

and heads of Jewish community agencies, rabbis, teachers and leading figures in other fields for whom Jewish learning remains a central value.

Mission

Torah Umadda has been the watchword of Yeshiva University almost from its inception.

The minimal understanding of this ideal is the pursuit of the study of Torah along with secular disciplines, but its highest form is a level of integration in which each pursuit enriches the other. There is no area where the interaction is as intimate and potentially rewarding as in the use of the academy to enhance one's understanding of the Jewish heritage itself.

The study of the Jewish experience, Jewish thought, and the sacred and classical texts of Judaism in an academic mode presents both extensive benefits and substantial challenges. Men and women who study at Revel find themselves in a genuinely-denominational school with an extraordinary faculty of twenty-one professors specializing in Jewish Studies and a curriculum encompassing a broad array of courses in Bible, Talmud, Jewish Philosophy and Mysticism, and Jewish History taught at the highest academic level. At the same time, they experience an environment suffused with a commitment to the authentic letter and spirit of historic Judaism.

The quality and quantity of faculty whose primary area of expertise is Jewish Studies along with the range of offerings render the graduate program at the Bernard Revel Graduate School among the most impressive in the field, and in some respects it is unmatched.

The professors at Revel have without exception published highly respected books expanding the frontiers of Jewish learning. In many cases, they are counted among the most prominent figures in the world in their fields, and the younger faculty are regarded as rising stars. Relatively small classes enable students to develop a close relationship with their faculty mentors.

Program Codes

All programs are registered by the New York State Education Department and meet its educational requirements

HEGIS CODE	PROGRAM #	Title	Degree
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A limited number of persons with the appropriate background may, with the permission of the dean, register as auditors. They are required to pay a stipulated fee. The category of auditor does not entitle the student to submit any coursework or to receive an academic record. An auditor is not entitled to use any campus facilities.

Foreign Students

Foreign students applying for admission to the school are strongly advised to file applications for admission well in advance of the admission deadline in order to ensure sufficient time for evaluation. They should have forwarded to the Office of the Dean complete transcripts of previous academic training and a certified translation of each document written in a foreign language other than Hebrew.

In addition to all admission requirements, proficiency in English verbal and written comprehension and expression is a prerequisite for study. Applicants whose native language is not English must submit acceptable proof of their proficiency in English before being considered for admission. Usually the student is expected to demonstrate proficiency in English by receiving an acceptable score on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), administered by the Educational Testing Service. This test is given in various locations throughout the world several times a year. Information on the location of

the date appearing in the academic calendar. The comprehensive examination must be taken during or after the semester in which the student completes his or her course work. For students concentrating in Bible, it may not be taken in the same semester in which the student is taking basic courses required for the concentration unless special permission has been obtained from the dean. A student who fails the examination is provided one additional opportunity to pass it.

Residence Requirement

A minimum of 24 credits must be taken at Revel. Thus, up to 6 credits may be transferred toward the Master of Arts degree from other institutions. These must be master's or doctoral level courses taught in accredited

Ancient Jewish History

6 credits of basic courses (those numbered ~~5000~~ 5999) in ancient Jewish history
12 credits of advanced courses (numbered 6000 and above) in Ancient Jewish History.
these credits may be in Rabbinic Literature of the pre-medieval period with the approval of the Dean in consultation with the department.
12 credits of electives in or outside the field of Ancient Jewish History
At least 6 of the 30 credits comprising the ~~concentration~~ concentration must be in Rabbinic Literature of the pre-medieval period either as advanced courses (with the required permission) or as electives.

Medieval Jewish History

6 credits of basic source courses (those numbered ~~5000~~ 5999) in medieval Jewish history
12 credits of advanced courses (numbered 6000 and above) in medieval Jewish history
12 credits of electives of which at least 6 must be outside the field of medieval Jewish history

Modern Jewish History

European, and 6 in Central/Western European history. The basic course in Jews in Islamic Lands during the modern period may be substituted for one of the basic courses in Eastern European History. The course on the Jews of Latin America is 6 credits.

18 credits in the major, at least 3 of which must be in a doctoral seminar or the equivalent
6 credits in a related field of general studies, selected in consultation with the adviser in
the field of concentration
6 additional credits in or out of the field of concentration to be determined in consultation with
the faculty adviser
3 credits (Subject) 9979 Doctoral Planning, consisting of preparation for doctoral examinations
and formulation of a dissertation topic
1 credit (Subject) 9980 Doctoral Planning II. If additional semesters are needed for doctoral
planning, students register again for this course.
3 credits of (Subject) 9981 Doctoral Research
1 credit (Subject) 9982 Doctoral Research II. If additional semesters of research are required,
students register again for this course.
Any student with fewer than 12 doctoral planning and research credits will register for a
dissertation finalization course for the required number of credits in their final semester.

In addition to the 42 credits, a student may be required by the faculty of a given concentration to master particular skills or areas of knowledge deemed necessary for the doctoral research.

Residence Requirements

Setting aside the 12 credits of doctoral planning and research, the PhD program consequently requires 30 course credits beyond the Master of Arts degree. Twenty four of these must be taken at the school or by prior arrangement with the school. It follows that up to 6 credits may be transferred toward the PhD degree from other institutions. These must be doctoral level courses taught in accredited graduate programs.

dissertation proposal must be submitted by the end of the sixth year. Subsequent to approval of the proposal, work on the dissertation must proceed at a pace certified as satisfactory by the dissertation advisor.

For full time students admitted directly from college with a B.A degree or with a M.A degree in a field other than the doctoral concentration:

At least six courses must be completed in each of the first two years. The remaining eight courses other than doctoral research and planning must be completed by the end of the third year. In cases where the two required outside courses were not readily available during the second or third year, completion of the twenty required courses may be postponed to the fourth year. Two language examinations must be completed by the end of the fifth year. However, students must consult with their advisers to determine whether their research obligations require them to pass one or both language examinations at an earlier point. The general examination in the major and minor fields must be completed by the end of the sixth year. The dissertation proposal must be submitted by the end of the seventh year. Subsequent to approval of the proposal, work on the dissertation must proceed at a pace certified as satisfactory by the dissertation advisor.

Students admitted as part-time doctoral students are required to complete their degree within twelve years. They must complete their course work other than doctoral planning and research as well as their language examinations by the end of the summer following their seventh year. However, students must

graduate education at Azrieli with the acquisition of a level of expertise in academic Jewish studies at Revel.

Azrieli requirements:

Currently, the Azrieli MS requires eight core courses (24 credits), two electives (6 credits), and 6 credits of Professional Enhancement Practicum (fieldwork). Two Revel courses would count toward the fulfillment of the two required electives.

Revel requirements:

The Revel MA requires a concentration in one of five fields: Bible, Talmud, Medieval Jewish History, Modern Jewish History, or Jewish Philosophy (with comprehensive exams taken at the successful conclusion of coursework). Each of these concentrations include either six or eight required courses (18 or 24 credits) in the respective discipline, with the remaining four or two courses (12 or 6 credits) to be fulfilled with electives in other fields. Students in the dual program are granted transfer credit for the following two Azrieli courses: JED 5100 (Foundations of Jewish Education) and JED 5070 (Promoting Jewish Values, Spirituality and Identity).

(30 credits at Azrieli, of which 6 are for fieldwork, and 24 credits at Revel) instead of 66, since 6 credits of their Azrieli coursework would count toward the Revel degree and 6 credits of their Revel coursework would count toward their Azrieli degree.

courses in either school (or both).

Tuition and Financial Aid Information

Tuition and Fees 2018-2019

Bernard Revel Graduate School of Jewish Studies

Tuition:	
All Students	\$1,110 per credit
Masters Research	\$1,110 per semester
Fees:	
Full/Part Time Registration Fee	\$65 per semester
Health Insurance	\$1,723.50 per semester
Technology Fee	\$125 per semester
Audit Fee	\$250 per class
Graduation Fee	\$150

For information about Yeshiva University's health insurance requirements and eligibility or to submit a waiver, please refer to the Wellness Health Center. All students who are required to have health insurance through Yeshiva University are charged automatically each fall and spring semester.

Scholarships are awarded at the discretion of the Dean's Office. Please contact them at (212) 960-5253.

In most cases, students enrolled simultaneously in RIETS and Revel will receive a 2/3 scholarship from Revel.

Any student interested in taking out a student loan must fill out the FAFSA form, which can be found at www.fafsa.ed.gov. The YU school code is 002903 and our campus code is 00. You will be eligible for up to \$20,500/year in the Unsubsidized Stafford Loan. To take out the loan, please go to our page and follow the steps listed.

Faculty Information

Core Faculty

Joseph Angel, Associate Professor of Jewish History
PhD, New York University
Second Temple history and literature

David Berger, Ruth & I. Lewis Gordon Professor of Jewish History and Dean
PhD, Columbia University
Jewish intellectual history; Jewish-Christian relations; Messianism and Messianic movements; Jewish attitudes toward general culture

Richard Hidary, Associate Professor of Jewish History
PhD, New York University
History of the Rabbis and their Greco-Roman Context; Second Temple and Rabbinic Literature

Shalom Holtz, Associate Professor of Bible
PhD, University of Pennsylvania
Mesopotamian literature and law and their relationship to biblical and rabbinic literature

Elazar Hurvitz, Professor of Bible; Dr. Samuel Belkin Chair in Judaic Studies
PhD, Yeshiva University
Halakhic and midrashic literature; Geonic literature; Genizah research

Ephraim Kanarfogel, E. Billi Ivry University Professor of Jewish History, Literature and Law;
PhD, Yeshiva University
Medieval Jewish history; history of halakhah; history of educational theory and practice; intellectual crosscurrents between Ashkenaz and Sefarad; pietism and mysticism in rabbinic culture

Joshua Karlip, Associate Professor of Jewish History
PhD, Jewish Theological Seminary
Eastern European Jewish History, Jewish Nationalism, Modern Yiddish Culture, Jewish Intellectual Responses to Nazism, Jewish Religious Life in the Soviet Union, Lithuanian Jewry

Aaron Koller, Associate Professor of Bible and Assistant Dean of Yeshiva College
PhD, Yeshiva University
Near Eastern languages, semantics and lexicography, archaeology and texts, intellectual and cultural histories of antiquity

Jess Olson, Associate Professor of Jewish History
PhD, Stanford University
Modern East and Central European Jewry; German Jewish history and thought; Austro-Hungarian Jewry; modern Jewish intellectual history; history of Jewish politics and nationalism

Ronnie Perelis, Chief Rabbi Dr. Isaac Abraham and Jelena (Rachel) Alcalay Chair in Sephardic Studies;
Associate Professor of Sephardic Studies
PhD, New York University
Jews in the medieval and early modern Iberian world; Inquisition and Crypto-Judaism; autobiography and travel literature; Sephardic diasporas; Jewish presence in Latin America

Daniel Rynhold, Associate Professor of Jewish Philosophy

Joshua Zimmerman, Eli and Diana Zborowski Professorial Chair in Holocaust Studies and East European Jewish History; Associate Professor of History
PhD, Brandeis University
Jewish social and national movements in Eastern Europe; Jewish culture in Eastern Europe; Holocaust studies

Senior Adjunct Faculty

Elisheva Carlebach, Visiting Professor of History
PhD, Columbia University
History of early modern European Jewry

Sid Z. Leiman, Visiting Professor of Jewish History and Literature
PhD, University of Pennsylvania
Bible; history of biblical exegesis; early modern Jewish intellectual history

Course Descriptions

Ancient Jewish History

JHI 6221 and 6239 also counts toward a Talmud concentration. JHI 6222 also counts towards a modern history concentration.

JHI 5213 Second Temple Jewish Literature

Dr. Joseph Angel

Critical issues in the study of Second Temple literature, including biblical interpretations and commentaries, laws and rules of conduct, historiography, prayers, and apocalyptic visions.

JHI 5215 Jews un 0.0(woman RuIL)-2(e)] TJ ET Q q 0.00000912 0 612 816.96 re W* n BT /F2 12 T

This course will analyze the interaction of the Rabbis of the Talmud with their surrounding Greco Roman culture regarding such diverse areas as ~~law~~ ^{legislation}, science, art, mythology, and philosophy with special emphasis on their use of classical rhetoric, the mainstay of higher education throughout the GrecoRoman world. In each class, we will read primary sources from both Greek and Rabbinic sources in order to develop a methodology of how to go about such comparative analysis.

including matters relating to the history of Jewish law, biblical exegesis, and a number of religious beliefs and practices, including mysticism, magic, prayer, and messianism.

JHI 6285 The Synagogue in the Greco-Roman World

Dr. Fine

This course will explore the history of the synagogue during the Greco

Dr. Daniel Tsadik

This course examines major developments in the Jews' lives under Muslim rule. The course starts with the discussion of the Jews' circumstance in the earliest days of Islam, the Jews' encounter with Muhammad, their perceptions in the Quran, hadith, and the Muslim (Sunni and Shi'i) polemical literature, and according to the dhimma system. We will discuss the Gaonic period, the emergence of Karaism, the world of the Geniza, and the Jews in Spain and Mamluk Egypt. In all these we will be focusing on both the Jews' status and communal life.

JHI 5345 The History of the Tosafists and the Rabbinic Literary Corpus

Dr. Ephraim Kanarfogel

Rabbinic Literary Corpus

Dr. Kanarfogel

The impact of these two centers on each others in several disciplines including the influence of the Tosafists on the Talmudic commentaries of Nahmanides and his students, early Sefardic codification and Ashkenazic halakhic works of the 13th century, and Ashkenazic pietism and Rabbenu Yonah of Gerona.

JHI 6822 History of Biblical Exegesis in Medieval Ashkenaz

This course examines the interaction between the Spanish Inquisition and a wide range of its targets. Beginning with a brief history of the Inquisition in the Iberian world, the focus shifts to a series of individual testimonies presented before the Inquisition. These individuals were accused of a variety of religious crimes, from bigamy and witchcraft to adhering to varying manifestations of Jewish and Christian heresies. We will examine how these individuals present themselves to their inquisitors and how they transform their interrogations into acts of self-defense. In addition to inquisitorial records we will examine literary and visual interpretations of the Inquisition including contemporary cinema.

This multidisciplinary course challenges the students to analyze a wide range of primary texts: Inquisitorial documents, spiritual autobiographies, Responsa, and visual media in order to explore a complex sociocultural phenomenon.

JHI 6409 Sabbatean Controversies

Dr. Carlebach

The polemical literature generated by the most important internal Jewish controversy of the early modern period; influence of the controversy on attitudes toward the study of Kabbalah, toward Messianism, and toward rabbinic authority; the writings of Jacob Sasportas, Moses Hagiz, Jacob Emden, David Fleckele, and their opponents.

JHI 6410 Emden-Eibeschutz Controversy

Dr. Sid Leiman

A critical study of the controversy and its aftermath. Topics include: the protagonists as reflected in their own writings; the protagonists as reflected in the writings of their contemporaries; rabbinic responses to the controversy; Jewish historiography and the controversy.

JHI 6415 Haskalah in Western Europe

Dr. Carlebach

Origins and development of the Haskalah in its Jewish and European contexts, from the 18th to the mid-19th century; emphasis on the foundation texts of the Haskalah, particularly those emanating from Berlin. Comparison with other Western European models.

JHI 6418 Jewish Thought & Culture in Central Europe, 1800-1914

Dr. es

This course is a comparative study of the Jewish communities of the Russian, Ottoman and Austrian

This course will explore the cultural movement that sought to elevate the prestige of Yiddish from the

Free and religiously voluntary American society has posed unparalleled challenges to the continuity of Judaism. How Jews have defined that challenge and attempted to reconcile, accommodate, or preserve unchanged.

JHI 6576 East European Jews in America

Dr. Gurock

The range of sources (governmental, archival, periodical, and literary) and methods (quantitative, nonquantitative, and sociological) available for studying the history of the East European Jew in America; works written in this field.

JHI 6579 History of American Jewish Orthodoxy

Dr. Gurock

Attempts by Orthodox Jews to reconcile, accommodate, or preserve unchanged their religious faith and practice in a free society: differing lay and rabbinic perceptions of America; issues of cooperation and competition between Orthodoxy and other conceptions of American Judaism; growth of Orthodox institutions and parallels within American society.

JHI 6582 Minorities, Majorities and American Jews: 1920-2000

Dr. Gurock

Patterns of acculturation and issues of integration among America's Jews from the close of the period of East European migration to the contemporary era. Examination of demographic and socioeconomic changes, interethnic and interracial relations, shifting patterns and trends in religious denominational life, attitudes towards Zionism and the State of Israel.

JHI 6583 The Contemporary American Jewish Community: Continuity and Change

Dr. David Schnall

Social, political, economic and religious trends and directions of Jews in the United States at the late and early 21st century. Both quantitative and qualitative analysis reflecting the work of an interdisciplinary selection of scholars. While the focus is the Jewish population of the United States as a whole, special consideration will be directed to the Orthodox cohort.

JHI 6888 American Jewish Historiography

Dr. Gurock

The writing of American Jewish history from the era of filiopietism to the contemporary period; trends in historical research and evaluation of major recent works in the field.

JHI 7600 Reading Modern Arabic Sources on Jews and Judaism

Dr. Tsadik

The seminar seeks to cover a range of sources written by modern Arab scholars and Muslim religious scholars on Jews and Judaism. In reading the sources, some modern Muslim descriptions of Jewish life in medieval and modern times will be examined, including some religious attitudes as well as anti-Semitic ideology toward the Jews. Part of these perceptions and depictions will be shown as rooted in early Muslim writings, while others as derived from European ideologies.

JHI 8850 Doctoral Seminar in American Jewish History

Dr. Gurock

Review of research methods in American Jewish History; evaluation of recent works and trends in American Jewish historiography; refinement of writing skills; preparation of doctoral plans and prospectus. Instructor's permission required for admission to the course.

20th century

Dr. Gurock

Studying the role and status of the Jews from immigrant to native born generations within a changing metropolis. Research areas include the demographics and social tenor of Jewish neighborhoods, interaction with other ethnic and racial minorities and the leadership roles that defined this largest Jewish community outside of Israel

Prerequisite: JHI 5572

Bible

BIB 5031 Introduction to Biblical Studies I

Dr. Leiman

Introduction to major issues and movements relating to the formation, transmission, translation, and interpretation of Hebrew Scripture.

BIB 5115 Introduction to Biblical Studies II

Dr. Eichler

Introduction to the Ancient Near Eastern background of the Bible related to the history and culture of the major civilizations and ethnolinguistic groups that formed the Biblical world.

BIB 6094 French Medieval Biblical Exegesis

Dr. Cohen

The Northern French exegetical tradition, with emphasis on Rashi, Rashbam, and Joseph Kara; innovations of this tradition, especially its notion of peshuto shel miqra; impact of this tradition on contemporaneous and later exegetes, e.g., Ibn Ezra, Radak and Nahmanides; selected readings from the primary sources and the modern scholarly literature.

BIB 6097: Nahmani

This course will be a close text reading of the universal history found in Genesis. The sections will include the Tower of Babel, the Table of Nations and the Flood Story. Attention will be paid to the ancient Near Eastern echoes of the text.

BIB 6305 Ezra & Nehemiah

Various Faculty

The course will concentrate on the interrelationships of history and literature in the historical period covered by the book of Ezra-Nehemiah (more properly known as the book of Ezra), viz. 539-425 BCE. In addition to studying the text of Ezra, we will make use of data gleaned from material culture, from Achaemenid history, and from the Biblical books of prophecy that concern this time period.

BIB 6611 Book of Deuteronomy

Various Faculty

Selected passages from the Book of Deuteronomy, with emphasis on philological, legal, historical, and ideological problems in light of Ancient Near Eastern parallels and rabbinic commentary.

BIB 7325 Book of Judges

Various Faculty

BIB 7718 The Book of Hosea

Dr. Holtz

Textual study of the Book of Hosea, with emphasis on modern historical and philological methods of its interpretation.

BIB 7719 Prayer in the Hebrew Bible

Dr. Holtz

Study of prayers included in the Hebrew Bible, with an eye towards their poetics and religious ideologies. Close reading of biblical passages, comparison with analogues from ancient Near Eastern literature and later Hebrew prayers, as well as engagement with modern academic writings on the subject. Texts drawn from most major genres of biblical literature, including prose, prophecy and the Psalms.

BIB 7720 Book of Amos

Dr. Holtz

Textual study of the Book of Amos, with emphasis on philological, literary, historical, and ideological issues.

BIB 7551 Book of Ezekiel

Various Faculty

Textual study of the Book of Ezekiel, with emphasis on the history of its exegesis.

BIB 8209 Book of Psalms

Various Faculty

Dr. Cohen

Analysis of Job, its message and literary structure in light of modern scholarship and the Jewish exegetical tradition. Philological interpretations of Rashi, Joseph Qara and Rashbam; philosophical interpretations of Sa'adia, Abraham Ibn Ezra and Maimonides; Nahmanides' Kabbalistic approach. Implications for Jewish biblical hermeneutics: literary nature of Scripture, the role of peshat as opposed to other layers of meaning in Scripture.

BIB 8310 Song of Songs: Readings in Biblical Poetry

Dr. Cohen

In-depth study of Shir HaShirim, its language, structure, imagery, and depiction of human and spiritual love; literal vs. allegorical readings in rabbinic and medieval commentaries; modern scholarship, with special emphasis on literary analysis; medieval and modern theories of poetics as applied to Biblical poetry.

BIB 8610 The Book of Chronicles and Its Interpreters

Dr. Yitzhak Berger

This course examines both medieval and modern interpretations of Chronicles, contrasting different approaches to the special problems generated by the book. In particular, the course will consider

especially i
sources.

BIB 8800 Egypt and the Bible

Dr. Koller

This course surveys the various ways in which Egypt and Israel interacted in biblical times, and the ways in which understanding ancient Egypt can help understand the Bible. Topics covered include linguistic influences, historical interactions from the Late Bronze Age through the Persian period, literary and religious influences and commonalities (hymns, and psalms, ^{and} ~~psalms~~ ^{and} ~~psalms~~ literature, love songs, prophecy, creation, monotheism) and the place of Egypt in Israelite thought.

BIB 9001 Approaches to the Study of Biblical Law

Dr. Eichler

The methodological issues inherent in the study of Biblical law. The various approaches to the study of Biblical law will be examined and critically evaluated. Permission of the instructor to take courses is required.

BIB 9065 Parashat Mishpatim

Dr. Eichler

A close reading of the Biblical text utilizing medieval and modern commentaries, also attention to ancient Near Eastern legal texts as an exegetical tool.

Jewish Philosophy

JPH 5011 Survey of Medieval Jewish Philosophy

Dr. Daniel Rynhold

Basic trends (Kalâm, Neoplatonism, Aristotelianism, critique of Aristotelianism) as reflected in writings of major exponents; religious and philosophical backgrounds and historical settings; readings in the primary and secondary literature.

JPH 5012 Survey of Modern and Contemporary Jewish Philosophy

Dr. Rynhold

Impact of modern culture and philosophy on Jewish thought; basic trends (rationalism, idealism, neo Kantianism, existentialism) as reflected in the writings of major exponents; readings in the primary and secondary literature.

JPH 5015 The Problem of Evil in Modern Jewish Philosophy

Dr. Rynhold

A detailed analysis of the treatment of the problem of evil in Modern Jewish philosophy, addressing both pre- and post-Holocaust thought. Thinkers to be studied will be selected from among the following: Baruch Spinoza, Hermann Cohen, Martin Buber, Franz Rosenzweig, Rav Kook, Richard Rubenstein, Emil Fackenheim, Eliezer Berkovits, and Rav Soloveitchik. Emphasis will be placed on the bearing of the responses studied on the question of the nature of Modern Jewish philosophy.

JPH 5350 Introduction to Jewi

Dr. Dauber

Survey of the major themes of Hassidic thought through an examination of the works of its major exponents including the Baal Shem Tov, the Maggid of Mezhibezh, R. Jacob Joseph of Polonoye, R. Menahem Nahum of Chernobyl, R. Shneur Zalman of Lyady and others. Particular attention will be paid to the intellectual and historical contexts in which Hassidism flourished. Relevant secondary literature will also be considered.

JPH 6190 Jewish Eschatology

Dr. Rynhold

Messiah, resurrection, and world to come; Biblical and rabbinic antecedents; Sefer Zerubbabel; relevant Gemul.

JPH 6201 Jewish Ethics

Dr. Rynhold

Selected philosophical texts dealing with problems as good and evil, Divine providence and human freedom, virtue and vice, the individual and society, and the nature of human happiness; concepts in general ethical and social theory as basis for comparison.

JPH 6447 The Ba'al Shem Tov

Dr. Dauber

An examination of the life and teachings of the Ba'al Shem Tov and a critical assessment of relevant scholarship. The Ba'al Shem Tov's teachings will be situated within the context of the history of Jewish mysticism.

JPH 6522 Secrecy in Jewish Thought

Dr. Dauber

An examination of the theological and social ramifications of secrecy in Jewish thought. Readings will include works of Maimonides, Samuel ibn Tibbon, and various kabbalistic authors.

JPH 6640 Philosophy of Judaism Halevi

Dr. Rynhold

Major concepts of Halevi's thought based on an analysis of selections from his Kuzari; religion and philosophy, prophecy, inyan elohi, am segullah, philosophy of law, and servant of God; religious, philosophical, and historical backgrounds.

JPH 6651 Philosophy of Maimonides

Dr. Rynhold

The seminar will focus on the section of Yitro from the Zohar. An examination of the literary context of zoharic homilies. Issues to be discussed will be the textual history of the work, and the kabbalistic interpretation of revelation and the mystical body of Torah, God, and Israel.

JPH 6745 Topics in 13th Century Kabbalah

Dr. Dauber

An examination of the key themes of the formative period of Kabbalah. Topics studied will include: "origins" of Kabbalah, relationship to Maimonides, role of Sefer Yetsirah, Catalan versus Castilian Kabbalah, kabbalistic theosophy, mysteries of evil, views of the nature of language, reasons for the commandments, and mystical experience. Readings will be taken from the works of Asher b. David, Ezra of Gerona, Azriel of Gerona, Jacob ha

Dr. Rynhold

A critical examination of some of the central themes that emerge out of the work of Martin Buber and Franz Rosenzweig, including, but not limited to, the nature of religious philosophy, human relationships (ethics), and the human-divine encounter (revelat

Talmud

Please note that some of the courses listed as those of Dr. Elman, who has just passed away, will continue to be taught by other faculty. Dr. Hidary, for example, will be teaching Introduction to Tannaitic Literature. Other elements of the Talmud syllabus will be revised.

TAS 5801 Introduction to Tannaitic Literature

Dr. Elman

Scope and nature of the Oral Law; jurisdiction and impact of the Anshei Kenesset ~~de~~ Hag Sanhedrin, and the Hillel Patriarchate; analysis of literary forms, composition, and redaction of Tannaitic literature; Mishnah, Tosefta, and Midreshei Halakhah.

TAS 5804 Introduction to Amoraic Literature

Dr. Elman

Literary history and redaction of the Babylonian and Palestinian Talmudim and their interrelationship; yeshivot and prominent Amoraim in their geographic and historical setting; analysis of the Saboraic contribution to the Talmud, and its impact on geonic ~~post~~geonic codifiers.

TAS 5871 Introduction to the Midrashic Literature of the Tannaim

Dr. Hurvitz

Introduction to halakhic and aggadic Midrashim; definition of Halakhah, Mishnah, Midrash; origin and development of hermeneutic rules; schools of R. Ishmael ~~and~~ R. Akiba; development and structure of the tannaitic Midrashim: Mekhilta, Sifra, Sifrei, Mekhilta of R. Shimon bar Yohai, Midrash Tannaim, and Sifrei Zuta on Deuteronomy.

TAS 5872 Midrashic Literature of the Amoraim

Dr. Hurvitz

Annual and triennial cycles of reading; origin of haftarah; the two Pesiktot; types of Midrashim: expository, halakhic and aggadic, homiletic, historical and narrative, theological, esoteric, and apocryphal; Midrashim to be considered: Midrash Rabbah, ~~Tractate~~ Seder Eliyahu, Seder Olam, Pirkei de R. Eliezer, and ~~Post~~Amoraic Midrashim.

TAS 6520 Literature of the Rishonim

Dr. Hurvitz

Development of halakhic literature in Europe. The literature of the academies and Rishonim in Provence. The Hidushim literature on the Talmud in Spain beginning with Nahmanides. Rashi's Talmudic

commentary and its influence on the Tosafists and the Halakhah in France. Halakhic codices in Ashkenaz and their influence on the codification of the Tur and the Shulhan Arukh.

TAS 6530,6531 Literature of the Acharonim I, II

Dr. Hurvitz

The literature of the late Rishonim and early Acharonim during the 15th centuries may be divided

commentaries added as supplements in the back of individually printed tractates of Talmud Bavli, and

categories were composed by outstanding Torah scholars and similar aims but, of course, the inner contents of their works were influenced by the specific period and place in which they were written, such as Poland, Turkey, Italy, and Ashkenaz. The course will examine the historical background of the authors, the halachic contents of their words and their influence.

TAS 6817 Sources of the Babylonian Talmud

Dr. Elman

The use and origin of earlier sources by the redactors of selected Babylonian sugyot with a view to determine the principles by which these sources were selected, arranged, modified, interpreted, and reinterpreted.

TAS 6874 Classical Rabbinic Legal Thought

Dr. Elman

The interaction of the Babylonian Jewish community and the rabbinic élite with Middle Persian culture. Degrees of acculturation of various communities, especially Mahoza and Pumbedita. Topics covered include: rabbinic authority, relation with non-Jews, Jewish autonomy, and the function of Jewish courts

TAS 6877 Classical Rabbinic Thought I

Dr. Elman

TAS 6880 Sifrei on Numbers and Deuteronomy

Dr. Hurvitz

Selected texts from the Sifrei and their interpretation by Rishonim and Aharonim; textual development of these midrashim in the light of the differing methodological approaches of the schools of Rabbi Ishmael and Rabbi Akiba.

TAS 6885 Classical Rabbinic Legal Exegesis

Dr. Elman

History, logic, and forms of classical rabbinic legal exegesis as found in the Babylonian Talmud; comparative materials drawn from the halakhic Midrashim and the Jerusalem Talmud.

TAS 6895 Topics in Aggadah

Dr. Hurvitz

Nature and structure of Aggadah and Homiletics in the Tannaitic and Amoraic Literature. Examination of a variety of methodologies, highlighting the interpretation of biblical texts, concepts and beliefs, and goals. Study of historical perspectives.

TAS 7521 She

Dr. Hurvitz

Background of the formation of She'iltot of Rav Ahai Gaon; various editions according to manuscripts and first editions; She'iltot and their relation to the two Talmudim, Halakhot Gedolot, Midrash Yelamdenu, Midrash Vehiluz; various commentaries.

TAS 7523 Literature of the Geonim

Dr. Hurvitz

Textual examination of geonic responsa; She'iltot; halakhic codices of the Geonim; halakhic monographs of Saadia, Hofni, and Hai Gaon; introductions to the Talmud and Geonic literature in North Africa and Spain.

TAS 7541 Halakhic Literature of Spanish Jewry 10th Century

Dr. Hurvitz

The Halakhic literature of the post Geonic period. The classical works by the Rishonim of the three major centers of Sephardic Jewry: North Africa, Spain and Egypt. The contributions of the Torah Academies headed by R. Hananel Ben Hushiel and R. Nissim Gaon in Qaytrawan; R. Moshe, Hanokh, Yoseph Ibn Abitur, Yoseph Gaon, Shmuel-Nagid, Yehuda Abarzeloni and Isaac Ghayyat in Spain; R. Isaac Alfasi and R. Moshe Ben Maimon.

TAS 7544 Maimonides' Halakhic Writings

Dr. Hurvitz

The historical background. The process of composing his works and their influence on his time and later generations. His commentaries on the Mishna, Babylonian and Sanl ba8RIn aluence on his time and late

Dr. Hurvitz

The Mishnah and Talmud from the Saboraic Period until the recent, scientific editions, based on Geniza manuscripts, geonic Codices and Responsa, the Munich manuscript of the Talmud, the Parma manuscript of the Mishnah, and Geniza fragments of unknown printed editions of the Mishnah, and editions from Spain, Italy, until the Vilna edition, as well as hitherto unprinted material from the Institute for the Complete Israeli Talmud are examined.

Faculty Information

Core Faculty

Joseph Angel, Associate Professor of Jewish History
PhD, New York University
Second Temple history and literature

David Berger, Ruth & I. Lewis Gordon Professor of Jewish History and Dean
PhD, Columbia University
Jewish intellectual history; Jewish-Christian relations; Messianism and Messianic movements; Jewish attitudes toward general culture

Mordechai Cohen, Professor of Bible and Associate Dean; Divisional Coordinator of Academic Jewish Studies, Yeshiva College
PhD, Yeshiva University
Medieval biblical interpretation; connections with Arabic poetics and medieval Hebrew poetry; Muslim jurisprudence and Jewish legal exegesis; non-literary approaches to the Bible

Jonathan Dauber, Associate Professor of Jewish Mysticism
PhD, New York University
Kabbalah and Hasidism; Jewish mysticism and esotericism, interfaces between Kabbalah and Jewish philosophy, Jewish messianism

Barry Eichler, Professor of Bible and Cuneiform Studies
PhD, University of Pennsylvania
Application of Mesopotamian literature to the study of the Bible

Yaakov Elman, Professor of Jewish History; Herbert S. and Naomi Denenberg Chair in Talmudic Studies
PhD, New York University
Tosefta: structure, aims, and relationship to the Talmud; rabbinic theology; unfolding systems of rabbinic legal exegesis

Steven Fine, Dean Pinkhos Churgin Professor of Jewish History
PhD, Hebrew University
Jewish life in Greco-Roman times; art history

Jeffrey S. Gurock, Libby M. Klaperman Professor of Jewish History
PhD, Columbia University
American Jewish history, with emphasis on social and religious history; modern Jewish history

Richard Hidary, Associate Professor of Jewish History
PhD, New York University
History of the Rabbis and their Greco-Roman Context; Second Temple and Rabbinic Literature

Shalom Holtz, Associate Professor of Bible
PhD, University of Pennsylvania
Mesopotamian literature and law and their relationship to biblical and rabbinic literature

Elazar Hurvitz, Professor of Bible; Dr. Samuel Belkin Chair in Judaic Studies
PhD, Yeshiva University
Halakhic and midrashic literature; Geonic literature; Genizah research

Ephraim Kanarfogel, E. Billi Ivry University Professor of Jewish History, Literature and Law;
PhD, Yeshiva University
Medieval Jewish history; history of halakhah; history of educational theory and practice; intellectual crosscurrents between Ashkenaz and Sefarad; pietism and mysticism in rabbinic culture

Joshua Karlip, Associate Professor of Jewish History
PhD, Jewish Theological Seminary
Eastern European Jewish History, Jewish Nationalism, Modern Yiddish Culture, Jewish Intellectual Responses to Nazism, Jewish Religious Life in the Soviet Union, Lithuanian Jewry

Joshua Zimmerman, Eli and Diana Zborowski Professorial Chair in Holocaust Studies and East European Jewish History; Associate Professor of History
PhD, Brandeis University
Jewish social and national movements in Eastern Europe; Jewish culture in Eastern Europe; Holocaust studies

Senior Adjunct Faculty

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Student Conduct and Student Rights

Please visit <https://www.yu.edu/student-life/resources-and-services/StandardPolicies> and review the following University policies on student conduct and student rights:

Protection Policy

-Bullying and Hazing Policy for Students