Third Chapter of Tractate Sanhedrin - Sara Tova Brody**

This course will center on the third chapter of Tractate Sanhedrin in the Babylonian Talmud. This chapter presents the rabbinic approach to the structure and process of the legal system, and we will examine various aspects of this issue while focusing on the development of reading skills in the Mishnah and the Talmud, aiming to increase independence and proficiency within these core texts.

#### **Talmud--Levels Three and Four--Third Chapter of Tractate Sanhedrin, Dr. Joshua Kulp, Dr. Jason Rogoff**

This course will center on the third chapter of Tractate Sanhedrin in the Babylonian Talmud. This chapter presents the rabbinic approach to the structure and process of the legal system, and we will examine various aspects of this issue while focusing on the development of reading skills in the Mishnah and the Talmud, aiming to increase independence and proficiency within these core texts. We will also focus on proficiency in reading Rashi and in an introduction to reading the literature of the rishonim.

## **Kolel--Advanced Talmud and Halakhah**

In this class we will delve deeply and intensively into the development of Hilkhos Shabbat from the Talmud through modern Halakhah. Class will focus especially on the medieval coalescing of Talmudic dicta into a normative halakhic system, and its codification in the Tur and Shulkhan Arukh. Modern developments will also be discussed. The topics to be covered included: Bishul, Amirah Lenchri, Binyan, and Borer.

### **Fall Semester – Halakha Lemaaseh - Sara Tova Brody**

In this class we will examine a variety of halakhic issues pertaining to the Jewish holidays, beginning with Rosh Hashannah and working our way through the Jewish calendar. Our core text will be the Shulkhan Arukh, and we will learn to navigate this text and use it to determine the answers to various halakhic questions. Class will focus on Halakhah Lemaaseh – the practical applications of halakhic issues in our lives.

## **Mysticism Through the Calendar -Daniel Raphael Silverstein**

What are the unique lessons and opportunities of each day, week and month in our calendar? How can we improve who we are and what we do, by attuning to the characteristics assigned by our tradition to each unit of time? In this course we will explore conversations and texts spanning the millennia of Jewish wisdom, with a particular focus on mystical teachings, and also practices emerging from them, which will support our growth as human beings and as Jews

## **Modern Hebrew Ulpan - Ms. Nitza Shalitin and Ms. Meira Stern Glick**

The Yeshiva considers improvement of Hebrew language skills essential to Jewish learning. Therefore, we offer at least three levels of Hebrew Ulpan. The goal of the course is to enrich Hebrew knowledge to make it easier for students to cope with original Biblical and Talmudic texts as well as to have greater access to and contact with Israeli society.

In order to achieve the above, the course will focus especially on three aspects (as appropriate to each level):

1. Comprehension - speaking, reading and writing
2. Syntax
3. The verb system—7 “binyanim” (groups of verbs) and sub-groups Also, texts from newspapers and writing assignments will be given as needed.

Required text: To be determined.

Language of instruction: Hebrew

## **Parshanut: The House of Jacob and its Family Dramas - Aliza Salzberg**

The stories of Jacob and his children are dramatic, tragic and complex. They open many questions of belonging and identity, family politics, gender and sexuality, and even economics. For generations, these stories have been interpreted by Rabbis and commentators (mifarshim), creating a fascinating dialogue (at times cacophony of voices) debating the meaning of the text.

In this class, we will explore the second half of Bereshit (Genesis) through the eyes of the commentators. We will practice the reading skills necessary for in-depth Chumash study. Our texts will include Biblical narrative, midrash, and medieval commentators in their original Hebrew. Students will become familiar with the major medieval commentators and their unique methods of interpretation. Together we will explore the horizon of interpretation for these thinkers and for ourselves.

## **Modern Jewish Thought - Itai Green**

In this course, we will study some of the major and formative texts written by Jewish thinkers in the 20th century. Philosophers such as Buber, Heschel and Rosenzweig attempted to bring Jewish answers to universal questions being asked about life. In a world growing more and more individualistic, they understood life's purpose as "Connection to the Other". The philosophy they created, a "philosophy of relationships", is increasingly relevant in our contemporary world. We will read and discuss several different texts, and try to understand each writer's view of human connection and relations. As this philosophy isn't purely abstract, but rather, dealing with our relations to the people surrounding us, we will aim to find the connection between our lives and the texts and ideas we meet.

## **Bamidbar - Vered Hollander-Goldfarb**

Forty years in the desert – a punishment for a generation or the honeymoon of a nation? Along with a close reading of the text, we will use Midrash, and gain an appreciation for the depth and thought process of some of the classic medieval commentators commonly found in the Mikraot Gedolot.

Required Texts: A full Hebrew Tanakh (without commentaries). Mikraot Gedolot for Bamidbar  
Recommended Texts: For Mikraot Gedolot, either "Torat Haim", published by Mossad HaRav Kook or "HaKeter Mikraot Gedolot" published by Bar Ilan University. Other Mikraot Gedolot will do.

Language of Instruction: Hebrew

**Prophets of the Eighth Century BCE -Vered Hollander-Goldfarb** As the first empire conquered the world, a spiritual revolution was on the way in Judea and

Israel. Amos, Hosea, Isaiah and Micah spoke, rather than led or performed miracles, stressing a relationship with God that depended on our relationship with each other. Let's meet them. Required Texts: A full Hebrew Tanakh (without commentaries) Language of Instruction: Hebrew

**Halakha Lema'ase (Practical Law), Kashrut - Shlomo Zacharow** We will learn in depth about the holy and ancient yet continually developing world of *kashrut*. Our constant guide will be the *Shulhan Arukh (Yoreh De'ah)* as well as additional source sheets outlining the process of *halakhic* development grounded in the Talmud through the commentaries of the medieval period and the best-known codes of Jewish law and responsa literature. Topics include forbidden tastes, prohibition of mixing meat and milk, koshering utensils, fish, the Sabbatical year as well as issues not related to ingredients or processing but whether a Jew or Gentile had a hand in the preparation of foods such as bread, milk and wine. While studying the traditional texts, we will constantly be widening our *halakhic* perspective and discussing the relevance to our personal and communal lives as Jews in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

### **Pos'kim (The Development of Jewish Law), fall semester – Shlomo Zacharow**

We will study the intricate nature of divorce in Jewish law and ways to prevent or eradicate recalcitrance by one of the parties by such techniques as conditional kiddushin, annulment, mistaken transaction, bestowing benefit in one's absence and coercion. As we proceed, we will learn about the process of *halakhic* development grounded in the Talmud, but with emphasis on the commentaries of the medieval period (*Rishonim*) and the famous codes of Jewish law: the *Mishneh Torah*, the *Tur*, and the *Shulhan Arukh* as well as the *Aharonim* (Rabbinic decisors who came after the *Shulhan Arukh*). Each code will be studied from the perspective of its construction, style and purpose, and the sources will be compared to one another. In addition, we will examine the rich Responsa Literature.

### **Shehita - Shlomo Zacharow (private course)**

In this course we will learn the relevant laws and practicalities related to the slaughtering of fowl. Week by week we will delve into the ancient texts and gradually practice sharpening and checking our knives. Through a series of outings, we will have opportunities to handle, slaughter, gut and *kasher* (rinse and salt) chickens. Those who successfully complete the course and final examinations will be granted certifications as *לעופות שוחטים*, ritual slaughterers of fowl. The class text is the "Bet David" by David Kamin, revised second edition updated by Hayyim Yosef Waldman.

Additional supplies to be purchased include knives, sharpening stones and chickens!

## **Midrash - Alieza Salzberg**

In this shiur will learn from multiple midrashic works composed on Megilat Esther. The Purim story raises many important national and religious issues, such as Jewish identity in the Diaspora, myth vs. history, as well the role of sexuality and women in structures of power and leadership. These questions are indeed addressed by the rich midrashic traditions that developed over several periods of rabbinic writing (pre-rabbinic commentary, classical Midrash, the Babylonian Talmud, and medieval Midrash). The class will also touch on the modern gender critique of the Esther story and its midrashic commentators as well.

This class is aimed at Rabbinical students and intermediate to advanced students.

## **Jewish Calendar - Alieza Salzberg**

In this class we will learn texts pertaining to the significant holidays of the Jewish Calendar. We will explore models of holiness and learn about how Shabbat and the Holidays imbue our space, time, and identify with meaning in different ways. Dipping into the tanakh, rabbinic midrashim, and excerpts of gemara, we will explore the origins and development of the holidays and the links and interconnections that underlie the holiday cycle as a whole. We will focus on some of the lesser known themes of the holidays and provide material for divrei Torah and sermons for the holidays year round.

This class will be given in Hebrew with abundant translation into English.