

# FALL 2024 COURSES

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## RABBI JOSHUA KULP

### Advanced Talmud

In this class we will study the seventh chapter of Ketubot which mostly discusses a husband's responsibilities to his wife and the results of him trying to abnegate those responsibilities. The class will focus on learning the structure of a sugya, comparing the Bavli with earlier sources, Mishnah, Tosefta and Yerushalmi, and learning how to better understand the issues raised by the rishonim.

## RABBI JOEL LEVY

### Mishnah & Talmud

This course is for students with a limited background in rabbinic sources who are looking to radically improve their capacity to read and understand those sources for themselves. Students will learn to unpack the highly compressed literary and legal texts of the Tannaitic period and to see how their meaning evolved when they were interpreted in light of the different concerns, genres and approaches of the Amoraim. We will aim to furnish students with the skills to become competent readers of Tannaitic sources, informed participants in the Talmudic discourse and to be able to pick out the philosophical and religious issues at play behind the highly technical language of these texts.

## JONATHAN LIPNICK & DR. MARCIE LENK

### Chumash

See Elul Courses.

## RABBI JOEL LEVY

### Talmud: Jews & Non-Jews

This course is for students with a stronger background in rabbinic sources who are looking to become independent readers and meaning-makers with those sources. We will read selected sugiot about Jews and non-Jews and how the tannaim and ammoraim understand their relationships. We will attempt to pick out the philosophical, psychological, and religious issues at play in these sources and ask how they can be used as a prism through which to understand our modern world.

## DR. SHAIYA ROTHBERG

### The Spirit of Y-H-V-H

The spirit of God stands at the center of the biblical narrative. In the beginning, it hovered over the deep. When God breathed it into adam, s/he became a living soul. When the spirit descended upon the Israelites, they prophesized, played music, created sacred art, walked around naked, promulgated laws, "spoke in ecstasy" and a host of other things. In this course, we will explore the Israelite experience of the spirit of God with an eye to grounding our own spiritual lives in the biblical narrative. We will interpret the Tanakh in light of its historical context, and also through the eyes of the Midrash, Jewish Philosophy and Kabbalah

## Daf Shevui

Jump into the sea of Talmud with Rabbi Joshua Kulp in a class during which the Daf Shevui (Talmud page of the week) will be translated and explained while students have a chance to ask questions and discuss. Take advantage of this special opportunity for Talmud study with a renowned scholar, together with peers from around the world.

## ILANA KURSHAN

### Parashat HaShavua Through a Midrashic Lens

In this class we will look at excerpts from classical rabbinic midrashim on the weekly parashah. Each week we will focus on one element or scene in the parashah and consider how the ancient and/or medieval rabbis understood and interpreted the biblical text. We will study passages from the Mekhilta, Midrash Rabbah, the Tanchuma, and other sources, focusing both on how to read midrash and how to find meaning and relevance in the biblical text.

## RABBI JOEL LEVY

### Daf Shevui Prep

In this time slot we will prepare together for Josh's weekly daf-shevui class allowing all of us over the course of the semester to engage in a sizable amount of Talmud learning bekiut – a quick and efficient way of learning Talmud without getting into the depth offered in our morning classes. What are the broad themes at play? Who are the major voices and what are they arguing about?

## RABBI JOSHUA KULP

### Advanced Halakhah

During Elul we will study Hagei Tishre. The topics we will cover are: Wearing comfortable, non-leather shoes on Yom Kippur, sitting in a sukkah under a tree and the arrangement of tekiot. After Elul we will move back to Hilkhot Yom Tov and learn the laws of transferring and extinguishing fire, eruv tavshilin, bathing on Yom Tov, fixing items necessary for cooking, and other topics related to Yom Tov and Hol Hamoed.

This class is a combination of critical talmudic study and analysis of traditional commentaries. Close attention is always paid to the dynamic development of halakhah. The aim is for students to understand the dynamics of talmudic interpretation and halakhic developments so that our texts and practices can be better integrated into our lives.

## RABBI SHUKI ZHAVI

### Mind, Body, & Soul of Jewish Prayer

I'm very excited to begin a journey with you through the practices and spiritual opportunities of traditional tefillah. In this class, you will both learn about tefillah and develop synagogue skills, such as Torah reading, prayer leadership, use of music in prayer, and gabbaut.

Each session will integrate study of the history and halakhah of prayer ("mind"), technical skills necessary to participate and lead ("body"), and engagement with your relationship to tefillah as a way to connect with yourself, your community, and God ("soul"). Through this combination of learning modes, you will build a spiritual framework and a base of knowledge and skills that will serve you in a life-long relationship with tefillah.

## **Bekiyut: Tractate Betzah**

Bekiyut Talmud will join the Daf Shevui program in which we learn one daf of Talmud per week. The aim is to gain better proficiency in learning Talmud but at a pace more realistic than the overly ambitious Daf Yomi program. Shiur will be held on line and in person.

## **RABBI DANIEL SILVERSTEIN**

### **Chasidut: Wide Then Deep**

This is two separate opportunities to learn about the spiritual revolution of Chasidut, which you're invited to join for either or both.

The first two hours will consist of an Introduction to Chasidut that will offer a broad overview of the movement's primary teachers and most powerful and radical teachings, with some historical context. There will be time for chevruta study, and then a class in which these insightful and surprising texts will be read mostly in English, and discussed. We will also listen to, and sing, niggunim, from some of the teachers whose teachings we explore, and sometimes do other meditative practices based on the texts.

The final hour will consist of a deep dive into one classic Chasidic text, the Me'or Einayim (Light of the Eyes), in Hebrew. By exploring this beautiful and illuminating text in depth, we will address many key concepts in Chasidut, deepen our understanding of its relevance for us, and develop our literacy of its texts. Participants will take turns reading the text aloud, and those who are able will also translate it as they go. Those who can read but not yet translate are also very welcome, and will doubtless grow in this skill as we progress.

## **RABBI JOEL LEVY**

### **Kehila**

We will end our week with community time devoted to community building, shared food, chavrutah learning from our tradition's wisdom literature, shared prayer and niggun, and finally some listening exercises based in the world of pastoral care.

## **ULPAN FACULTY**

### **Ulpan**

Our Online Ulpan program is an opportunity for students everywhere, at all skill levels, to study Hebrew with our world-class faculty in an intimate, congenial setting with students of all ages. We offer up to six levels of Ulpan, from beginner to advanced, to ensure each student's needs are met.

## **DOV WIEDER**

### **Song Circle**

Every Wednesday night at 20:00 FJC hosts meaningful, musical Song Circles in the Zucker Family Synagogue on our campus (Agron 4, just up the road from the main building). All are welcome to join this spiritual experience!

## **ASSTD. FACULTY**

### **Thursdays**

One Thursday per month will be set aside for Yeshiva activities. While not every date will be used, please note and set aside the dates in [this calendar](#).

# ELUL 2024 COURSES

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## BEGINNERS | JONATHAN LIPNICK

### Chumash | Monday

During the month of Elul, we will be studying one of the most beloved and misunderstood books in the Hebrew Bible, the Book of Jonah. Many people are familiar with the famous story of Jonah in the belly of a whale (technically a “great fish”) but know little of the narrative beyond this. Read as part of the mincha (afternoon service) on Yom Kippur, the Book of Jonah explores big themes that stand at the heart of the Days of Awe including the meaning of prayer, repentance and divine mercy. We will read the book in English translation and focus on select verses in the original Hebrew, reading one chapter each of the four weeks of this month.

## BEGINNERS | DR. MARCIE LENK

### Chumash | Wednesday

The Chosen Family: We will examine key stories about Abraham and Sarah and their household, to understand the origin story of God's relationship to the People of Israel. Using these biblical texts in Hebrew and translations we will explore questions and answers that have occupied bible interpreters from antiquity to modern times. The goals of this course include: acquiring familiarity with biblical texts central to Jewish identity, introductions to classical Jewish interpreters including Rabbinic midrash, Rashi, and other medieval and modern writers, and discerning reading strategies employed by Jews throughout the ages.

## INTERMEDIATE | RABBI JOEL LEVY

### Mishnah & Talmud | Sunday & Tuesday (mid) Monday & Wednesday (high)

In this year's Elul programme we will dive into the meaning of Sukkot. By examining the end of the High Holiday journey we will come to understand more deeply the nature of the journey itself. We will work out what the Yamim Nora'im mean by looking at their final destination in the Sukkah. How might the Sukkah function as a model for living with and under the presence of God? And what does it really mean, to communally act out “living under God's protection” in light of the dark ending of last year's High Holiday season?

## ADVANCED | RABBI JOSHUA KULP

### Talmud | Sunday & Tuesday

Do the Mitzvot Require Kavanah (Intent)?

In this class we will study a passage in Masechet Rosh Hashanah concerning the intent required to fulfill the mitzvah of hearing the Shofar. This sugya opens up a window to a larger discussion of the performance of mitzvot--is it the act that is the mitzvah or the intent?