



GRADUATE LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS
AT HEBREW COLLEGE

COURSES OF INSTRUCTION

Spring Semester 2024-2025 Classes

February 3 – May 16, 2025

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Academic Support Services

Hebrew College is committed to being an inclusive learning institution and community, supporting all students to the extent possible to engage fully with the courses of study. Hebrew College seeks to enhance the quality of learning by offering services and support to students with disabilities who need additional help in their academic coursework.

To learn more, please:

- Visit the “Academic Support Services Policies and Procedures” in the Academic Catalog,
- Or contact Ildi Szekely Director of Academic Support Services, at iszekely@hebrewcollege.edu

General Information

Courses listed below are all credit-bearing unless marked otherwise. If you would like to take one of the listed classes for non-credit (which is the same as “auditing” the class), please send an email to the registrar at registrar@hebrewcollege.edu. Students who are registered for non-credit will not receive a grade at the conclusion of the course and will be expected to be mostly silent observers during class discussions.

PLEASE NOTE: We use the online platform Schoology for our online courses. The majority of our on-campus courses also use the online platform to provide readings and other information to the students. You must have an email address to participate.

Registration is not complete until you pay your tuition. You will not receive access to Schoology until registration is complete.

Tuition and Fees

Registration fee: *(This fee is non-refundable)*

Credit courses only	\$120 per semester
Combination of Credit and Non-credit courses	\$120 per semester
Non-Credit Courses only	\$ 60 per semester

TUITION FOR RABBINICAL SCHOOL COURSES (EXCLUDING THOSE BEING CHARGED BLOCK TUITION)

# Credits	Credit Price	Non-Credit
1 credit	\$1,280	\$ 390
2 credits	\$2,560	\$ 780
3 credits	\$3,840	\$1,170
4 credits	\$5,120	\$1,560

TUITION FOR MASTER’S AND CERTIFICATE OF JEWISH EDUCATION COURSES (EXCLUDING THOSE BEING CHARGED BLOCK TUITION)

# Credits	Master’s Degree Credit Price	Certificate Credit Price
1 credit	\$660	\$646
2 credits	\$1,320	\$1,292
3 credits	\$1,980	\$1,938
4 credits	\$2,640	\$2,584

Questions about tuition and fees? Contact Student Services at studentservices@hebrewcollege.edu.

Calendar

For rabbinic and cantorial students

- Fall courses begin on Monday, February 3, 2025, and end on Friday, May 9.
- Add/Drop period ends on Tuesday, February 18.

For Jewish education students

- Education modules 3 begin on Monday, February 3, and end on Wednesday, March 19.
- Add/Drop period for module 3 classes ends on Friday, February 7.
- Education modules 4 begin on Monday, March 24, and end on Friday, May 9.
- Add/Drop period for module 2 classes ends on Friday, March 28.

The last day of instruction for spring courses is Friday, May 16, and all final work must be turned in by Friday, May 16 at 1:00 pm EST. Grades will be posted by Wednesday, May 28, 2025.

The complete Academic Calendar may be viewed here: hebrewcollege.edu/resources/academic-calendar/

Dropping/Withdrawing from a Course

You may drop a course during the Add/Drop Period by returning to the Hebrew College Student Portal, in Campus Café, and dropping the course. If you do not have access to Campus Café, please contact the Registrar at registrar@hebrewcollege.edu.

If you withdraw from a course after Add/Drop is over, you must email the Registrar's Office and include a [Course Withdrawal Form](#). *The student is responsible for notifying the Registrar's Office when withdrawing from any course.* A conversation with the instructor is not sufficient. If the Registrar's Office is not notified, you will be responsible for full course tuition and not entitled to any sort of refund.

Refunds for withdrawals are offered up to and including the end of the fourth week of classes. Students withdrawing from class after the fourth week of classes are no longer eligible to receive a refund.

Refunds will be applied as follows:

- During the Add/Drop period: 100 percent tuition refund
- First week after Add/Drop period ends: 50 percent tuition refund.
- Second week after Add/Drop period ends: 25 percent tuition refund.
- No tuition refund after two weeks past end of Add/Drop period.

Students receiving Federal Direct Loans are subject to federally mandated refund regulations. Please contact the Financial Aid Office for further information: 617.559.8726 or financialaid@hebrewcollege.edu.

Students with extenuating financial circumstances may contact the financial aid office for special consideration: 617.559.8726 or financialaid@hebrewcollege.edu.

COURSES OF INSTRUCTION

Please note: course information is subject to change. Please check with your advisor, department head, or faculty if you have any questions, or contact the Registrar's Office at registrar@hebrewcollege.edu.

JANUARY INTENSIVE SEMINARS

Zionism

Dan Judson

HIS510

1 graduate credit

Tuesday-Thursday, January 14-16, 9:30 am – 4:00 pm

Non-Hebrew College ordination students need permission of the instructor to enroll

In this seminar we will explore the foundational ideas and events of the Zionist movement from its beginnings through the creation of the state. The course will begin by placing Zionism within the wider canvass of late 19th century European history. We will then move through Zionist history in a roughly chronological fashion, looking at the major thinkers of the movement – Herzl, Ahad Ha-am, Kook, Jabotinsky – while also covering the major political events – The Zionist Congresses, the Balfour Declaration, The British Mandate, etc. While this course is not designed to focus solely on the conflict with the Palestinians, the relationship between Zionism and the Arab communities within and around Palestine will be one of our primary concerns.

From Diversity to Pluralism: Religious Leadership in an Interreligious Age (Section 1)

Rabbi Or Rose

INT510-1

Non-Credit

Tuesday-Thursday, January 21-23, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm & Friday, January 24, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

The course is required for all new Hebrew College students.

It is open to all Hebrew College degree students and non-students working in the fields of Jewish Education or Jewish Communal Service and interested BTI students and alums.

We live in one of the most religiously diverse societies in the history of humankind. How can we cultivate an ethos of dignified engagement both within our communities of practice and across religious traditions? What are the ethical underpinnings—values and dispositions—that support such an effort? What theological resources might we draw on for this sacred work? What are some historical and contemporary models of individual and communal engagement that we can learn from as we develop our intra/interreligious leadership capacities?

Course Goals:

- Define the term “pluralism” and related terms (“diversity,” “ecumenism,” “inclusion,” “interfaith,” etc.)

- Explore the values and character traits (*middot*) undergirding a pluralistic worldview (humility, hospitality, interconnection, etc.)
- Examine the intersectional nature of identity (religion, race, gender, ethnicity, etc.)
- Confront the distinct challenges and opportunities of *intra*-religious and interreligious diversity
- Investigate views of the “other” in Jewish and other textual traditions
- Consider the role of pluralism in different professional contexts

Preparation for Class:

Given the short timeframe of this seminar, I have attempted to limit the pre-course and daily preparations. I have listed all required and optional assignments. All sources will be available through the class Schoology site or elsewhere online. Please complete all required assignments ahead of class sessions as this will allow us to engage in more productive dialogue together.

From Diversity to Pluralism: Religious Leadership in an Interreligious Age (Section 2)

Rabbi Or Rose

INT510-2

2 graduate credits

Attend one MLK Interreligious event/service over MLK weekend– Minimum of 2 hours

Tuesday-Thursday, January 21-23 - 9:00 am – 4:00 pm & Friday, January 24, 9:00- am- 1:00 pm

- Instructor will provide list of Boston area MLK Interreligious options to attend over MLK weekend
- Tuesday, January 21, through Thursday, January 23, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, January 22, Lunch time conversation with interreligious leaders/educators
- Friday, January 24, 9:00 am -1:00 p.m.

Seminar Location

Hebrew College

1860 Washington St.

Auburndale (Newton), MA 02466

Course Description:

We live in one of the most religiously diverse societies in the history of humankind. How can we cultivate an ethos of dignified engagement both within our communities of practice and across religious traditions? What are the ethical underpinnings—values and dispositions—that support such an effort? What theological resources might we draw on for this sacred work? What are some historical and contemporary models of individual and communal engagement that we can learn from as we develop our intra/interreligious leadership capacities?

Course Goals:

- Define the term “pluralism” and related terms (“diversity,” “ecumenism,” “inclusion,” “interfaith,” etc.)
- Explore the values and character traits (*middot*) undergirding a pluralistic worldview (humility, hospitality, interconnection, etc.)
- Examine the intersectional nature of identity (religion, race, gender, ethnicity, etc.)
- Confront the distinct challenges and opportunities of *intra*-religious and interreligious diversity

- Investigate views of the “other” in Jewish and other textual traditions
- Consider the role of pluralism in different professional contexts

Introduction to Islam for Jewish Leaders

TBD

INT600

Non-Credit

Tues. – Thurs., Jan. 21-23 - 9:00 am – 4:00 pm & Fri., Jan. 25 – 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

In this intensive course students will explore key concepts, practices, and historical events from the Islamic tradition. Special attention will be given to the interaction of Jews and Muslims, past and present. We will also explore specific challenges and opportunities facing contemporary Muslims in the United States. The course will be taught by Imam Taymullah Abdur Rahman, who has served as imam for Harvard University, the Massachusetts Department of Correction, and Northeastern University. The course will include presentations by religious and cultural figures and a morning at a local mosque.

At the end of this intensive course students will:

- Gain a broad-based understanding of the traditional beliefs and practices of Islam
- Understand the differences in the many iterations and offshoots of Islam around the globe
- Learn about the role that Jews play both in the Quran as well as in the historical narra-tive(s) of Islam
- Explore the experiences, priorities, and challenges of contemporary Muslims in the United States

Introduction to Buddhism for Jewish Leaders Introduction to Buddhism for Jewish Leaders

Dr. Judith Simmer-Brown and Dr. Amelia Hall

PHI147-1

Non-Credit

Tues. – Thurs., Jan. 21-23 - 9:00 am – 4:00 pm & Fri., Jan. 25 – 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

This course introduces the foundations of Buddhism in India, integrating doctrinal and meditative traditions while tracing their development through the three vehicles (yanas) throughout Asia. Topics include ethics and wisdom, emptiness and compassion, and the inherent wakefulness of all beings. Special attention will be given to Tibetan Buddhism, which has resonated with Judaism on such a fundamental level, including an introduction to the deity traditions of Tibet. The course will include a map of American Buddhist communities and a discussion of Jewish-Buddhist dialogue, double-belonging, and secular mindfulness. The week will close with a visit to a Boston Buddhist meditation center.

Management Seminar

Dan Judson

PRC918

Non-Credit

Tues., Jan. 21 and Wed., Jan. 23 from 9 am – 4:00 pm

Only open to ordination students in Shanah Heh

This course will introduce students to budgeting, development, working with boards, supervision, as well as planning and assessment. Guest lecturers with backgrounds in particular fields will help with instruction.

COURSES OF INSTRUCTION

Conversations in Complexity: History of the Modern State of Israel

Jonthan Golden

JTH558 – New course spring of 2025

1 graduate credit

Thursdays 11:30 am – 1:00 pm on 2/6, 2/13, 2/27, 3/6, 3/13, 3/20 & 3/27

The primary objective of this course is to connect participants to foundational knowledge about Israel and show how these facts affect key stances. Originally developed as part of the My Israel program for Gann Academy students, and later adapted for adult learning in conjunction with CJP's Community Israel Dialogue initiative, the course is a lively interactive class based on recitation of source material and probing group discussions. Each session also includes exploring seminal arguments between figures of historical importance, and between supporters of conflicting viewpoints for the future of Israel and its people and neighbors. Participants in the course should expect to emerge with not only increased knowledge and perspective, but also with a strengthened personal understanding of their connection to Israel as it relates to their Jewish identity.

Course Texts:

Dov Waxman, *The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict: What Everyone Needs to Know*

Daniel Sokatch, *Can We Talk about Israel?*

"But where is the Sheep for the Sacrifice?" The Binding of Isaac in Modern Israeli Literature

Rachel Adelman

BIB508 – New course spring of 2025

2 graduate credit

Thursdays 4:15 – 5:45 pm

*Love of literature and an open-minded heart are required.

The motif of Isaac's Binding (the '*Aqedah*, Genesis 22) has become a prism in Israeli Literature for exploring the tensions between collective identity and existential yearning, sacrifice and secularization, religious zealotry and maternal love. We will discuss this motif through the poetry of Yehuda Amichai (among others), the short stories and memoir of Amos Oz (among others), modern feminist midrash from *Dirshuni*, and selections from David Grossman's novel, *To the End of the Land*. Topics include: secularism vs. religious tradition; gender and ethnicity; and Palestinian Arab and Jewish-Israeli relations. Alongside primary literary sources in translation we will read a number of critical texts about Israeli culture and society.

*Hebrew language would be an advantage but not required. All texts will be available in translation.

Nusah Improvisation for Tefillah Leaders

Jessica Meyer

CTL609 – New course spring of 2025

2 graduate credit

Wednesdays 3:00 – 5:00 pm

This class is suited to experienced daveners and students with a musical background and a working knowledge of Ashkenazi Shabbat nusah and liturgy.

The essence of *nusah* is improvisation *l'Shem Shamayim*. The texts of our prayers are codified in the siddur, but the *kavanah*, the meaning we breathe into these words is through song. In this class, students with a foundational knowledge of Ashkenazi Shabbat *nusah* will learn modal improvisation, primarily by ear, so we may truly sing to God a new (modally-informed) song.

BIBLE

Core Text - Torah 1: Bereshit 2

Rachel Adelman

BIB501

3 graduate credits

Tuesdays, 2:30 – 4:00 pm and Fridays, 11:30 am – 1:00 pm

(Beit Midrash preparation Tuesdays and Fridays, 9:15 – 11:15)

Requires Hebrew 6 or above

Non-Hebrew College students may take this class only with permission from the instructor

“The Jacob Saga and Joseph and His Brothers.” Colorful coats, dreams and near fratricide, famine, exile, and reconciliation mark the dramatic narrative of Jacob & Wives & Sons (and daughter) in the last half of Bereshit. This course will engage in a careful reading of the biblical text, drawing on medieval commentators and midrash, as well as modern literary responses, from Israeli poetry to Thomas Mann's great novel, *Joseph and His Brothers*. In addition to honing our text skills, we will consider various themes such as the problem of continuity/discontinuity (toledot), dreams and their interpretation, deception and recognition, and teshuvah, as well as the consequences of long-abiding family secrets and shame.

Tanakh – Introduction to Reading Tanakh

Rachel Adelman

BIB507

2 graduate credits

Tuesdays, 11:00 am – 1:00 pm

(Beit Midrash preparation Tuesdays 9:15 – 10:45 am & 11:00 am – 1:00 pm)

Requires Hebrew 4 or above

This course will explore selections from the Books of Samuel I and II, with a close study of the biblical text. Personalities such as Hannah, Samuel, Saul and David come to life in all of their strengths and weaknesses. We begin with the paradigm of prayer in the opening chapters and move on to selections of the turbulent, beautiful yet heartbreaking stories that follow.

Core Text - Torah 2: Shemot 2

Devora Steinmetz

BIB601

3 graduate credits

Mondays 2:30 – 4:00 pm and Thursdays, 11:30 am – 1:00 pm

(Beit Midrash preparation Thursdays and Fridays, 9:15 am – 11:15 am)

Requires Hebrew 7 or above

Non-Hebrew College students may take this class only with permission from the instructor

This term, we will work our way through the second half of Sefer Shemot. We will focus on a literary and thematic approach to the text, while also incorporating study of classical commentaries and midrashim.

Core Text –Torah 4: BeMidbar – The Book of Numbers

Shayna Rhodes

BIB700

2 graduate credits

Thursdays, 11:30 am – 1:00 pm

(Beit Midrash preparation Thursdays, 9:15 – 11:15 am)

This course on the Book of Numbers (BeMidbar) will focus on crises of leadership in the Wilderness. This period tracks the transition of the Israelites from being slaves in Egypt to their formation as a self-determining nation, prepared to settle the land. We will grapple with the complaint narratives, challenges to Moses' prophecy, the spies report, Korah's rebellion, and the social and legal innovations in settling the Promised Land. We will engage in a wide-range of sources – from Tannaitic Midrash (Sifre) and classic Medieval exegesis to source criticism – with an eye to broadening our reading strategies. Students will also be invited to extend and personalize issues of leadership, in anticipation of their own transition to "Rabbanut." Beit Midrash Preparation (Havruta) from 9:00 am-11:15 am on Thursdays.

Hamesh Megillot

Nehemia Polen

BIB750

2 graduate credits

Tuesdays, 2:30 – 4:00 pm

(Beit Midrash preparation Mondays 2:30 – 4:00 pm)

Requires Hebrew 7 or above

The communal reading of the Five Megillot (Shir ha-Shirim, Ruth, Eichah, Kohelet, Esther)– sequentially on Pesah, Shavuot, Tishe'ah be-Av, Sukkot and Purim-- enhances the vividness and texture of our liturgical cycle. The themes and moods range from erotic love, gracious hospitality and blessing, mourning over disaster, struggling with futility and search for meaning in life, and salvation in exile through a heroine's courageous action. Women and feminine

imagery have major roles in most of the scrolls. Each scroll is relatively short, and each provides provocative challenges for religious thought, thus enriching the depth, complexity and diversity of our tradition. In the spirit of the PaRDeS four-fold interpretive mode, we will begin with contextual readings, followed by classical Midrash, medieval commentaries, kabbalistic/hasidic approaches, and contemporary insights.

CANTORIAL

Cantorial Coaching

Various Instructors

PRC579

1 graduate credit

Only open to Cantorial & Rav-Hazzan students

This course provides coaching by a practicing cantor or Jewish music professional who will guide the student according to their individual needs. Goals of coaching may include: to increase facility with prayer leading, to improve vocal and musical interpretations of selected repertoire, to improve specific musical skills and to address cantorial responsibilities and repertoire pertaining to the Jewish Life Cycle. Students will be evaluated by their coach at the end of each semester.

EDUCATION

People and Planet: Growing the Field of Jewish Environmental Education

Risa Alyssa Cooper

EDU528 (Online and asynchronous class)

2 graduate credits for MJE students (section #1), 1 credit for CJE students (section #2), or 0 credits for auditing students (contact Registrar to register)

The shoshon (root word) of adamah (earth) is adam (the primordial human), demonstrating the deep interconnection between people and planet within Jewish tradition. Join us for an in-depth study of the burgeoning field of Jewish environmental education, which integrates both nature-connection and climate action centered in Jewish practices and values. In this module, you will:

- Explore the texts, rituals, narratives, and holiday celebrations that have grounded and guided the development of the Jewish environmental movement as it has evolved over the last 30 years.
- Discover pedagogical frameworks for developing and implementing Jewish nature-based and climate-focused activities and programs.
- Engage with sample curricula and activities that link Jewish ecological wisdom with nature-connection and climate action.

Learn how to adapt Jewish environmental teachings and climate-focused activities to both traditional and alternative educational spaces and contexts.

Judaism, Resilience, Well-Being: Recovering the Sparks of Wholeness

Batya Ellinoy

EDU538 (Online and asynchronous class)

2 graduate credits for MJE students (section #1), 1 credit for CJE students (section #2), or 0 credits for auditing students (contact Registrar to register)

Jewish wisdom and tradition present a well-spring of resources to guide us through the joys and stresses of life. These include teachings, practices, rituals, and values that promote resilience and well-being for our students and ourselves. As Jewish educational leaders, many of us are navigating heightened levels of stress, overwhelm and burnout. This course will introduce participants to skills and strategies which can be utilized to navigate these growing concerns in the field of Jewish education. Together, we will delve into topics such as the emerging sciences of wellness and well-being, trauma and resilience informed care and pedagogies and the intersections with Jewish thought, ritual, practice, and education. In a supportive and supported online community, students will explore a variety of mindfulness and embodied practices and tools which can be utilized to enhance their well-being and their capacity to learn and teach in sustainable, supported ways. Additionally, students will consider how this learning and these resources could be applied to learning environments and communities they serve, and with learners of all ages.

Advancing Teaching Skills for the Day School Classroom

Reuven Margrett

EDU700P (Online and asynchronous class)

3 Graduate Credits

Date & Time?

The goal of this course is to expand and deepen students' skills to teach Jewish studies in the day school classroom. Participants will explore units that cover: assessing students learning, teaching Tanach, teaching chaggim, and driving student learning. Opportunities for learners to practice the craft of teaching to reflect on their own experience will be provided. Students will be expected to design curricular units and lesson plans to apply their learning in this course.

Foundations Of Jewish Education

Michael Shire

EDU850

2 Graduate Credits

Mondays, 2:30-4:00 pm

Jewish Education is a practical art that has a theoretical base with application to practice. It has roots in Western industrial schooling as well as traditional pedagogies of teaching and learning in rabbinic antiquity. Recent innovation has drawn upon social, emotional and spiritual modes of learning to redefine Jewish Education for the 21st century. Jewish Education is a vast field including all kinds of schooling, camping, experiential and wilderness learning as well as college campus and adult and community learning. Students will be introduced to relevant theories

and key pedagogical methods in the field of Jewish education so that they become familiar with the discourse of the field and can be skilled, innovative and knowledgeable about Jewish teaching and learning. The course incorporates the ways in which ordination students will utilize educational frameworks and approaches in their specific clergy roles.

HEBREW LANGUAGE

Foundations of Biblical Hebrew 2

Navah Levine

HBW511

3 graduate credits

Mondays, Thursdays, and Fridays 9:15 am – 10:45 am

Requires Hebrew 4 or above

Prerequisite: Foundations of Biblical Hebrew 1 or permission of the instructor

Non-Hebrew College ordination students require permission from the instructor

This course is an intensive introduction to Biblical Hebrew. A basic familiarity with Hebrew is presumed, including a working knowledge of the major Binyanim. Working in coordination with the course "Introduction to Reading Tanakh", grammatical concepts will be applied to the decoding of texts studied in that course. Texts studied may include midrash, rabbinical commentary, and modern Hebrew songs, thereby affording students guidance and practice in reading such texts.

Hebrew for Tanakh Study 2

Miriam Farb

HBW606

3 graduate credits

Tuesdays, 11:30 am – 1:00 pm and Thursdays, 2:30 – 4:00 pm

Prerequisite: Hebrew for Tanakh Study or equivalent

Non-Hebrew College ordination students require permission from the instructor

This course prepares students to be able to learn and understand Tanakh in its original language with precision throughout their Rabbinic careers. Students will learn and practice deconstructing Biblical Hebrew verb, noun, and adjectival forms, prefixes, suffixes, and infixes throughout the semester to empower them to translate and understand Tanakh in its original Hebrew language independently.

This course is the second part of a two-semester sequence.

Aramaic

Harvey Bock

HBW611

2 graduate credits

Tuesdays, 2:30 – 4:00 pm

Requires Hebrew 6

Non-Hebrew College ordination students need permission from the instructor to enroll

Students will learn the basic features of Aramaic grammar, focusing on the dialect of Aramaic used in the Babylonian Talmud. A solid knowledge of Hebrew grammar will be expected, so that students can take advantage of systematic correspondences between Hebrew and Aramaic grammar. Some experience reading Talmudic texts will also be presumed. The texts that are read consist primarily of aggadic materials from the Babylonian Talmud. At the end of the course, other texts with liturgical and halakhic significance will be read as well.

INTERDISCIPLINARY

Israel Study Abroad for Rabbinical Students

INT777

6 graduate credits

Student spends a semester or more in Israel studying. Time in Israel is required by program. Institutions at which the student may study and courses the student may choose from are specifically directed by Associate Dean for Academic Development and the Dean of the Rabbinical Program. Courses of study are chosen with a particular student in mind and will include Hebrew language courses as well as intensive text study. Student must take a minimum of 6 credits per semester and may be required to do online course work at Hebrew College during the semester as well.

Capstone Seminar- Jewish Studies

Rachel Adelman

INT950

1 graduate credit

Wednesdays, 1:15 – 2:15 pm

Only open to rabbinical students in their final year

This is a year-long course, and students must register in both the fall and the spring semesters

The Capstone project allows the Shanah Heh student to delve deeply into one text with the support of a faculty member, both independently and in meetings with their tutor over the course of the fall and spring semesters. The student will build a study practice, and together with the advisor, define and complete a final project that reflects their learning.

Hasidut I

Hasidism: Mystical Revival & Early Modernity

Or Rose

JTH750

2 graduate credits

Tuesdays, 2:30 – 4:00 pm

(Beit Midrah preparation Mondays, 2:30 – 4:00 pm)

Requires high level Hebrew skills and experience with textual analysis of hasidic teachings. People who are not fourth year rabbinical students must speak to the instructor before enrolling

In this course, we will explore the emergence and early development of Eastern European Hasidism (c. 1740-1815). This will include the study of primary and secondary sources—including a weekly beit midrash session—with special attention given to major theological and psycho-spiritual concepts and values, as well as ritual life. We will also investigate how various modern and contemporary seekers, religious leaders, and scholars have interpreted the early Hasidic masters and the larger movement, and how we might make thoughtful use of Hasidic and Neo-Hasidic resources in our lives and work as rabbis, cantors, and educators.

Hasidut II

The Hasidic Writings of Rabbi Kalonymos Shapiro

Nehemia Polen

JTH805

2 graduate credits

Wednesdays 9:45 – 11:15 am

(Beit Midrah preparation Tuesdays, 2:30 – 4:00 pm)

Credit students should be familiar and comfortable with the language and style of Hasidic homilies in Hebrew.

Rabbi Kalonymos Shapiro (1889–1943) was a Polish Hasidic Rebbe and educator in the first part of the twentieth century. While today he may be best known for his Holocaust-period writings, his educational innovations are important for their astute deployment of pedagogical insights and mystical/meditative techniques, including visualization, guided imagery, and quieting the mind (hashkatah). Known popularly as the “Piaseczner Rebbe,” his approach might be called “Sensitization to Holiness,” stressing the uniqueness of each individual and the invitation to cultivate one’s personal spiritual signature and path to the Divine.

Our class will read selections from all of Rabbi Shapiro’s major works, including the wartime writings originally published under the title Esh Kodesh; his oeuvre on education and cultivating inner states of Hasidic spirituality; and his lofty and powerful pre-war derashot published under the title Derekh HaMelekh.

Contemporary Jewish Thought

Dan Judson

JTH918

2 graduate credits

Tuesdays, 11:30 am – 1:00 pm

This course has two components. In the first half of the semester we will explore American Jewish history focusing on themes of particular importance to rabbinical students like the

emergence of denominations and the evolution of the American synagogue. The second half of the course is a survey of the seminal Jewish thinkers who wrote in an American context such as Mordecai Kaplan, Abraham Joshua Heschel, Joseph Soloveitchik, Judith Plaskow and others. We will ultimately be aiming to place our own historical moment and our own theologies within broader historical/theological frameworks.

LITURGY

Siddur

Jessica Meyer

LGY591

2 graduate credits

Tuesdays, 2:30 – 4:00 pm

Requires Hebrew 4 or above

Transform words of liturgy into words of prayer. We will focus our attention on the weekday Shacharit service because it offers a foundation for understanding many other Jewish tefillah liturgies and because it is the primary tefillah experience we will engage in together at Hebrew College. We will spend some time on liturgical variations for Shabbat and holidays. We will use Nusah Ashkenaz as our base text because it is the most common liturgy used in North America, though we will note some moments of liturgical variation with Nusah Sefard.

Yamim Noraim: Liturgy and Poetry

Allan Lehmann

LGY725

2 graduate credits

Thursdays, 2:30 – 4:00 pm

Students will study the classic liturgy for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, including the history of the mahzor and close reading of piyyutim (liturgical poetry). Texts will be taught in Hebrew.

PRACTICAL COURSES FOR RABBINIC OR CANTORIAL STUDENTS AND CLERGY

Maavar - Transition to the Rabbinite

Daniel Klein

PRC920

2 graduate credits

Tuesdays 9:15 am – 10:45 am

Only open to Hebrew College rabbinical students in Shanah Heh

The transition from student to rabbi is a momentous, exciting and often challenging process and experience. The purpose of this course is to help with the transition through a reflection on

the nature and purpose of Jewish spiritual leadership and our own growth towards spiritual leadership. We will also devote time to studying the Hebrew College smikha document and planning and preparing for ordination.

RABBINICS

Core Text - Rabbinics 1: Berakhot 2

Shani Rosenbaum

RAB501

3 graduate credits

Mondays 11:30 am – 1:00 pm and Wednesdays, 11:45 am – 1:15 pm

(Beit Midrash preparation Mondays 9:15 – 11:15 am and Wednesdays, 9:30 – 11:30 am)

Requires Hebrew 6 or above

A continuation of the fall semester, we will complete the fourth chapter of tractate Berakhot, and explore additional sugyot related to the structure, experience and purpose of prayer. The focus continues to be both on building skills that are necessary for reading, understanding, appreciating, analyzing and participating in Talmudic discourse and developing our own relationship to prayer in conversation with our ancestors and one another.

Introduction to Mishnah 2

Matthew Hass

RAB517

3 graduate credits

Mondays 2:30 pm – 4:00 pm & Wednesdays 11:45 am – 1:15 pm

(Beit Midrash preparation Mondays 11:00 am – 1:00 pm & Wednesdays, 9:30 am – 11:30 am)

Requires Hebrew 4 or above

Prerequisite: RAB514 or permission from the instructor

This course is a continuation of RAB514, Introduction to Mishnah and Jewish Practice Seminar 1. It is an intensive introduction to the form and content of the Mishnah, the first code of rabbinic law. Students will gain familiarity with classical rabbinic syntax, rhetoric, ritual, theology, building a foundation for further study of rabbinic literature. In addition, this course will help students to cultivate a relationship to the Mishnah as a guide to grounding, innovating and evolving Jewish practice today.

Hilkhot Tefillah

Allan Lehmann

RAB518

2 graduate credits

Thursdays, 11:30 am – 1:00 pm

(Beit Midrash preparation Thursdays, 9:15 – 11:15 am)

Requires Hebrew 6 or above

This course will introduce students to primary halachic texts relating to tefillah in terms of personal practice and prayer leadership. We will study both Ashkenazi and Sephardic sources that explore the traditional obligations one has as a Jew and as a leader with regard to tefillah. What are the daily obligations? What are the required characteristics of a shaliach tzibbur? What are the rules surrounding the reading of Torah to the community? We will begin to think about all of these questions as we experiment with practice and look around our school and our local communities to see how tefillah is lived in our surrounding environment.

Hilkhot Niddah

Shani Rosenbaum

RAB534

1 graduate credit

Tuesdays, 4:15 pm – 5:45 pm (meetings on 2/11, 2/25, 3/11, 3/25, 4/8, 4/29)

This advanced halakha course will explore Jewish law and ritual surrounding menstruation. It will meet every other week of the Spring semester, for a total of six sessions. Because of the intimacy of the material, registration will be capped at 20 students (Gimmel, Dalet and Heh students will get first priority). Note that though there is no designated Beit Midrash period for this course, a minimum of 2 hours of preparation per class is expected. All interested students need permission of the instructor to register.

Core Text – Rabbinics 1: Nashim U-Gevarim 2 (Section 1)

RAB602-1

Shayna Rhodes

3 graduate credits

Mondays 11:30 am – 1:00 pm and Wednesdays 11:45 am – 1:15 pm

(Beit Midrash preparation Mondays 9:15 – 11:15 am and Wednesdays 9:30 – 11:30 am)

A study of essential talmudic sources in Seder Nashim introduces classical rabbinic concepts, categories and practices concerning the roles and status of women and men. Students will read these classical rabbinic sources for their own understanding in light of the present day. They will consider issues that surround gender roles in contemporary Jewish practice through readings and discussions.

Core Text – Rabbinics 1: Nashim U-Gevarim 2 (Section 2)

RAB602-2

Devora Steinmetz

3 graduate credits

Mondays 11:30 am – 1:00 pm and Wednesdays 11:45 am – 1:15 pm

(Beit Midrash preparation Mondays 9:15 – 11:15 am and Wednesdays 9:30 – 11:30 am)

We will be learning the end of the third chapter of Gitin, followed by selected portions of the fourth and fifth chapters. The course is designed for people with solid intermediate to advanced gemara skills who want to challenge themselves to gain stronger skills, learn a significant amount of material, be introduced to new and complex concepts, and explore a variety of rishonim.

Core Text – Rabbinics 2: Nashim U-Gevarim 2 (Section 3)

RAB602-3

Jane Kanarek

3 graduate credits

Mondays 11:30 am – 1:00 pm and Wednesdays 11:45 am – 1:15 pm

(Beit Midrash preparation Mondays 9:15 – 11:15 am and Wednesdays 9:30 – 11:30 am)

This course centers on intensive study of a number of sugyot from the first chapter of tractate kiddushin along with relevant academic secondary readings on women/gender and rabbinic Judaism. As we examine the ways in which these sugyot conceptualize betrothal, we will focus on identifying the different issues or questions that implicitly animate each sugya. Academic secondary readings present yet another interpretive lens. In addition, this course aims to build your skills in reading a talmudic sugya, Rashi, and selected Rishonim.

Core Text – Rabbinics 2: Nashim U-Gevarim 2 (Section 4)

RAB602-4

TBD

3 graduate credits

Mondays 11:30 am – 1:00 pm and Wednesdays 11:45 am – 1:15 pm

(Beit Midrash preparation Mondays 9:15 – 11:15 am and Wednesdays 9:30 – 11:30 am)

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Hilkhot Aveliut

Carl Perkins

RAB615

2 graduate credits

Tuesdays 11:30 am – 1:00 pm

(Beit Midrash preparation Tuesdays 9:15-11:15 am)

Requires Hebrew 8

In this course we will study Jewish laws and traditions surrounding illness (particularly terminal illness), dying, death, bereavement and consolation. We will examine these stages from the

perspective of (a) an individual human being; (b) that individual's family (who, following a death, become "mourners"); and (c) members of the community (who become "comforters"). We will explore religious and anthropological understandings of how we, individually and collectively, move through the stages of life, dying, death and beyond. As a "practical rabbinics" course, this course will also explore the challenges and responsibilities of rabbis who interact with the ill, the dying, mourners and comforters during these critical stages, and explore the roles played by rabbis in educating, guiding, facilitating, counseling, officiating, comforting and "pasken"ing.

VOCAL ARTS

Voice Lessons

Various

MUS500

1 graduate credit

Enrollment by non-cantorial students is only with permission from Rosh Tefilla and Artist-in-Residence, Rabbi Jessica Kate Meyer and will require payment of a studio fee.

Private lessons in singing. Emphasis is on understanding the working of the vocal mechanism, maximizing the potential of the individual singer, and preparing the student to be an inspiring musician and prayer leader. Students will be taught how to use correct technique while singing a variety of different styles of music. Students will be required to participate in a studio recital once each semester and to memorize the music that is being performed. To adjudicate BBDT selections: a liturgical selection either from memory or from the Hebrew text, and a secular or liturgical piece with instrumental accompaniment, from memory from repertoire to be approved in advance.

Lesson Cancellation Policy

Private voice lessons can be cancelled only with sufficient lead-time by the instructor and a make-up lesson must be scheduled. If a student cancels their private lesson(s), the instructor is not obligated to offer a make-up lesson. All sessions must be completed during this semester -- no incompletes will be permitted.