

Rabbinical School
CG-HEBRW-208: Rabbinic Hebrew
Harvey N. Bock
2 Graduate Credits
Spring 2019

Contact Information:

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Course Description:

This course will focus on the distinctive features of the Hebrew of post-biblical literature, from early tannaitic material through medieval writing, with a closing reading from the highly classical Hebrew of S.Y. Agnon. The course will combine discussion of the language of this corpus and careful reading of representative texts. Hebrew 5–7 (or their equivalents) are a prerequisite.

Learning Objectives:

The goal of the course is to advance the students' ability to read rabbinic literature with precision of pronunciation, grammatical analysis, and comprehension.

Required Texts:

M. Jastrow, *Dictionary of the Targumim, the Talmud Babli and Yerushalmi, and the Midrashic Literature* (New York: Title Publishing 1943; and subsequent editions)

Other Resources:

R. Alcalay, *The Complete Hebrew-English Dictionary—New Enlarged Edition* (Tel Aviv/New York: Chemed Books/Yedioth Ahronoth 2000)

א' אבן-שושן, *המלון החדש* (ירושלים: קרית ספר 1997)

Rav-Milim (online Hebrew-Hebrew dictionary):

<http://ezproxy.hebrewcollege.edu:2048/login?url=http://www.ravmilim.co.il/>

Assessment:

Student assessment will be based on pre-class preparation, in-class participation, and a final project.

Course Structure

Week of:	
2/4	Introduction to Post-Biblical Rabbinic Hebrew; Tannaitic Hebrew
2/11	Mishnah
2/18	Mishnah (cont'd)
2/25	Tosefta
3/4	Halkahic Midrash
3/11	Aggadic Midrash
3/18	Aggadic Midrash (cont'd)
3/25	PURIM
4/1	Medieval Bible Commentary: Rashi
4/8	Medieval Bible Commentary: Other
4/15	Maimonides
4/29	Agnon
5/6	Agnon (cont'd)
Reading Week	Agnon (cont'd)

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.

For further information, see the Student Handbook at

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.