



## **Schools of Aggadah**

Fall 2022, Yeshiva University, Yeshiva College  
Professor: Ari Bergmann

### **Description of the Course**

The Babylonian Talmud, known simply as the *Bavli*, is the collaborative effort of generations of sages and it is the foundational legal and ethical document of rabbinic Judaism. Part of the magnetic pull of the Talmud is the fact that

b. Pesahim 50a

Lewin, *Otsar Hageonim Pesahim* 170 (p. 70/71)

b. Hagigah 4b

Lewin, *Otsar Hageonim Hagigah* 5 (p. 4)

b. Bava Qamma 60b

Levita, Elijah, *Tishbi* s.v. agd

R. Shelomo b. Aderet (Rashba), *Hiddushey Aggadot b. Berakhot 10b, 32b and 6a*

Required Readings:

*Encyclopaedia Judaica, Second Edition*, ed. Fred Skolnik and Michael Berenbaum (Farmington Hills, Mich.: Macmillan Reference USA, 2007)

-11 (66d-67a)

b.

Required Readings:

at the Aggadot on Honi the Circle- *Dine Israel* 24 (2007): 125 134

(1983): 4 68

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*Harvard Law Review* 97

Suggested Readings/Additional Bibliography:

at the Aggadot on Honi the Circle- *Dine Israel* 24 (2007): 134 55

Yonah Fraenkel, ) (Tel Aviv: Ben Hayim, 2001), 220 35

Yonah Fraenkel, *Darkhei Ha-Aggadah Ve Ha-Medrash (Hebrew)* (Tel Aviv: Yad Latalmud, 1996), 481 500

**Week III: September 7th**

b. Sanhedrin 75a  
The Inter-

b. Bava Batra 25a-b

b. Gittin 56b

*The Light of the Eyes*, Translated from the Hebrew with an introduction and annotations by Joanna Weinberg (New Haven & London: Yale University Press, 2001), 201-15, 296-304

Maharal,

Required Readings:

Marjorie Lehman, *Faith in the Talmudic Corpus* (Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 2012), 51-52, 58-60, 63-76, 80-82

*The Light of the Eyes*, Translated from the Hebrew with an introduction and annotations by Joanna Weinberg (New Haven & London: Yale University Press, 2001), xiii-xxxi

Suggested Readings/Additional Bibliography:

Marjorie Lehman, *Faith in the Talmudic Corpus* (Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 2012), 51-82

*The Light of the Eyes*, Translated from the Hebrew with an introduction and annotations by Joanna Weinberg (New Haven & London: Yale University Press, 2001), xiii-xlv



Required Readings:

*Rabbinic Theology and Jewish Intellectual History: The Great Rabbi Loew of Prague*, edited by Meir Seidler (London & New York: Routledge Taylor & Francis, 2012), 33-43

*Rabbinic Theology and Jewish Intellectual History: The Great Rabbi Loew of Prague*, edited by Meir Seidler (London & New York: Routledge, Taylor & Francis, 2012), 65-76

Suggested Readings/Additional Bibliography:

*Hakirah* 4 (2007): 137-94

R.J.W. Evans, *Rudolf II and His World: A Study in Intellectual History 1576-1612* (London: Thames and Hudson, 1997), 196-242

Maharal of Prague, *Aggadah*, adapt. Yitzchok Adlerstein (Brooklyn, NY: Mesorah Publications Ltd., 2000), 227-40

"Judah Loew (Liwa, Loeb) ben Bezalel." *Encyclopaedia Judaica*. Ed. Michael Berenbaum and Fred Skolnik. 2nd ed. Vol. 11. Detroit: Macmillan Reference USA, 2007. 506-509. *Gale Virtual Reference Library*. Web. 29 Mar. 2016

*Tablet Magazine* (30 December 2016), available here (<http://www.tabletmag.com/jewish-arts-and-culture/219878/maharal-of-prague-joanna-weinberg>)

Antonin Scalia, *A Matter of Interpretation: Federal Courts and the Law: An Essay* (Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 1997),

Required Readings:

R. Moshe Hayyim Luzzatto (Ramhal),



Arthur Hertzberg, *The Zionist Idea: A Historical Analysis and Reader* (Philadelphia: The Jewish Publication Society, 1997), 417 31



Required Readings:

Jeffrey L. Rubenstein,





<http://blogs.timesofisrael.com/at-israeli-prize->

*Jewish Quarterly Review* 102:2 (Spring 2012): 163-189

*Meleket Mahshevet: Studies in the Redaction and Development of Talmudic Literature*, ed. Aaron Amit and Aharon Shemesh (Ramat-Gan: Bar-Ilan University Press, 2011), 9-25

Moulie Vidas, *Tradition and the Formation of the Talmud* (Princeton and Oxford: Princeton University Press, 2014), 81-111

*The Jewish Quarterly*

Review 80, no. 3/4 (1990): 315-39

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*Proceedings of*

*the American Academy for Jewish Research* 57 (1990-1991): 35-67

M

in *Meleket Mahshevet: Studies in the Redaction and Development of Talmudic Literature*, ed. Aaron Amit and Aharon Shemesh (Ramat-Gan: Bar-Ilan University Press, 2011), 69-86

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/good-schools-arent-the-secret-to-israels-high-tech-boom-1490051053>

**Week XI: November 30<sup>th</sup>**

The Bavli in its Babylonian Context  
The Iranian Talmud

**Primary Texts:**

b. Avodah Zarah 17a  
b. Yevamot 97b

b. Sotah 3b  
*Videvdad and Hadoxt nask*

~~b. Sanhedrin 39a~~  
b. Berakhot 9b  
b. Berakhot 58a

**Required Readings**

*The Aggada of the Bavli and Its Cultural World*, eds. Geoffrey Herman and Jeffrey L. Rubenstein (Providence: Brown Judaic Studies, 2018), 103-23

Prods Oktor Skjaervo, *Introduction to Zoroastrianism* (2005), i-36

*Encyclopædia*

*Review* 107, no. 4 (2014): 401-24

Shai Secunda, *The Iranian Talmud: Reading the Bavli in Its Sasanian Context* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2014), 110-43

A.V. Williams, *The Pahlavi Rivayat Accompanying the Dadestan i Denig* (Copenhagen: Munksgaard, 1990), (Chapter 8) 10-17, 126-37

232

*Jewish Quarterly Review* 106:2 (Spring 2016): 233-

no-

247

-Talmudica and Beyond: Next Steps in  
*Jewish Quarterly Review* 106:2 (Spring 2016): 248-255

*Carnal Israel: Reading Sex in Talmudic Culture* (Berkeley, Los Angeles and London: University of California Press, 1995), 167–96

*Nashim: A*, no. 4 (2001): 7–14





2. **Laptops and Tablets:** You may use laptops or tablets in this class to consult online readings or to take notes. Laptops or tablets, however, are not allowed during the discussion portion of the class. In addition, any other use of these devices and the use of cell phones is strictly prohibited. Place your phone on mute before you come to class. Violating this policy will negatively impact your participation grade.
3. **Difficult Circumstances:** It is unfortunately inevitable that some students will face difficult circumstances in the course of their time in school. Please let me know if you are facing circumstances that may interfere with your coursework and I will make efforts to accommodate you.
4. **Academic Integrity:** The University Code of Academic Integrity is central to the ideals that under gird this course. Students are expected to be independently familiar with the Code and to recognize that their work in the course is to be their own original work that truthfully represents the time and effort applied. Violations of the Code are most serious and will be handled in a manner that fully represents the extent of the Code and that befits the seriousness of its violation.