



Pardes Institute – Fall 2011/5772 Courses

(Please note: all Humash & Mishna/Talmud classes continue in Spring)

Morning Classes

HUMASH /TANACH

LEVEL: INTRODUCTORY – ALEF

TOVAH LEAH NACHMANI

Sun., Tues., Thurs. - 8:30-11:45

EXODUS: The book of Exodus is the story of the birth of the Jewish people. The assimilation and suffering of this newly evolving nation, their skepticism toward leaders and ambivalence toward God and his covenant, imbue the story of their exodus to freedom with rich and relevant material for study. Trials and tribulations of the newly freed nation on their desert trek continually challenge their trust in their own potential and in the process of their journey to the Promised Land.

BOOKS of JONAH, ESTHER, and RUTH: In their appropriate seasons (before Rosh Hashana, before Purim, and before Shavuot) we will be studying these pivotal books of Tanach. Highlighted in the larger historical context will be themes of struggling with personal commitment in the evolving characters.

Our aims are to grow in our understanding of:

1. **CONTEXTUAL MEANING** – by means of: *Learning Hebrew vocabulary and grammar to empower students to a careful reading of the text.

*Developing traditional and modern literary skills of examining the gaps and difficulties in a Biblical story.

*Researching relevant extra-Biblical historical material

2. **BROADER CONTEXT** – by: * Learning the language and lessons of medieval and modern commentaries and midrashim.

* Gaining a wider perspective of Biblical texts through cross referencing related passages in the Torah

3. **RELEVANCE AND PERSONAL WISDOM** – by: *Considering the questions and inner struggles of the Biblical characters, through journaling and discussions.



FOUNDATIONS OF JUDAISM (Fall + Spring)

DAVID LEVIN-KRUSS

LEVEL: INTRODUCTORY: ALEF

M, W 8:30-11:45

Foundations of Judaism Track (Fall and Spring semesters)

Do you want to know more about Judaism? Have questions you always wanted answered? If you are beginning a Jewish journey and want a good entrance to Jewish life then the Pardes Foundations of Judaism track is for you. The track includes study of Jewish philosophy, ritual, and text leading to greater knowledge and sharper skills. Students will be encouraged to grapple with the underlying ideas of Judaism and explore how these ideas affect their own lives. Become part of the Jewish conversation and influence the direction of the Jewish future! Classroom learning will be enhanced by lunchtime workshops, speakers from a broad gamut of the Jewish world, visits to synagogues and museums - all of them opportunities to see how Israel works as a giant Jewish laboratory.

HUMASH

LEVEL: INTRODUCTORY: BET

MEIR SCHWEIGER

Sun., Tues., Thurs. - 8:30-11:45

The goal of this course is to give students the ability to analyze a section of *Chumash* with an introduction to the classic medieval commentaries. For this class, students are expected to have a very basic knowledge of Hebrew and some formal training in the study of Biblical texts.

The focus of the class will be two-fold:

- 1) to develop the student's skills in reading a biblical text. Special emphasis will be placed on familiarizing students with Biblical grammar, nuances of Biblical Hebrew, literary patterns of paragraphs and chapters, sensitivity to "key" words, and cross-referencing. Students will be expected to work extensively with a dictionary and concordance. We will examine the classic medieval commentaries in a "graduated" manner; the focus of the class will shift from Biblical text to commentaries during the course of the year.
- 2) to deal with the concepts and issues that are raised by whatever text we study. Although students will be encouraged to examine the deeper meaning of text and how it impacts on their lives, this pursuit will be the outgrowth of a very careful reading of the text rather than a replacement of it.

We will study Chapters 1-20 of *Shmot*, focusing on:

- 1) The enslavement of the Jewish people,
- 2) The Ten Plagues
- 3) The First Seder and the Exodus
- 4) The Miracle of the Reed Sea



- 5) The Desert Experience
- 6) The Revelation at Sinai
- 7) The personal and public life of Moshe, and how it interfaces with the fate of the nation.

All students will be expected to purchase and bring to class the following books:

- 1) *Shmot Mikraot G'dolot* (preferably Mossad HaRav Kook edition-*Torat Chayim*)
- 2) Hebrew-English TaNAkh – JPS or Keter
- 3) Hebrew-English Dictionary (preferably Alkalay)

MISHNA/TALMUD
RAHEL BERKOVITS
M, W 8:30-11:45

LEVEL: INTRODUCTORY: BET

In this course students will be introduced to the world of the Ta'anaitic Sages through an in depth study of their most famous and important text – the Mishnah, which became the basis for all Jewish Law. In this class students will develop skills and analytical tools to decipher the conceptual categories and legal reasoning of the Mishna. The course aims to train the student to comprehend and question the text independently, through critical analysis of language and structure. During the year we will focus on the Tractate of Brakhot, which deals with recitation of the shema, prayer, and blessings. In depth attention will be paid to the specifics of ritual law as well as the over arching meta halakhic concepts and theological and philosophical messages the Sages are trying to convey in their discussions. In the second half of the year we will begin learning gemara.

HUMASH
LEVI COOPER
M, W 8:30-11:45

LEVEL: INTRODUCTORY: GIMMEL

The course will focus on the Book of books - the *Tanakh*. This year we will study the book of Exodus. Students will meet the Biblical personalities first hand and have the opportunity to delve into the original text as we explore ideas central to Jewish identity. As the story of the birth of the Hebrew nation, the primary themes of Exodus – slavery and freedom, exile and redemption, leadership and faith – continue to capture the imagination, inspiring and challenging us to this day. We will follow the travails of the nascent nation in Egypt, the triumph of the Exodus and the vicissitudes that await them as they journey towards Sinai to receive the Torah.

Special attention will be given to developing skills with the aim of making Hebrew texts more accessible. Students will have the opportunity to



discuss and become familiar with approaches of various Medieval and Modern commentators. Those who apply themselves in this course will be empowered as they will acquire the vocabulary and proficiency necessary for more advanced study.

Text: Shemot, Torah Hayim edition, vol. 1

Recommended: Hebrew/English dictionary and BDB

MISHNA/TALMUD

LEVEL: INTERMEDIATE: GIMMEL

MEESH HAMMER-KOSSOY

Sun., Tues., Thurs. - 8:30-11:45

This class is designed to get you reading Talmud! That is something you need, if you want to be part of nearly any Jewish debate of importance. We will focus on basic skills—understanding the structure of the Talmudic passage and how to follow its complex arguments, acquiring key terms and basic vocabulary, and gaining a sense of how to think about a page of Talmud.

Through an in-depth study of Tractate Bava Metzia, we will learn how to approach the study of the Mishnah, the first collection of Oral Law, and the Talmud, the “commentary” on the Mishnah. We will examine both the Mishnah and the Talmud as independent literary texts open to interpretation, as well as cornerstones of halakhah as it develops. We will seek to grasp the literary power of the Talmud and why it occupies pride of place in the Jewish bookshelf. Along the way, we will have the opportunity to examine a number of existential and halakhic questions that preoccupied the Sages from 0-600 CE and are still relevant to us today. On the assumption that answers are always buried within questions themselves, an emphasis will be placed on asking good questions, over and above getting “The Right Answer.”

Tractate Bava Metzia is the middle volume of the Talmudic treatment of damages. As such, it evaluates questions of interpersonal relationships and responsibilities, minimal enforceable requirements as well as ideal moral standards on topics of property rights, consumer responsibility, workers rights and the obligation to return lost objects.

In Elul, we will focus on Tractate Rosh HaShannah.

This course is directed at students with Jewish background who have **completed** at least bet level ulpan but who have not yet studied Talmud in a serious systematic way.

Required texts: Frank dictionary; Steinzaltz or Vilna edition of Talmud Bava Metzia

Optional texts: Jastrow dictionary



HUMASH

JUDY KLITSNER
M, W 8:30-11:45

LEVEL: INTERMEDIATE: DALET-HEH

Description and Goals: We will study selected topics in the book of Shemot in an attempt to reach an appreciation of the biblical medium and its message. The former will be reached by means of literary analysis, i.e. by attention to formal elements such as structure, context, grammar, syntax, tone, sound, convention, repetition, and imagery; and to aspects of content such as theme, motif, metaphor, and character analysis. Toward this end, students will become acquainted with, and ultimately fluent in reading the classical commentaries as well as the works of modern scholars.

This heightened sensitivity to textual nuance, together with a proficient reading of the commentaries, will help students arrive at an informed understanding of the biblical messages conveyed in sections learned.

In addition, this class will provide an introduction to the study of פרשנות, including the presentation of various hermeneutical principles, as well as the use of these principles by classical and modern commentators in resolving textual problems.

This is primarily a skills class, with emphasis placed on empowering students to become independent readers of the biblical text and its commentaries.

This class aims to cover many of the major themes in the book of Shemot, such as:

Subjugation and enslavement, racism and genocide, conscientious objection, leadership, redemption, and the birth of a nation.

Course Requirements:

1. Regular, punctual attendance (8:30 a.m., twice weekly).
2. A reasonable working knowledge of the basics of Hebrew grammar, particularly the *binyanim*. In case of a lag in knowledge of grammar, students will be asked to work independently to catch up to the level of the class.
3. Students will be required to offer class presentations on selected biblical topics, once mid-year, and once at the year's conclusion.

Recommended Reading:

1. The Five Books of the Chumash (the rest of Tanakh is recommended, too.)
2. Robert Alter, The Art of Biblical Narrative, Basic Books, Inc., NY, 1981.
3. 4. J. Weingreen, A Practical Grammar for Classical Hebrew, Second Edition, Oxford, Clarendon Press, 1959.



Required Texts (to be purchased):

1. Chumash Torat Chaim (תורת חיים), Shemot Volume 1, מוסד הרב קוק, ירושלים.
2. Tanakh, Jewish Publication Society, Philadelphia (Hebrew and English)
3. 5 books of Chumash in 1 volume with commentaries, מקראות גדולות, חורב, Jerusalem.

MISHNA/TALMUD

LEVEL- INTERM.: DALET

LEAH ROSENTHAL

Sun., Tues., Thurs. - 8:30-11:45

Introduction to the intricacies of the Talmudic discourse. Careful attention is paid to the Talmud's language, terminology and structure as we attempt to follow the discussions of the Talmud. The ultimate goal of this course is to bring students as close to independence as possible in their ability to study a page of Gemara. We will be studying Masechet Bava Metzia.

In Elul, we will be studying the 8th Chapter of Masechet Yoma.

MISHNA/TALMUD

LEVEL- ADVANCED: HEH

ZVI HIRSCHFIELD

Sun., Tues., Thurs. - 8:30-11:45

This course is intended for those who have experience with Talmud study and want to increase their knowledge and skill level. We will be studying Tractate Baba Batra. Our goal will be to become more familiar with the structure and ideas present in talmudic discourse, and begin to develop ideas about Halakha and how it operates. We will attempt to incorporate both traditional and modern approaches to Talmud study. This course will be taught in Hebrew after Elul Zman.

SHEMOT- 1ST YEAR PEP

LEVEL: PEP ONLY

ZVI GRUMET

Monday only 8:30-11:45

The question of "How do I teach this?" is almost inseparable from that of "How do I learn this?" This class focuses on Sefer Shemot - including classic *parshanut* and contemporary literary approaches - with an eye toward examining the text on both the micro and the macro levels. As we learn, we will reflect on the various methodologies and educational considerations directing our own learning, and the implications for translating our learning into meaningful and effective teaching for our own students. This class is intended primarily, but not exclusively, for students in the Pardes Educators Program.

Students should be prepared with a תנ"ך and the תורת חיים edition of Sefer Shemot.



ITT (INTENS.TANACH TRACK) THEMES IN THE PROPHETS

LEVEL: PEP & ADV.

MICHAEL HATTIN

S, Tu 8:30-11:45

This course will consider a number of concise books in Tanakh that, besides being Biblical texts, also serve a public liturgical purpose. That is to say that they are read in *Beit Kneset* as part of the prayer service, each one in its appropriate season. Our studies will include Sefer Yonah and then the five Megillot: Shir HaShirim, Ruth, Eichah, Kohelet and Esther.

We will carefully analyze the narratives of these books, approaching them as literary documents as well as considering them from the perspective of the Rabbinic Midrash, the medieval commentaries and modern scholarship. Occasionally, we will diverge from our narrative to consider a specific topic in greater detail, examining other Biblical texts and materials that shed light on the matter. Our goals are to build skills and confidence, to familiarize ourselves with the commentaries and their methodology, and to appreciate the self-referential and cross-referential qualities of the Tanakh.

Required texts: good "Mikraot Gedolot" editions of Trei Asar (for Sefer Yonah) and Chamesh Megillot (for the rest) as well as a Tanakh.

ITT (INTENSIVE TANACH TRACK) DEVARIM LEVEL: PEP & ADV.

NEIMA NOVETSKY

M, Th 8:30-11:45

Using Sefer Devarim as its point of departure, this course aims to provide the student with the tools and skills necessary to study Tanakh as a whole. As such, much emphasis will be placed on methodology and its application. We will explore Moshe's final words to the nation before entering the land of Israel in an effort to understand their import for both his generation and ours. Together with Moshe, we will review some of the nation's past mistakes and discuss such important topics as "loving God," the land of Israel and the building of society.

Books Needed:

A Torat Chayim Sefer Devarim and a 1 volume full Tanakh.



KOLLEL TALMUD

DANNY LANDES

S, Tu 8:30 – 1

FALL

LEVEL: KOLLEL

We shall study several key Sugiyot in Tractate Baba Batra, focusing on the Bavli but also employing the Yerushalmi Talmud. The goal is to develop a clear reading of the Daf, full comprehension of the Sugiyot using important and relevant Rishonim. The Sugiyot will be taken from the following:

1. חזקת הקרקעות (תחילת פרק חזקת הבתים - ג')
2. חזקת קניינים
3. תליוהו ויהיב תליוהו וזבין (תקנות כנגד פשע מאורגן)
4. חינוך ותחרות עסקית (כ', ב' - כ"ב, א')
5. צדקה (ז' - י"א, א')
6. תקנות לשמירת מחירים של מצרכי יסוד (צ' - צ"א)
7. מגבלות לעזיבת הארץ (צ"א)
8. שיעבודא דאורייתא ודרבנן (קע"ה - קע"ו)

KOLLEL RISHONIM

DANNY LANDES (FALL)/DANIEL ROTH (SPRING)

M 8:30-1

LEVEL: KOLLEL

This optional course will be a textual tutorial on the sugyot that the Kollel is learning. Open only to those taking the Kollel level Talmud course.

ADVANCED HALAKHA - Beki'ut in the Four Sections of the Shulhan [Second Year of Four Year Cycle] - Yoreh De'ah

ELISHA ANCELOVITS

W- 8:30 - 10:45

LEVEL: ADVANCED

The goals of this shiur are:

1. to learn how to unpack Halakhot in order to find the underlying values - including one's own initial values - in the sources
2. to learn to make decisions by actually incorporating all the contradictory underlying values – instead of maintaining loyalty either to the mere forms or to one's own initial perspectives

to be familiar in general with *Orah Hayyim* and to thus to be unafraid to grapple with related questions that one has *not* learned in the course of this year.

Booklist - First Semester

Suggested: Shulhan Arukh and commentaries - all of Yoreh De'ah

Required: Source Book



FOUNDATIONAL MODELS IN JEWISH THOUGHT AND PRACTICE (ADVANCED JEWISH THOUGHT)

JAMES MAISELS

LEVEL: ADVANCED

W 11-1

In this course we will explore three foundational models in medieval Jewish thought: Aristotelian Philosophy (as represented by Maimonides), Theosophic Kabbalah (as represented by Provencal and Geronese Kabbalah and the Zohar), and Pantheistic Kabbalah (as represented by the later Zohar strata, the Cordoverian tradition, and Hasidism). Together we will investigate the connections between thought and practice, theology and way of life in each of these models in an attempt to understand the inner dynamic of these approaches to Judaism. We will then use these models as a foundation and jumping off point to discuss the role and purpose of theology in Judaism and in our own lives.

12:00-1:00 -Sunday/Tuesday

MODERN JEWISH THOUGHT

DAVID LEVIN-KRUSS

LEVEL: OPEN TO ALL

S, Th 12-1

What They Think, What I Think

This course looks at the works of great Jewish thinkers as a basis for each student to develop their own personal philosophy. We will look at how time, place, movement, and history affect one's way of looking at the world. Thinkers to be studied include Buber, Kaplan, Rosenzweig, Soloveitchik, Kook, Heschel, Leibowitz, and Plaskow and a new unit on Zionist thinkers.

BEKIUT NEVI'IM RISHONIM

MICHAEL HATTIN

LEVEL: OPEN TO ALL

S, M, W, Th 12-1

The books of the Prophets or "Nevi'im" that comprise the second (and largest) section of the Tanakh are *terra incognita* to many of us. Aside from some celebrated passages, much of the material that constitutes the prophetic works – including their historical setting, primary themes, and literary techniques – is, to quote Isaiah, "like the words of a sealed book".

In this course, we will begin to remedy that situation by embarking upon a broad but comprehensive survey of the first, narrative section of the Nevi'im, namely the books of Joshua/Yehoshua, Judges/Shoftim,



Samuel/Shemuel and Kings/Melakhim. This will necessarily entail a fair amount of weekly reading by course participants, whether in Hebrew or in translation, and a part of class time will devoted to this end. In class, we will also improve Hebrew reading skills, construct a geographical and historical framework, explore important themes and motifs, and trace the textual continuity that underlies the Hebrew Bible as a whole. We will meet **four times a week** and instruction will be in English. Required text: a Hebrew Tanakh with translation.

PERSONALIZING PRAYER LEVEL: INTRO/ /INTERMEDIATE
TOVAH LEAH NACHMANI
S, Th 12-1 (Fall)

What makes it so universally challenging to pray?

Spiritual philosopher A.J. Heschel wrote: "Sometimes the words of prayer are locked, other times they are open."

We will endeavor to unlock the words of prayer by studying traditional prayer texts in Hebrew and English. By investigating their ancient origins, we will understand the individual's words of prayer in a wider historical and national context. Underlying our exploration will be the timeless aims of broadening and deepening our existential human quests.

Writings of great spiritual thinkers about 'why we pray' will accompany our learning, offering varied inspirations for personalizing prayer.

BIBLICAL HEBREW GRAMMAR LEVEL: INTERM.
PERETZ RODMAN
S, Th 12-1

Students of Tanakh and those who have occasion to read or chant biblical texts often want to learn how to bring each word and each verse into sharper focus, to be able to understand them—and pronounce or chant them—with greater precision. This introduction to the sounds, word structures, and sentence structures that characterize Biblical Hebrew—a dialect distinct from modern Hebrew—can help make that happen. Students will examine the complex verb system and how it is used in storytelling, and learn how to use cantillation marks (*te'amim*, *trop*) as an aid to comprehension.



PARSHAT HASHAVUA (In Hebrew)

MEIR SCHWEIGER
S, Th 12-1

LEVEL: INTERM./ ADV.

Study of the weekly Parsha with emphasis on the medieval commentators, especially Rashi and the Ramban.

Students are expected to read through the Parsha before class, and to bring a Torat Chaim/ Mikraot Gedolot with them to each session.

12:00-1:00 - Monday/Wednesday

**TURNING POINTS IN MODERN
JEWISH HISTORY**

DAVID BERNSTEIN

LEVEL: OPEN TO ALL

M, W 12-1 (Fall only)

HOW DID WE GET HERE? How did Jews become equal citizens, develop denominations, and create a Jewish State? What were the ways in which Jews coped with modernization? How is it that Germany turned on its Jews? In what ways did Jews react? These are just some of the questions that we will deal with in trying to grapple with the major turning points in modern Jewish history, from the French Revolution through the late 20th century. Each class will usually revolve around a primary historical source, which students will be assigned to read at least a day before class.

We will also set aside a small amount of time for “Israel as Laboratory”, student reflections on “the good, the bad, and the ugly” aspects of life in Israel.

Highly recommended for those joining the Pardes trip to Poland in January.

SIDDUR

YAFFA EPSTEIN
M, W 12:00 - 1:00

LEVEL: OPEN TO ALL

This class will be exploring the Kabbalat Shabbat service, as well as the Shabbat Evening prayer service with an eye to the structure, language and expression of the prayers. We will also attempt to discover the deeper meanings within the text of the prayers. The class is open to all levels and all sources will be in both English and Hebrew. During Elul we will be studying selected prayers of the High Holidays



WOMEN AND MITZVOT

RAHEL BERKOVITS LEVEL: INTERM/-FALL/INTRO - SPRING
M 12-1

Women's role in traditional practice and Jewish society will be explored through the study of classical and contemporary legal texts. We will examine women's participation in and practice of a number of different rituals. Some of the topics we will discuss are Torah study, Shabbat/festival rituals, and prayer in the synagogue, such as reading from the Torah and counting in the *minyan*. Questions of custom vs. law, societal/historical influences, and future development will be addressed. The course will focus on textual analysis and interpretation.

BEKIUT NACH

LEVEL: PEP ONLY

NEIMA NOVETSKY
Monday only 12-1

This course is part of a two year independent study program aiming to familiarize the student with the historical narratives of נ"ך and their accompanying prophetic material. This year we will cover the Early Prophets, from the period of the conquest through to the period of monarchy. Most of the learning is to be done independently with class devoted to review and discussion from the perspective of both student and future teacher.

Books Needed:

A 1 volume full Tanakh. Study Guides will be provided by the instructor.

2:30-5:00 - Sunday/Tuesday

HALAKHA

LEVEL: INTRODUCTORY

ZVI HIRSCHFIELD
S, TU 2:30-5

The focus of this course is on learning classic halakhic texts (Maimonides, Shulchan Arukh with commentaries) in order to equip students with the skills to explore the world of halakha. We will also be studying modern halakhic works and responsa. The combination of classic and modern texts will enable students to gain an understanding of the halakhic process, as well as knowledge of practical halakha.

We will be studying the laws of: relevant holidays and Shabbat.

There will be source booklets, which students will be expected to purchase. All sources will be provided in Hebrew and English. There is no expectation of commitment to Halakhic observance.



JEWISH SOCIAL JUSTICE
MEESH HAMMER-KOSSOY
S, TU 2:30-5

LEVEL : OPEN TO ALL

Social Justice Track

We all want to build a better world, but how should that world look? How should we get there?

Class is open to all levels. All sources will be provided in both Hebrew and English. Because one of our major goals is to see how Jewish values are being translated into social issues in Israel today, students enrolling in this course are also committing to attend supplementary lectures and field trips, as described below.

What we hope to achieve:

To Define a Jewish Vision(s) of Social Justice through Jewish text

To give current and future activists the tools to use Jewish text to inform and inspire their work.

To learn about the state of the field and the specific challenges in the State of Israel with the help of supplemental guest lectures and field visits

What we will do to get there:

A close study of Jewish texts, primarily Talmud and codes, around issues of the environment, economic justice, democracy, treatment of minority groups within and outside the Jewish community in Israel

Supplementary lectures by experts in the field, in both governmental and non-profit sectors. Most of these lectures will be during lunch before the class or on Tuesday during "Critical Issues."

Field trips, many will be on Sunday afternoons (during, before and after class), with a few on other times.

Students are strongly encouraged to take a leadership role in the community service component of the Pardes program.

Service component of the Pardes program (Thursday afternoon volunteering) is mandatory.

CREATING HOLINESS IN TIME

LEVEL: INTERM.

(Designed for PEP but all Pardes students are welcome)

DAVID LEVIN-KRUSS
S, Tu 2:30-5 (Fall only)

Studying each of the holidays and their meaning is a complete introduction to Jewish values. This course will examine the changing significance of each holy day from bible to modern times but with a specific emphasis on the development of the Oral Law and Rabbinic thought. We will focus on how successive generations of scholars respond to questions raised by their predecessors and continuously develop new approaches, ideas, and themes for the Holy days. We will



also emphasize exploring our personal connection to these Holy days and think about we would like to connect to the Jewish Calendar.

YEHOSHUA/SHOFTIN

LEVEL : ITT

MICHAEL HATTIN

S, Th 2:30-5

The Biblical books of Yehoshua and Shoftim describe the great challenges faced by the people of Israel as they enter and settle their new land, a lengthy process that takes hundreds of years. These challenges take many forms: overcoming earlier failures and inadequacies, confronting hostile coalitions on the battlefield, struggling with pervasive and inimical cultural values and making the difficult transition from a nomadic to a settled way of life. Overshadowing the whole is one burning issue: what are the hallmarks of successful leadership?

In this course, we will carefully study the main narratives of these books, approaching them as literary documents as well as considering them from the perspective of the Rabbinic Midrash, the mediaeval commentaries and modern scholarship. Occasionally, we will diverge from our narrative to consider a specific topic in greater detail, examining other Biblical texts and materials that shed light on the matter. Our goals are to build skills and confidence, to familiarize ourselves with the commentaries and their methodology, and to appreciate the self-referential and cross-referential qualities of the Tanakh.

Required texts: a good "Mikraot Gedolot" edition of Yehoshua/Shoftim (recommended – Mikraot Gedolot HaKeter published by Bar Ilan University) and a Tanakh.

ADVANCED BEMIDBAR (F)

LEVEL: ADVANCED

ALEX ISRAEL

S, Th 2:30 -5

We will study the Book of Bemidbar which describes the camp of Israel in the Wilderness, and the wonderfully human rebellions, blunders and sins that hinder the nation's journey to the promised land.

We shall use close readings of the Biblical text alongside traditional commentaries, Midrash, a range of literary techniques, and contemporary scholars. Attention will be paid to content but also to methodology and skill building.

Books: Tanakh and a Mikraot Gedolot/Torat Chayim on the book of Bemidbar.



2:30-5:00 -Monday/Wednesday

TEXTS OF THE RAMBAM

LEVEL: INTRODUCTORY

LEVI COOPER

M, W 2:30 -5

The fascination with Maimonides – or MYmonides, as so many claim – transcends the divisions between different streams of Judaism. Indeed, the writings of Maimonides (Rambam) are filled with gems in the field of Jewish Law and Philosophy, their structure, logic and meaning, and it seems every faction wants to claim him for their own. With this in mind we will study key texts from the Rambam's magnum opus, משנה תורה. Texts will be prepared before class, and will be reviewed and discussed when we meet. Parallel and complementary sources will be discussed and their implication explored. Special attention will be given not only to content of the text, but also to the personality of the רמב"ם, his style, contribution and unique place in Jewish history. This class will also assist in honing Hebrew skills as we will examine the sources in the original accessible Hebrew of Maimonides.

1st Semester

We will study texts of the Rambam, beginning with ספר מדע in the משנה תורה. In the first month of study we will focus on the laws of repentance in preparation for the ימים נוראים.

2nd Semester

Continuing from the first semester, we will explore passages from elsewhere in the משנה תורה, including how the halakhic legal system should ideally work, what the Messianic age will look like and other highlights. The class will operate on two levels – a *bekiyut* level aimed at covering ground and honing skills, and an *iyun* level aimed at delving into particular issues and exploring their implication. We will supplement our study by looking at some of the Rambam's other writings.

Text: Entire set of משנה תורה (the one volume edition with dots is recommended)

EISH KODESH

LEVEL: OPEN TO ALL

JAMES MAISELS

W 11-1

The Piaseczner Rebbe: Transformation of Body, Heart, Mind and Soul In this course we will explore the teachings of R. Kalonymus Kalmish Shapira, the Piaseczner Rebbe and the Rebbe of the Warsaw Ghetto. Looking at both his pre-war and wartime works we will examine what he thinks it means to be a Jew and a human being, the divine nature of our body, emotions, thoughts and spirit, and how we awaken to that divine nature. In addition we will consider a number of additional themes in his



work including his teachings of spiritual resistance to Nazi oppression, his notion of a suffering God, his educational theory, and his understanding of spiritual practice. Texts will be provided in English and Hebrew and students will be expected to work in the original to the best of their ability. Class will meet M/W 2:30-5:00. Hevrutah study will take place on Monday and class will take place on Wednesday.

HALAKHA

LEVEL: INTERMEDIATE

MEIR SCHWEIGER

S, Th 2:30-5

This course will focus on practical halakha. We will study a number of areas: holidays, shabbat, kashrut, blessings and prayers, and some life cycle events. All study will be done from halakhic texts, so that an additional goal will be to familiarize the students with the most important Halakhic texts, from Mishna and Talmud to Maimonides and the Shulkhan Arukh. We will see some modern halakhic works as well, including responsa, with an eye to getting a feel for halakhic process. This class pre-supposes minimal exposure to both halakhic practice and texts, and there is no expectation of any level of halakhic observance.

BEKIUT TALMUD

LEVEL: INTERM./ADVANCED

YAFFA EPSTEIN

M, W 2:30-5

This course will attempt to give the student exposure to a large amount of Talmudic content. We will be focusing on covering ground, and amassing an understanding of how the Talmud page workd on a more Macro level. We will be focusing on concepts, methodology, and fine tuning existing skills. We will be studying Chapters four and five of Tractate Ketubot. During Elul we will be studying the fourth chapter of Tractate Rosh Hashanna.

EVENING CLASSES

TORAH TROP CANTILLATION

LEVEL : OPEN TO ALL

ELISA PEARLMAN

Sunday 5:15-6:15 pm

The word 'ta'am' means 'flavor' and the 'ta'amei hamikrah' (trope marks) not only show us how to chant each word in the Tanakh, but also add 'flavor' i.e. enhance the text too.



During this course students will acquire the tools to chant any part of Torah, while also looking at how the trope functions as an interpretation to the text.

MEGILLAT ESTHER CANTILLATION LEVEL : OPEN TO ALL
Sunday 6:15-7:15pm
ELISA PEARLMAN

Learn to chant this special trope in preparation for Purim.

HASIDUT LEVEL: OPEN TO ALL
LEVI COOPER
M 5:15-6:45; W 5:15-6:45

In this course we will walk the spiritual path of חסידות, meeting central personalities, becoming familiar with key ideas and having an appreciation for the historical and social development of the movement that has given so much to Judaism.

This course does not purport to be an introduction to Hassidic thought nor an exhaustive history of the movement, though it touches on both introductory aspects and history.

Hasidic songs – *niggunim* – will also be introduced and explored (beginning October). The final section of the course will deal with contemporary hasidic phenomena.

Each week participants will be assigned tasks – “spiritual homework” – connected to the passages discussed that must be completed outside class and then discussed in *havruta* at the beginning of the next class.

Text: Maor VaShamesh

Sources will be read in Hebrew from the original text.

Hebrew is not a prerequisite, a willingness to be dedicated to the class is.

HALAKHA BE-IYYUN-
[Third Year of Three Year Cycle] – Laws of Aveilut, Niddah, and Huppah ve-Kiddushin

ELISHA ANCELOVITS LEVEL: ADVANCED
Wednesdays: 5:15 - 7:15 (Additional Personal Hours of Havruta Study are Required)

The goals of this shiur are:

- to learn how to unpack Halakhot in order to find the underlying values - including one's own initial values - in the sources
- to learn to make decisions by actually incorporating all the contradictory underlying values – instead of maintaining loyalty either to the mere forms or to one's own initial perspectives



- to learn Halakhot in depth from Tanakh through 2nd Temple and Tannaim and until contemporary poskim.

Booklist - First Semester

Suggested: Tur/Beit Yosef /Shulhan Arukh Yoreh De'ah on Niddah (and critical edition of all of Tosefta)

Required: (1) Source Books (2) Shulhan Arukh - Yoreh De'ah on Aveilut (3) Shulhan Arukh - Yoreh De'ah on Niddah

NIGHT SEDER (SEDER EREV)

LEVEL: OPEN TO ALL

M 7-9 pm

Teacher Guide: YAFFA EPSTEIN

Seder Erev provides a unique opportunity for students to use the resources of the *Beit Midrash* at their own pace, outside the regular hours, in a relaxed atmosphere. Students can take advantage of this once-a-week opportunity to investigate a particular area of interest, strive over the year to complete a *sefer*, or review material studied during the regular programme. A sterling opportunity to fulfill the Divine precept of Talmud Torah during the quiet hours.

Seder Erev will also provide an opportunity for first year students to study with more advanced students including Fellows and PEP. This is also a chance for people on different levels with common interests to study together.

Pardes faculty will be on hand to provide guidance and to answer questions.

SCRIBAL ARTS

LEVEL: OPEN TO ALL

DOV LAIMON

W 7:15-8:45 pm

In this hands-on seminar, students will learn the script used in writing *Sifrei Torah*, *tefillin*, and *mezuzot*, how to make a quill and write on parchment. The course will provide an introduction to the many intricate halachot determining when a letter is kosher, and how *tefillin* and *mezuzot* must be written, as well as an investigation of the deep meaning of the alef-bet in classical texts.

THINKING LIKE A HALAKHIC SAGE

LEVEL: OPEN TO ALL

ELISHA ANCSELOVITS

WEDNESDAYS: 7:30-9:30 PM (two-semester course)

“You may polish up commonsense, you may contradict [it] in detail, and you may surprise it. But ultimately your whole task is to satisfy it” – Alfred North Whitehead



In this course we discover that Halakhic legal language at its best has been a shorthand language, which *facilitates* a discussion of the many sides of a given issue that have been and will continue to be rebalanced throughout the course of Halakhic and human history. Accordingly, we will first learn to use Halakhic terminology and categories correctly as an aid to making wise decisions instead of erring in confusing the Halakhic terms (the symbols) for the actual discourse inherent in the terms (the objects). Second, we will learn to thinking both inductively and intuitively instead of deductively, learn to understand and incorporate the diversity of human needs, in making normative and ethical decisions. The goal of this course is to learn to integrate Halakhic and personal decision-making in order to make wise Judaic decisions.

Booklist: Source Books

CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP LEVEL: OPEN TO ALL
ILENE PRUSHER
Tuesdays, 8-9:30 p.m. starts Oct. 25

In the Pardes Writing Workshop, we infuse our weekly writing practice with text and tradition – spanning from the parshat hashavua and midrashim to upcoming holidays and lifecycle events. With guidance from the broader world of writing and literature, we build an environment that enables us to connect to our learning on a deeper level and to develop a creative voice.

For some students, this presents an opportunity to complete a story not clear in the text -- in the form of modern midrash. For others, it's a chance to tell our own life story -- a Torah-inspired memoir.

SPRING SEMESTER COURSES

RELATIONSHIPS LEVEL: OPEN TO ALL
TOVAH LEAH NACHMANI
S, Th 12-1 (Spring)

The goal of this course is to enhance our most challenging relationships in a practical way. Common points of tension and conflict - with siblings and with friends, between lovers, between parents and children, among students and teachers, and between individual and community - will open up venues of becoming more attentive and compassionate in all of our relationships.

A broad range of texts will be explored -from Torah, Mishna, and Talmud, to Medieval, Hasidic and Modern thinkers –alongside practical writing exercises with the aim of integrating our learning and our living.

Prerequisites: Spiritual curiosity, an inquiring mind, and an open heart.



TALMUDIC PERSONALITIES

LEVEL: OPEN TO ALL

LEAH ROSENTHAL

S, Th 12-1

The class will read classic rabbinic texts focusing on different Mishnaic or Talmudic personalities. As we read, we will attempt to gain insight into the literary character and ideological representation of each great figure. The goal of the class is to create a multi-dimensional context which will inform our reading of rabbinic texts.

HALAKHA

LEVEL: INTRO.

MEIR SCHWEIGER

S, Th 2:30-5

This course will focus on practical halakha. We will study a number of areas: holidays, shabbat, kashrut, blessings and prayers, and some life cycle events. All study will be done from halakhic texts, so that an additional goal will be to familiarize the students with the most important Halakhic texts, from Mishna and Talmud to Maimonides and the Shulkhan Arukh. We will see some modern halakhic works as well, including responsa, with an eye to getting a feel for halakhic process. This class pre-supposes minimal exposure to both halakhic practice and texts, and there is no expectation of any level of halakhic observance.

We will be working from a source booklet, which everyone will be expected to purchase.

PARDES PEACE AND CONFLICT TRACK (*Rodfei Shalom*)

DANIEL ROTH

LEVEL: OPEN TO ALL

S, Tu 2:30-5

We all know how to create conflicts, but how good are we at pursuing peace and reconciliation?

The Goal of the track is to help transform ourselves in to becoming knowledgeable, conscious and active *Rodfei Shalom* (Jewish Peace makers) in our homes, communities and societies. The primary method of the track is to combine the study of traditional Jewish Texts, contemporary academic literature from the field of Conflict Resolution, together with processing in small groups the studied material back into our lives. In addition to the bi-weekly afternoon class, students will be expected to participate in additional classes and events. These include, a once a month video lecture with Prof. Marc Gopin, Professor of Religion, Diplomacy and Conflict Resolution, and the Director of the Center on Religion, Diplomacy and Conflict Resolution at George Mason University's Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution. A once a month lunch time session with local guest 'peacemakers'. One to two class field trips (i.e. Tour of Religious Narratives in the Old City), and



attending at least two 'peacemaking' events/trips not in the framework of the class.

Sample classes from the syllabus include: *The Identity and Methods of Rabbinic Peacemakers*; *Soft on Criminals or Hard on Penitents? Restorative Justice and Reconciling with Criminals*; *Forgiveness and Reconciliation*; *War Heroes or War Criminals? The Debate over Collective Punishment Then and Now*.

SELF, SOUL AND TEXT

JAMES MAISELS

M, W 2:30-5

LEVEL: OPEN TO ALL

SPIRITUAL TEXTS AND PRACTICES IN JUDAISM

In this course we will study a range of Jewish spiritual practices through the close reading of a series of texts describing these practices and their theological and philosophical context. Through this reading we will gain religious, philosophical, historical and terminological depth in the nature of Jewish spiritual practice, particularly from the mystical tradition. We will then perform together the practices themselves, both as a way to deepen our own spiritual lives and provide us with spiritual tools (and options), and as a way to more fully understand the texts and practitioners we are studying. (In each class we will spend forty-five minutes in hevrutah studying texts, an hour in shiur exploring these texts together, a half hour performing the practice, and fifteen minutes processing the experience of the practice and its relation to the text.) This course will involve intellect, soul, heart and body and so participants are asked to come with intellectual, emotional, and spiritual openness and the willingness to experiment.