



RABBINICAL SCHOOL  
RB-RAB-301A-C1  
CORE TEXT: RABBINICS – NASHIM U'GEVARIM  
JANE KANAREK  
3 Graduate Credits  
SPRING 2019

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Phone: 617.559.8623

Email: [jkanarek@hebrewcollege.edu](mailto:jkanarek@hebrewcollege.edu)

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

As future rabbis, you are in the process of both learning the words of your predecessors as well as adding your own voices to the tradition. This course is designed to enable you to take your next step as a link in our tradition's voice. We will focus on two components: selections from the first chapter of מסכת קידושין and selected readings on rabbinic conceptions of gender. Sugyot will concentrate on קידושי כסף, thus enabling us to examine rabbinic ideas about betrothal and gender. English readings focus on a variety of different issues in the study of rabbinic Judaism and gender. They have been chosen to provide you with a wider and deeper understanding of rabbinic conceptions of gender as well as to expand further the range of questions one can ask of a sugya.

In addition, we will begin the study of ראשונים, adding yet another layer to our interpretive tradition. Just as the אמוראים comment on and reshape the words of their predecessors, the תנאים, so too the ראשונים reshape the words of the בבלי. Studying various ראשונים will also enable you to see the range of questions that have been brought to the בבלי by its readers and help create one more link to which you will be adding your own questions and interpretations.

This class aims to solidify and build on your previously acquired textual skills. These skills include the ability to:

- Identify, translate, and define words that function as sugya building blocks (מונחים טכניים)
- Identify a sugya's layers
- Know why you don't understand something in a sugya

- Ask a range of questions about a sugya
- Use רש"י as a help and not a hindrance
- Begin to use ראשונים as an interpretive tool
- See the ways in which form and content together create meaning
- Gain a knowledge of the history of the study of women/gender and rabbinic Judaism
- Enjoy studying Talmud
- Begin formulating an answer to the question:

Why study נשים סדר?

Why study נשים סדר as a rabbi-to-be?

## BENCHMARKS

- Further command of Mishnaic and Talmudic idiom and exposition (hebrew grammar)
- Ability to prepare independently a סוגיא of moderate complexity (rabbinic literacy)
- Familiarity with the dictionaries and resources of the בית מדרש that help with תלמוד preparation (rabbinic literacy)
- Familiarity with scholarship on rabbinic Judaism and gender (core knowledge)
- Knowledge of concepts of male and female in rabbinic culture (core knowledge)

## REQUIREMENTS

### 1. Preparation of the Sugya.

You will be expected to come to class with a good (but not perfect) understanding of the סוגיא. This includes being able to read the sugya with the correct pronunciation and punctuation, identify and translate מונחים טכניים, identify the sugya's layers (tannaitic, amoraic, anonymous), and describe the sugya's argument structure. These are all skills that we will work on together, but it is essential that you come to class on time and well prepared!

*Do not use English translations or the Steinsaltz Hebrew commentary while preparing for שיעור. While translations may solve your immediate question, in the long run they do not help you acquire the skills to become an independent (and independently thoughtful) learner.*

### 2. Secondary Reading.

Each week, we will read and discuss one academic article. For each article, please write the following:

- a. A three-sentence description of the author's main argument. Your description should include the author's thesis and the main points that the author uses to build the argument.

**b.** A two-sentence reflection on how the ideas in this article might better help you to read our rabbinic material.

*Note: The articles will not always correspond exactly to the topic of the day's sugya, so your reflection can be on the sugya we are discussing or on other sugyot that we have read in the course. However, your reflection must connect to the sugyot we are studying in class.*

**These short pieces are due before class. Please send them to me via Schoology.**

**3. Midterm.**

The midterm will be in-class and will focus on material from the assigned sugyot.

**4. Final.**

The final will have two components, in class and take-home.

*Talmud assignments and articles will be posted on Schoology.*

## ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Please do not use your cell-phone in class. This includes texting. If for any reason you do need to use your phone in class, please let me know why.

I would prefer if you did not use computers or tablets in class while we are studying sugyot (more on why not in class). In any case, do not use the internet or email. If people do use the internet or email during class, then "I prefer" will become a no computers/tablets policy.

## COURSE ACCOMMODATIONS FOR DISABILITIES

Hebrew College is committed to ensuring the full participation of all students in programs. Accordingly, if a student has a documented disability, and as a result, needs a reasonable accommodation to attend, participate or complete course requirements, then he or she should inform the instructor at the beginning of the course as well as the Director of Student Support. For further information, see the Student Handbook at [http://hebrewcollege.edu/sites/default/files/student\\_handbook.pdf](http://hebrewcollege.edu/sites/default/files/student_handbook.pdf).

*If you require course accommodations because of a documented disability or an emergency medical condition, please email your instructor as soon as possible. We are happy to work with you on any issues you have to ensure that you can participate fully in the class and complete the course requirements. Please do not wait until the assignments are due for a retroactive accommodation, but discuss the situation with your instructor before you experience difficulty.*

## TEXTS FOR PURCHASE

בבלי קידושין

---

February 5

משנה קידושין

תוספתא, מדרש הלכה

“Why study seder Nashim?”

February 7

משנה קידושין

תוספתא, מדרש הלכה

❖ Charlotte E. Fonrobert, Jane L. Kanarek, Marjorie Lehman. “Introduction.” *Nashim: A Journal of Jewish Women’s Studies and Gender Issues*, 28 (5775/2015): 5-8.

\*\*\*Special Writing Assignment: List the different approaches to feminist readings of the Talmud mentioned in this introduction. Please also include one question that arises from this reading for you.

February 12

קידושין ב ע”א - ג ע”א

משנה – בעל אבידה מחזר על אבידתו

❖ Judith Romney Wegner. “Chattel or Person?” and “The Autonomous Woman” in *Chattel or Person? The Status of Women in the Mishnah*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1988. 10-19, 114-144, 220—221, 234-239.

February 14

קידושין ב ע”א - ג ע”א

משנה - בעל אבידה מחזר על אבידתו

February 19

ג ע”א - ג ע”ב

מניינא דרישא למעוטי מאי - ואין דבר אחר כורתה

❖ Judith Hauptman. “Ritual,” in *Rereading the Rabbis: A Woman’s Voice*. Westview Press, 1998. 221-243.

February 21

ג ע"א - ג ע"ב

מניינא דרישא למעוטי מאי - ואין דבר אחר כורתה

February 26

ג ע"ב

בכסף מנלן – כל שבח נעורים לאביה

- ❖ Daniel Boyarin. "Lusting after Learning: The Torah as 'the Other Woman.'" in *Carnal Israel: Reading Sex in Talmudic Culture*, University of California Press, 1993. 134-166.

February 28

ד ע"ב

ותנא מייתי ליה מהכא – ולא כי תקח

March 5 (no class)

March 7

ד ע"ב

ותנא מייתי לה - ולא כי תקח

- ❖ Charlotte Fonrobert. "The Hermeneutics of Colors and Stains: The Rabbinic Science of Women's Blood," in *Menstrual Purity: Rabbinic and Christian Reconstructions of Biblical Gender*. Stanford University Press, 2000. 103-127, 256-265.

March 12

ה ע"ב

ת"ר כיצד בכסף - וחיישינן מדרבנן

- ❖ Gail Labovitz. "My Wife I Called My House" Elaborating the Metaphor of Women as Property," in *Marriage and Metaphor: Constructions of Gender in Rabbinic Literature*. Lexington Books, 2009. 97-146.

March 14

ת"ר כיצד בכסף - וחיישינן מדרבנן

March 19

*Midterm*

March 26

ו ע"א

ת"ר הרי את אשתי - תיקון

- ❖ Miriam Peskowitz. "Spinning Tails: On Reading Gender and Otherness in Tannaitic Texts." in *The Other in Jewish Thought and History: Constructions of Jewish Culture and Identity*, ed. Lawrence J. Silberstein and Robert L. Cohn, New York University Press, 1994. 91-120.

March 28

ו ע"א

ת"ר הרי את אשתי - תיקון

- ❖ Michael Satlow, "Homoeroticism" in *Tasting the Dish: Rabbinic Rhetorics of Sexuality*. Scholars Press, 1995. 185-222.

April 2

ו ע"א

גופא היה מדבר - אין הכי נמי

April 4

ו ע"ב

אמר רבא – דרבא כוותיך

- ❖ Daniel Boyarin. "Rabbis and Their Pals" in *Unheroic Conduct: The Rise of Heterosexuality and the Invention of the Jewish Man*. University of California Press, 1997. 127-150.

April 11

ז ע"ב

בעי רבא הילך מנה ואקדש אני לך – גמרה ומקניא ליה נפשה

- ❖ Cynthia M. Baker. "Inside Out and Outside In" in *Rebuilding the House of Israel: Architectures of Gender in Jewish Antiquity*. Stanford University Press, 2002. 113-144, 216-226.

April 16

ח ע"ב

ת"ר התקדשי לי במנה נטלתו – הכי דמחייבת ביה את

- ❖ Gwynn Kessler. "Let's Cross That Body When We Get to It: Gender and Ethnicity in Rabbinic Literature." *JAAR* 73: 2005, 329-359.

April 18

ח ע"ב – ט ע"א

ההוא גברא – כרבא אמר רב נחמן

April 30

ח ע"ב – ט ע"א

ההוא גברא – כרבא אמר רב נחמן

- ❖ Sarra Lev. "Inside/Outside: The Rabbinic Negotiation of Binaries. BT Me'ilah 15b-16a." *Nashim: A Journal of Jewish Women's Studies and Gender Issues*, 28 (5775/2015): 106-119.

May 2

יב ע"ב – יג ע"א

ההוא גברא דאקדיש בשוטיא דאסא – לכו חושו ליה

May 7

יב ע"ב – יג ע"א

ההוא גברא דאקדיש בשוטיא דאסא – לכו חושו ליה

May 9 – Putting the Big Picture Together: Review

May 14 – No class (Review in Beit Midrash)

May 16 – In-Class Final

May 17 – Take-Home Final Due