



Yeshiva University

# JEWISH STUDIES COURSE OFFERINGS

## BEREN CAMPUS

## SPRING 2024

# ELEMENTARY

(BY ASSIGNMENT ONLY)

## 1002 Intro to Judaism II

(Rabbi Hajioff, *Fundamentals*)

From Abraham to Mount Sinai: This course will answer the question, how did Judaism begin? We will be exploring the origins of the Torah and Jewish thought using Hebrew and English texts.

# LOWER INTERMEDIATE

(BY ASSIGNMENT ONLY)

## 1404 Shabbat

(Rabbi Goldberg, *Fundamentals*)

This course will focus on the laws of Shabbat. Students will gain a deeper understanding of the laws surrounding each of the mitzvot we fulfill on Shabbat such as lighting candles, reciting kiddush and eating three meals. We will also focus on the common prohibited activities that guide the observance of Shabbat.

## 1431 Kashrut

(Rabbi Fine, *Fundamentals*)

In this course will delve into the Laws of *Kashrut*, which impact our home and daily lives. We will learn a range of topics, which relate to the separation of milk and meat, and other forbidden foods and how that plays out practically in our lives. This class will additionally focus on enabling students to improve their skills in the learning of halakha in an accessible way (including translations, guiding questions, etc.). Class time will focus on clarifying and deepening our understanding of the Laws, as well as the process of how the law is decided, and how our learning relates directly to the way we practice.

## 1462 Holidays II

(Rabbi Hajioff, *Fundamentals*)

This course will explore the ideas and laws of Megillat Esther and *Purim*, *Pesach*, the *Omer*, *Shavuot*, and the Three Weeks.

# INTERMEDIATE

## **1434 Kashrut II**

(Rabbi Fine, *Fundamentals*)

In this course will delve into the Laws of *Kashrut*. We will learn a range of topics, which relate to the laws of *Tevilat Keilim*, “*Kashering*”, *Bishul Akum*, *Pat Akum*, *Yayin Nesech*, and other forbidden foods and how that plays out practically in home and daily lives. This class will additionally focus on enabling students to improve their skills in the learning of halakha by engaging with the provided mekoros (sources) directly. Shiur time will focus on clarifying and deepening our understanding of the halakhos, as well as the halakhic process and how our learning relates to our practice.

## **1440 Jewish Laws and Customs: Family Law II**

(Professor Feder, *Fundamentals*)

An in-depth study of the laws of *Niddah* Family Purity and a Torah perspective on intimacy. Focusing on normative halakhic practice, along with an understanding of the history of the halakha and halakhic principles underlying the laws.

## **1452 Shabbat**

(Rabbi S. Schachter, *Fundamentals*)

The class will explore a survey of common hilkhot shabbat that are relevant to our modern homes including discussions about: shabbat candles, *Kiddush*, *Havdalah*, *Muktzah*, *Pikuach Nefesh*, *Amirah l'akum*, Alexa and Google Play.

## **1454 The Sabbath**

(Rabbi Hajioff, *Fundamentals*)

This course will delve into the practical applications of the 39 Melakhot of Shabbat.

## **1488 Daily Life-Brakhot**

(Rabbi Auman, *Fundamentals*)

This course will focus on studying laws of both *brakhot rishonot*, brakhot before food, and *brakhot achronot*, brakhot after eating. Topics will include the amount of food eaten necessary: to recite a brakha, the status of brakhot, differences between men and women regarding brakhot, and other issues.

### **1502 Jewish Business Ethics**

(Rabbi Teitelman, *Fundamentals*)

It may come as a surprise, but there are many more mitzvot that pertain to the kashrut of money, than the kashrut of food. In this course, we will study halakhic and ethical questions that arise in business. We will begin with understanding the respective concepts of halakha and ethics, discuss the ethical imperative of work itself, and proceed to explore a wide range of challenges at both the corporate and individual levels, considering perspectives of employer and employee, as well as Halakhot of personal conduct in the workplace.

**(Fulfills the Syms requirement for Jewish Business Ethics)**

### **1507 Customs of Sepharad and Ashkenaz**

(Rabbi Wolff, *Fundamentals*)

This class looks at the origins and development of the differing practices between Sepharad and Ashkenaz and looks at specific examples in the realms of Tefilah, holidays, and lifecycle events. We also discuss marriages between Sepharadim and Ashkenazim and davening in a synagogue with differing customs.

### **1580 Modern Jewish Problems: Judaism and Avoda Zara**

(Rabbi Wolff, *Fundamentals*)

This course will look at the definition and parameters of *Avoda Zara* and the halakhic status of other major belief systems. We will then discuss practical issues such as attending events and occasions in non-Jewish houses of worship, studying other belief systems for the sake of comparison or to engage in conversation with non-Jewish colleagues, and acknowledging non-Jewish holidays.

### **1825 Pirkei Avot II**

(Rabbi Goldberg, *Fundamentals*)

This course will be an in-depth study of many of the central mishyanot in *Pirkei Avot* (chapters 3-5). The textually orientated classes will focus on the classical commentaries such as Rabbenu Yonah, the Rambam, and Rav Ovadya Bartenura. The class will also incorporate many modern commentaries such as Rabbi Reuven Feinstein and Rabbi Dr. Abraham Twersky. Emphasis will be placed on the broader themes and lessons that emerge from the study of the mishnayot.

### **4931 Intro to Talmud II**

(Professor Broth, *Fundamentals*)

In this course, we will learn talmudic passages with a focus on Chazal's 13 midrashic principles of interpretation. These principles come up throughout *Torah She Baal Peh* and will give the students a better understanding of how to better learn gemara. Through this course, students will develop skills for learning gemara on their own and will work on understanding themes and patterns in the gemara. Gemara background is not necessary to take this course!

## **4932 Hilkhoh Pesach and Haggadah**

(Rabbi Reichman, *Fundamentals*)

In this course, we will learn about kashering utensils for Pesach, destroying chametz, how to make Matzah, and inspirational insights about the Haggadah.

# **ADVANCED**

## **1203 Tefillah**

(Rabbi Goldberg, *Fundamentals*)

This course will focus on practical laws of *Tefilah*. Our studies will be text-based, tracing the Halakhot from their earliest origins in the Mishnah and Talmud through the works of the *Rishonim*, *Achronim*, and *Poskim*. Special emphasis will be placed on *halakha l'maaseh*, the practical application of the law. The class will also focus on the philosophy of prayer that emerges from the study of the Halakhot. The topics of study include: eating before davening, davening on a plane, davening mincha after *shekiyah*, the role of *tefilah b'tzibur*, skipping parts of *tefilah* etc.

## **1444 Family Law II**

(Professor Price, *Fundamentals*)

This course will cover the laws of Niddah pertaining to a *kallah* as well as the laws of *vestot* and *harchakot*.

## **1451 Marriage in Halakha II**

(Professor Price, *Fundamentals*)

This course will explore the laws pertaining to the restrictions in the bedroom between husband and wife, childbirth, and covering hair.

## **1457 Shabbat**

(Rabbi A. Cohen, *Fundamentals*)

This course will be a thorough study of the halakhot of *Kiddush* and *Havdalah*.

## **1466 Festivals II**

(Rabbi A. Cohen, *Fundamentals*)

A selection of practical halakha topics relating to *Purim*, *Pesach*, *Sefiras Haomer*, and *Shavuot*.

## **1501 Jewish Business Ethics**

(Rabbi Auman, *Fundamentals*)

An in depth study of issues related to employee employer relationships, including rights of workers and employees and their obligations, strikes, infringing on the abilities of others to make a living.

**(Fulfills the Syms requirement for Jewish Business Ethics)**

## **1510 Development of Jewish Law**

(Rabbi Nachbar, *Fundamentals*)

This course will explore the development of halakha through its various stages, from the pesukim in Chumash to rulings of contemporary poskim. A specific halakhic issue will be traced through each of its different phases of development and will provide a window into the general historical era in which each halakhic work was composed, specific biographical highlights about the author, critical questions surrounding the impact of each work, and an appreciation of different genres of halakhic writing.

(required for all Jewish studies majors as of Fall 2024)

## **1577 Halakha and the State of Israel**

(Rabbi Wolff, *Fundamentals*)

This course will explore the halakhic issues in the state of Israel. Topics include: creation of a state, supreme court, army and war, Chilul Shabbat, Aliya, Yom Haatzmaut, *Shmitta*, *Trumot* and *Maasrot*.

## **1581 Jewish Medical Ethics**

(Rabbi Willig, *Fundamentals*)

## **1844 Intermediate Talmud**

(Rabbi Zuckier, *Fundamentals*)

We will be learning the first Perek of Bava Kamma, with a focus on gaining the skill of reading Gemara independently. Meant for those with some background in Gemara (high school and/or shana baaretz).

## **1847 Advanced Talmud**

(Rabbi Nachbar, *Fundamentals*)

This course will be an intensive, text-based shiur that will focus on the *sugyot* of *geneivah* and *gezeilah* that appear in Masekhet Bava Kama. While anchored in the seventh perek, our study will also draw upon relevant material in the ninth and tenth perakim. A dual focus on developing textual skills in reading and decoding Gemara and Rishonim as well as equipping students with interpretive tools for conceptual analysis will guide our learning. Participating students are expected to invest substantial preparation time outside of and in advance of the designated time for shiur.

## **1848 Topics in Talmud: Holidays II**

(Rabbi Zuckier, *Fundamentals*)

We will focus on *Sugyot* relating to Purim and Pesach, learning Gemara together and studying various conceptual issues (Lomdus) surrounding each topic. This class is meant for those who have experience preparing Gemara on their own or with a chavrusa.

### **4930 Topics: Medical Treatment on Shabbat II**

(Rabbi Torczyner, *Fundamentals*)

Every seven days, the laws of Shabbat raise serious questions surrounding medical care: How should one treat a wound? How do diabetics monitor their blood sugar? Is there a way to fill a prescription? May one visit the sick? What should I do if an adult tooth falls out? Our course will address these and similar questions via text study, starting from the Talmud and working our way forward to contemporary works of halakha. This is the second semester of a two-semester course. The information in the second semester builds on the first semester, but students who missed the first semester may take the second semester. There will be some review at the beginning.

### **4933 Topics: Peace, Love, and Priestly Blessings: Birkhas Kohanim**

(Professor Schonbrun, *Fundamentals*)

This course will delve into the Birkas Kohanim, the Priestly Blessings. We will closely analyze the berakhos as they appear in the Torah, as well as related midrashim, gemaras, rishonim, and poskim. Through the text of the berakhos and the details and halakhos (laws) surrounding the practice, we will aim to understand the themes and principles underlying the blessings. We will explore the concepts of peace and love, the role of *kohanim*, and the interrelationship between the *kohanim*, the Jewish people, and Hashem, hoping to gain an appreciation of and to internalize the timely and timeless values expressed in the fulfillment of this mitzvah.

### **4939 Topics: Weekly Mitzvot II**

(Rabbi S. Schachter, *Fundamentals*)

The course will delve into a relevant halakhic topics from the weekly parsha.

## **HONORS**

### **1846H Advanced Talmud**

(Rabbi Nachbar, *Fundamentals*)

This course will be an intensive, text-based shiur that will focus on the sugyot of geneivah and gezeilah that appear in Masekhet Bava Kama. While anchored in the seventh perek, our study will also draw upon relevant material in the ninth and tenth perakim. A dual focus on developing textual skills in reading and decoding Gemara and Rishonim as well as equipping students with interpretive tools for conceptual analysis will guide our learning. Participating students are expected to invest substantial preparation time outside of and in advance of the designated time for shiur.

## **4933H Modern Public Policy**

(Rabbi Laufer, *Fundamentals*)

In this course, we will attempt to recreate and demystify the role of the Posek in adjudicating modern public policy questions. Often times modern Poskim are faced with questions that have no easy solution, yet they must draw upon their breadth of knowledge to answer them. In this course we will explore in depth areas of Halakha in topics that are uniquely modern as well as remarkably complex. This class aims, through the use of application of Halakha and in depth case-studies, to uncover the practical approach that a modern Posek will use—equal parts science and art—to answer the quandaries that life often presents. Peeking behind the curtain of the approach that our Poskim use allows us to better understand both the difficulty and sensitivity necessary to handle these issues. Topics covered will include issues of communal structure such as tuition obligations, tax systems, and prisons to issues of family life such as single parenthood, intermarriage, and the Aguna crisis. We will also look at areas of monetary law including intentional breach of contract, *force majeure*, and inheritance along with contemporary issues in medical care such as suicide and drug use. The goal of this class, ultimately, is to show how the study of Halakha constantly guides and shapes the choices we make today.

**(Fulfills the Syms requirement for Jewish Business Ethics)**



# ELEMENTARY

## (BY ASSIGNMENT ONLY)

### **1135 Big Ideas in Jewish Philosophy**

(Professor Besser, *Fundamentals*)

Throughout the course of history, people have looked at the world and come away with questions, struggling with various aspects of humanity and faith. Each topic we will explore in this course will be centered around one of these big ideas, allowing us to ponder in a relevant manner some of the major issues facing modern Jews, including free will, faith and doubt, providence, prayer, the place of a Jew in the secular world. During our journey, we will explore new ways of looking at texts and ideas, encountering both the confluence and conflict of Jewish and secular learning which will bring us to a higher level of understanding of ourselves and God's role in the world.

# INTERMEDIATE

### **1131 Intro to Jewish Philosophy**

(Rabbi Schimmel, *Fundamentals*)

This semester we will focus on a variety of significant topics in Jewish thought. Through studying the writings of seminal Jewish thinkers from both the medieval and modern periods, we will develop a deeper understanding of the history of Jewish thought as well as achieve a greater appreciation for the relationship between philosophy and Judaism. The excerpts and passages that have been selected will allow us to reflect on a variety of fascinating problems: such as, the tension between reason and faith, the nature of Jewish chosenness, theodicy and the allegorical interpretation of Scripture. We will also examine issues pertaining to the meaning of the commandments and the religious value of family life. Seminars will be discussion-based with the intention of fostering students' analytical and critical thinking skills.

### **1652 Rambam's Letters II**

(Rabbi Hidary, *Fundamentals*)

Explore the Rambam's ethical and philosophical teaching on topics of prophecy, providence, rewarded and punishment, theodicy, and afterlife.

### **1918 Philosophy and Tanakh**

(Rabbi Schimmel, *Fundamentals*)

This course will focus on philosophical concepts and themes that arise from classical biblical narratives. Through closely examining these topics, students will arrive at a deeper understanding of the Torah as well as achieve a greater appreciation of the relationship between philosophy and Judaism. The narratives and passages that have been selected will allow us to reflect on a variety of fascinating problems, such as the development of the human persona, the ethical nature of a divine command, asceticism, and the religious value of pleasure, divine intervention, and theodicy. Seminars will be discussion-based with the intention of fostering students' analytical and critical thinking skills.

### **4932 Living with Faith**

(Rabbi Fine, *Fundamentals*)

## **4933H Malbim and Modernity**

(Rabbi Lerner)

The aim of this class is to explore the thought of one of the most well-known Jewish exegetes of the nineteenth century—Malbim—with a heavy emphasis on his historical and intellectual context. We will survey the major intellectual movements of modern Europe—the Enlightenment and Romanticism—through the prism of some of the key texts that defined the respective projects, and then consider their impact on the role of the Bible in European life, and the resulting crises which faced the newly emancipated Jews of Europe. After examining the attempts of Mendelssohn, Meklenburg, and Hirsch, to conserve Jewish tradition, we will turn to Malbim. The theses of his sermons and the themes of his exegesis will be explored alongside some of the biblically inspired literature of the age—including Lord Byron’s Cain. We will conclude the course with an assessment of how Malbim’s claims have fared over the past one hundred and fifty years

**(Honors Course)**

## **ADVANCED AND HONORS**

### **4931 Rabbi Nachman of Breslav**

(Rabbi Reichman, *Fundamentals*)

This course is devoted to studying Likutei Moharan. Rabbi Nachman was considered the poet of the Chassidic movement and the course will focus on lessons about prayer, humility, and joy.

**(Upper Intermediate-Advanced Course)**

### **1654 Maimonides: Guide to the Perplexed**

(Dr. Shatz, *Fundamentals*)

This course will delve into Rambam’s Guide of the Perplexed. Rambam’s Guide of the Perplexed (*Moreh Nevukhim*) is the most famous work in the history of Jewish philosophy, but also perhaps the most challenging to interpret. This course is designed to introduce you to the basic concepts and arguments of the *Moreh* and to highly contested issues about the proper method for its interpretation. Despite our stress on the *Moreh*, however, we will spend the first few weeks on the philosophy in Rambam’s “legal writings,” primarily *Mishneh Torah* (his legal code). One major aim of the course is to enable you to read works by Rambam with an eye toward picking up the subtleties in his writing and the ambiguities that often baffle commentators.

### **4931 Thoughts of Rabbi Eliyahu Dessler**

(Rabbi A. Cohen, *Fundamentals*)

A study of selections from the *Michtav Me’Eliyahu*, with discussion and elaborations in subsequent Seforim

### **4930H Nefesh Hachaim to Halakhic Man**

(Rabbi Soloveitchik, *Fundamentals*)

The term “Misnagid,” or “one who opposes,” is one that defined the leaders of the Lithuanian Yeshiva world by highlighting its differentiation from the Hasidic way of life. The problem with the term is that it summarizes a worldview solely in way it opposed another. In fact, those whose intellectual lives were linked to the Yeshiva of Vilozhin and its worldview have given us a classics of Jewish thought, all making the case for the study of Torah, and the rigorous observance of halakha, as lying at the center of the spiritual life. This course will examine three different complex works, each of which can be considered a classic of Misnagdic Jewish thought: the mystical Nefesh Ha-Hayyim of Rabbi Hayyim of Vilozhin, with a focus on the fourth part; the Ha’amek Davar of Rabbi Naftali Tzvi Yehudah Berlin, known as “the Netziv,” with its focus on Humash, Midrash, and Talmudic texts; and Rabbi Joseph. B. Soloveitchik’s Halakhic Man, which describes the worldview of his ancestors utilizing a philosophical idiom. We will discuss what these works have in common, how they differ, and what each of them has to teach us today.

**(Honors Course)**

# ELEMENTARY

## (BY ASSIGNMENT ONLY)

### **1172 Personal Development in the Bible II**

(Dean Schechter, *Fundamentals*)

This course is geared toward introducing students to an in-depth study of the Bible through various methodologies, exegesis, and text. It will include the topical analysis of various themes and characters primarily in the Book of Genesis. Special emphasis will be placed on the study of human development, behavior, and values as seen through the text. Analysis will include an introduction to commentaries, with a primary emphasis on Rashi.

## LOWER INTERMEDIATE

### (BY ASSIGNMENT ONLY)

### **1304 Book of Exodus II**

(Professor Katz, *Fundamentals*)

In this course, we will focus on a number of the main characters that appear in the book of Exodus. We will explore who they were as individuals, how they connected and interacted with one another, their relationship with God and how their presence impacted the narrative of the Jewish people during the time of the exodus from Egypt. We will use the lens of various commentators, with a focus on Rashi and Ramban. The ultimate goal of this exploration is for us to learn from our greatest role models, and apply their lessons to our own lives and relationships with each other, and with God.

### **1304 Book of Exodus II**

(Professor Inslicht, *Fundamentals*)

Book of Exodus II will explore the transition of the Jewish people from slavery to nationhood. We will learn topics such as the giving of the Torah, the building of the Mishkan, the sin of the Golden Calf, and an assortment of Jewish laws that emerge from the Book of Exodus. We will also explore big ideas such as the roles and responsibilities of nationhood, interpersonal relationships, and learning from mistakes.

# INTERMEDIATE

## 1118 Pentateuch: Weekly Portion II

(Dr. Rabinovich, *Fundamentals*)

Study the Parashat HaShavua [the weekly portion] by focusing on one major topic in the parasha and see how various commentators—from classical to modern—explain what is going on.

## 1205 Bereishit II

(Dr. Bloom, *Fundamentals*)

Students will conduct a survey of the latter half of the Book of Genesis while developing an in-depth understanding of chosen topics. Selected textual issues will be analyzed using classical and modern commentators, with a focus on the writings of Rabbi Jonathan Sacks.

## 1305 Shemot

(Rabbi Schwarz, *Fundamentals*)

One of the greatest stories ever told unfolds at the beginning of the Book of Exodus. This course will delve into the birth of the Jewish nation, their servitude in Egypt, and their historic redemption from slavery. We will meticulously examine the text and attain a deeper understanding by exploring the insights of traditional Torah commentators. A working knowledge of Hebrew reading and comprehension is a prerequisite for this course.

## 1505 Bamidbar

(Professor Feder, *Fundamentals*)

In this course we will develop a general understanding of Sefer Bamidbar as a whole and study select portions in great depth with a variety of commentaries. The highlights of this course will include: Sotah, Nazir, The Rav's 'famous' shiur on the inverted *nuns*, the Miraglim, Korach, Mei Miriva, Bilam, and Bnot Ztlofchad.

## 1605 The Book of Devarim

(Dean Schechter, *Fundamentals*)

This course will focus on the in-depth analysis of various topics throughout the Book of Deuteronomy using an array of commentaries from ancient to modern times. Analysis will include an introduction to commentaries, with a primary emphasis on Rashi and Ramban. While our analysis of the text will be thorough, we will always focus on understanding the profound messages of the Torah as applicable to our lives. Topics that will be studied over the course of the year will include but not be limited to: an introduction to the Sefer, a new generation on the threshold of entering Eretz Yisrael, the retelling of the sin of the spies, the command to seek justice and to set up a justice system, loving God and the paragraphs of the shema, rewards and punishments, false prophets, laws of ma'aser, the shalosh regalim, request and establishment of a king, avenging death (go'el ha'dam) and a'rei miklat, the war with Amalek, Moshe's punishment—not entering Eretz Yisrael, Moshe's farewell speech to Bnei Yisrael, Moshe's death.

### **2121 Shoftim**

(Professor Shmalo, *Fundamentals*)

This course will present and analyze the book of Judges which covers a period of almost four hundred years, from the preliminary attempts by the tribes to secure their designated land by Yehoshua, until the eve of the monarchy centuries later. The period of the Judges was perhaps the most turbulent in all Biblical history, as the Jewish tribes struggled mightily to lay the foundations of their state in the shadow of very powerful and corrupted cultural, moral and military threats. The leaders of these centuries, the Judges, led their tribes on the battlefield and frequently provided them with spiritual guidance and leadership. During the course of our studies, we will not only analyze the textual difficulties but will also encounter many important and thought-provoking issues that are introduced by the narratives of this book.

### **2148 Shmuel**

(Professor Rosensweig-Weiss, *Fundamentals*)

This course will be an in-depth study of the text and personalities of Sefer Shmuel. We will analyze the text of Sefer Shmuel through the lens of peshat and derash. Focus on understanding the insights of chazal and the rishonim, and their diverse methodological approaches. Explore the themes of the sefer, primary among them leadership and relationships and how they relate to important Jewish values.

### **2555 Yirmiyahu**

(Professor Shmalo, *Fundamentals*)

This course will present and analyze the book of Yirmiyahu, who began his prophecy in the thirteen year of the reign of King Yoshiyahu, and continued to prophesy until the destruction of the Beit HaMikdash during the reign of King Tzidkiyahu. Of all the various periods in Tanakh since the Exodus, this period was the most difficult that the Jewish people endured.

### **2653 Minor Prophets**

(Professor Fertig, *Fundamentals*)

Although there were thousands of prophets who lived on earth, only those whose teachings were deemed essential for future generations, were recorded and compiled into the 24 books of Tanakh. The "Trei Asar" is a collection of twelve prophets whose messages were considered important enough to be included in this sacred text. The purpose of this course is to gain a deeper understanding of the minor prophets - who they were, what role they played, and how their teachings are relevant to our own lives and our relationship with Hashem. Through studying these prophets, we can uncover valuable insights and guidance that can help us strengthen our connection to Hashem and deepen our understanding of His will.

### **3857 Ezra and Nehemiah**

(Professor Besser, *Fundamentals*)

For most of Tanakh, the Jewish community was centered in the land of Israel with the prophet at their forefront. In Sefer Ezra and Nechemiah, however, the Jewish community is split into two, prophecy is waning and the Jews are in crisis of losing their identity. This course will focus on ideas that relate to these times - the loss of prophecy and the new reality it creates, the question of where to live, and the new organization of the Jewish people around the Torah.

### **4932 Yonah**

(Professor Sara Twersky, *Fundamentals*)

This course will analyze the text of Yonah through close reading, understand the themes and layers of meaning in the Sefer and, appreciate the inner biblical allusions and their messages within the Sefer.

## **UPPER INTERMEDIATE-ADVANCED**

### **2160 Personalities in Sefer Shmuel**

(Professor Rosensweig- Weiss, *Fundamentals*)

We will be conducting a close analysis of the text of Sefer Shmuel. Through this analysis we will develop overarching themes throughout the sefer with a focus on hashkafic values. We will be focusing on the development of the characters in Sefer Shmuel, primary among them Shmuel ha-Navi, Shaul, Dovid ha-Melekh, Chana, Elkanah, Eili ha-Cohen, amongst others. This will be accomplished through a close examination and appreciation of Peshat, Midrash, classical, medieval and traditional modern commentaries. Our analysis will be directed towards understanding the diverse interpretive approaches applied to these personalities.

## **ADVANCED**

### **1081 Introductions to Exegesis**

(Professor Price, *Fundamentals*)

In this course you will learn to solve ambiguous stories in the Torah including Mekhirat Yosef, Akeidat Yitzchak, tearing of coats, and Moshe son's brit milah.

### **1213 Believers and Rebels**

(Professor Rosensweig, *Fundamentals*)

This course will be studying major personalities, conflicts and themes in Sefer Bereishit including: Kayin vs. Hevel; Lemekh to Noach; Avraham and Sarah; Lot vs. Avraham; Rivkah and Yitzchak, Yaakov vs. Eisav, the Imahot, Levi and Shimon, Reuven and Yehudah, Yosef and his brothers. The course will closely examine and appreciation of Peshat, Midrash, and classical medieval commentaries, especially Rashi, Ibn Ezra, Radak, and Ramban.

### **1309 Shemot**

(Professor Feder, *Fundamentals*)

In this course we will be studying Sefer Shemot. We will develop a general understanding of the sefer as a whole and study select portions in great depth with a variety of commentaries. Highlights of the course include analysis of the following: reasons for the enslaved in Egypt, Moshe Rabbeinu as the chosen leader, the makot, hardening of Pharaoh's heart, kriyat yam suf, complaints in the desert, the *mahn*, the war with *Amalek*, *Matan Torah*, the *mishkan*, and the sin of the golden calf.

### **2050 The Haftarot II**

(Professor Rosensweig, *Fundamentals*)

This course will be studying the Haftarot that are read in the Beit Knesset throughout the spring. We will study the text, the concept, the relevant midrashim and parshanim, the message, and its correlation with Parshat Hashavua and/or the calendar of each Haftarah. You will always have a Dvar Torah and know the haftarah in depth. This lecture will be in Hebrew.

(This fulfills the Hebrew requirement for those that placed in **HEBR 1211** or higher)

### **2363 Topic: Personalities in Kings II**

(Professor Rosensweig, *Fundamentals*)

This course will study the history, politics, and events that transpired in preparation for, and during the time of Bayit Rishon. The course will explore the time period from Shlomo through the catastrophe of Hurban Bayit Rishon. Subsequently, we will study the histories of Malkhut Yehuda, and their respective kings. We will attempt to understand the theosophy, historiosophy, and message of Sefer Melakhim and Divrei HaYamim. We will closely examine the peshat along with the traditional Rabbinic Parshanim from the Rishonim to later commentary. You will know all of Melakhim Aleph and Bet, and Divrei Hayamim Bet after this course.

### **2503 Yishayahu**

(Professor Besser, *Fundamentals*)

The prophet Yeshayahu was at home in two worlds - the political intrigue and maneuverings of the palace, and the spiritual and quiet recesses of the study hall. In both he composed beautiful poetry that continues today to inspire us with its vision, its grandeur, its expectations and its window into God's world. We have the opportunity together to study the book of Yeshayahu, understanding his world and the messages that resonated with the people of his time, but also shatter the boundaries of time and space and linger on in our tefillot and our worldview

### **4931 Lessons from Tanakh**

(Rabbi Goldwicht, *Fundamentals*)

This course will delve into the texts and personalities of Tanakh. We will learn the lifelong lessons taught from our holy Torah and how implementing these lessons will enhance all aspects of your life.



# HONORS

## **1096H Ramban on Tanakh**

(Dr. Levine, *Fundamentals*)

This course will study the commentary of Rabbi Moses ben Nahman (Ramban) on biblical narratives, with a particular focus on the stories of the Book of Genesis. Students will reflect critically on Ramban's exegetical analysis of the essential components of biblical stories: plot structure, character, dialogue, and theme by applying literary tools and methodology. Students will enhance their study of Ramban through comparative analyses to the interpretations of his predecessors, and they will investigate historical, cultural, polemical, and philosophical underpinnings in his commentary. Students will be expected to produce a culminating term paper of an independently studied topic in addition to in-class hevruta participation with short written assignments.

## **3807H Daniel**

(Dr. Levine, *Fundamentals*)

This course will provide a critical analysis of the historical, cultural, and political underpinnings of the exilic narratives of the Book of Daniel. Students will also reflect critically on the halakhic issues that often underlie the plot dynamic of the narratives in this sefer as well as the philosophical and polemical aspects of the Book of Daniel. This sefer will be studied through the lens of peshat, correlated with timely historical and archaeological evidence, and it will also investigate the perspectives of midrashic, medieval and modern exegesis. Students will be expected to produce a culminating term paper of an independently studied topic in addition to in-class hevruta participation with short written assignments .

## **4933H Faith and Doubt: Sefer Iyyov Through the Ages**

(Rabbi M. Cohen, *Fundamentals*)

How do we keep our faith strong in the face of challenges, historically, and in the complex modern world? In this course you will learn how Sefer Iyyov (the Book of Job) provided, and continues to provide, spiritual guidance to the Jewish people. We will explore how the ancient biblical drama-narrative was interpreted by peshat commentators such as Rashi and Rashbam, philosophers Saadia and Maimonides (Rambam), and kabbalist Nahmanides (Ramban). And how it inspired modern thinkers like Martin Buber, Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik, and Elie Wiesel.

## **1201 Classical Jewish History**

(Rabbi Mermelstein, *Fundamentals*)

This course will be concerned with Jewish identity, practice, and belief—“Jewishness”—during the Second Temple period and in the period that followed the Temple’s destruction. As we will see, there were various permutations of “Jewishness” at that time, and numerous groups, with conflicting world-views and practices, regarded themselves as being “Jewish.” How did particular communities of Jews express their Jewishness? What factors—both internal and external—can we identify as formative for the Jewishness of particular groups? Were representations of Jewishness static, or can we discern degrees of difference and novelty?

## **1401 Modern Jewish History**

(Dr. Karlip, *Fundamentals*)

This course is a survey of the history of the Jews and Judaism in the modern age, from 1650 to the present. The course will examine the very different ways in which Jews reacted to modernity in Western, Central and Eastern Europe, the Ottoman Empire, America, and Israel. These events and movements include: the definition of Jewish modernity and its differing features in different regions; the various religious movements that arose in nineteenth-century Central Europe; the cultural and social ferment in nineteenth-century Russia that led to the rise and spread of Zionism, Diaspora Nationalism, and socialism; the unique political and cultural positions of the Jews of the Habsburg Empire; the contrasting fate of Jews in the Soviet Union and the Polish Republic during the interwar era; the place of the Holocaust within the larger context of modern Jewish history; the interconnected but very different two major post war Jewish communities of the United States and Israel.

## **1485 How Did the Holocaust Happen?**

(Rabbi Schwarz, *Fundamentals*)

How did the Nazis come to power? How did ordinary Germans become Nazis? Why didn’t the world try to stop Hitler? Why didn’t more Jews flee Germany when they could? Could a Holocaust happen again? This course will utilize primary sources, short videos, and full-length films to explore the historical factors that led to the Holocaust. We will delve into the events leading up to and during the early years of the Holocaust (1933-1938), from World War I to the rise of the Nazis until the beginning of World War II. Our focus will not be on the horrors of the concentration or the extermination camps but on the circumstances that allowed this incomprehensible tragedy to occur.

## **4930 Topics: Religion and Secularism in Zionism and Israel**

(Dr. Karlip, *Fundamentals*)

## **4931 Topics: Biblical Archaeology**

(Dr. J Katz, *Fundamentals*)

This course will present an overview of the archaeological data (including texts) from the Land of Israel during the biblical period. We will examine general Canaanite culture and learn to identify the cultural distinctions between Canaanites, Philistines, and Israelites and how negotiating these differences helped shape a distinct Israelite ethnic identity. While exploring the First Temple period, we will look at the rate of acculturation among these groups as way to better explain the rising tensions between the Kingdoms of Israel and Judah and the diminishing of tensions with the Philistines and Canaanites (now Phoenicians). We will compare the political ambitions of the Assyrians, Babylonians, and Persians and how these ambitions dramatically altered the social, political, and economic landscape of the Land of Israel its inhabitants. By the close of the Biblical Period, we will see the Phoenicians ensconced as coastal sea-farers, the Philistines having disappeared, and the Jews reemerging as a newly defined community centered in Jerusalem.

### **4932 Jews of Persia**

(Professor Levy-Haim, *Fundamentals*)

The Jewish community of Persia is one of the most ancient, surviving Jewish communities, dating back to Biblical times. This course will broadly examine the history and culture of the Jews of Iran and the Persianate world, including the Jews of Bukhara, Kavkaz, and Afghanistan, from the days of the Bible through the Islamic Republic in the twentieth century.

### **1235 The Dead Sea Scrolls**

(Rabbi Hidary, *Fundamentals*)

This course will delve into the exciting world of the Dead Sea Scrolls. This archaeological treasure has given us a window into the critical junction between the Bible and the Mishnah and also brings to life the events in Judea during the last two centuries of the Beit haMikdash. Some of these texts may seem strange and surprising but hopefully you will also find them fascinating and relevant to your own understanding of Judaism and Second Temple politics and polemics.

**(Advanced course)**

### **4933H Josephus' The Jewish War: A Military History of the Battle for Jerusalem**

(Rabbi Soloveitchik, *Fundamentals*)

*Josephus' The Jewish War documents*, from the author's perspective, every aspect of the Jewish revolt against Rome from 66-70, which concluded with the fall of Jerusalem and the destruction of the Temple. The war between Judea and Rome can be seen as a series of military episodes, to be analyzed from the perspective of military history; and it can be understood as embodying a clash between paganism and monotheism, between two very different religious, moral, and cultural worldviews. Recently, two works of scholarship have analyzed these aspects of the Revolt. Martin Goodman, a scholar of the classical world and an authority on Josephus, has delineated the clash of cultures between Judea and Rome in his book *Rome and Jerusalem*; and military historian Guy Maclean Rogers has discussed the military elements in his important work *For the Freedom of Zion*. The goal of this seminar is to pair the reading of the Josephus' *The Jewish War* with these two recent important works, joining a vital classical text with modern scholarly ones. As the seminar proceeds, we will be assessing some of the following questions: Why military mistakes were made by Jewish leaders of the Revolt, and what might have been done differently? What role did internecine infighting play in the fall of Jerusalem? What were the social, religious, and intellectual conflicts that lay at the heart of the outbreak of the Revolt? How does our enhanced understanding of Jerusalem's geography and archeology allow us to better understand what occurred during the war two millennia ago? And what lessons from the Revolt are most relevant today

**(Honors Course)**



**Rabbi Kenneth Auman**

Rabbi Kenneth Auman has been an adjunct professor of Jewish studies at Stern College for Women at Yeshiva University since 1993. Rabbi Auman is also spiritual leader of the Young Israel Talmud Torah of Flatbush, where he has served since 1984. Rabbi Auman is well known among his congregants and students for his warmth, humor and impressive scholarship, and has become a highly sought-after speaker in history, halakha and hashkafa. In addition to his rabbinical and teaching roles, Rabbi Auman is active in many community causes. Rabbi Auman has served as president of the Vaad Harabonim of Flatbush, established the Kehillah Kashrus Rabbinical Board, served as rabbinic advisor to the Get organization, was president of the Rabbinical Council of America and has played an important role in maintaining the Flatbush eruv. Rabbi Auman earned a BA in Jewish studies at Yeshiva College and an MA in medieval Jewish history from Bernard Revel Graduate School in Jewish Studies. He received both Yadin Yadin and Yoreh Yoreh semikha from Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary. Rabbi Auman previously served as spiritual leader of Young Israel of Stamford and Inwood Jewish Center. He began his teaching career at SAR Academy in the Bronx and Ramaz Upper School in Manhattan. Rabbi Auman currently serves as the dean of the U.S. Nishmat Yoetzet Halakha Fellows Program.



**Professor Rachel Besser**

Professor Rachel Besser has been teaching Tanakh for over twenty years, focusing on the rich ideas and language of the later prophets. She is the Nach department chair at the Frisch School in Paramus, NJ, where she teaches Tanakh and Jewish philosophy and has also taught in various midrashot in Israel. Besides teaching in the classroom, Professor Besser has authored articles and podcasts on Tanakh and lectured widely in synagogues and community settings. A graduate of Stern College, Professor Besser received her Masters in English literature from Hunter College. She lives in Clifton, NJ, with her husband and children.

# Jewish Studies Faculty

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**Dr. Danielle Bloom**

Dr. Danielle Bloom has been teaching Torah and psychology for over twenty years. She serves as the Tanakh Department Chair at Naaleh High School for Girls in Fair Lawn, NJ. Her passion is applying the ancient Torah text to our lives today. A graduate of Stern College for Women, with a master's degree from Touro College, Danielle completed her doctorate in Jewish education and administration at the Azrieli Graduate School of Jewish Education and Administration at Yeshiva University.



**Mrs. Ariella (Etshalom) Broth**

Ariella (Etshalom) Broth studied at MMY before majoring in Psychology and Judaic Studies at Stern. After spending a year in SAR High School's beit midrash fellowship program, she returned to her home beit midrash here at Stern to learn in GPATS (Graduate Program for Advanced Talmudic Studies). She is currently in the GPATS shana gimmel program while learning in Nishmat's American Yoetzet Halakha Program. Ariella is very excited to be joining the Judaic Studies faculty at Stern and looks forward to an invigorating semester of learning together!

# Jewish Studies Faculty

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**Rabbi Dr. Aaron Cohen**

Rabbi Aaron Cohen is an instructor of Judaic Studies at Stern College. Since 1998, he has taught more than twenty courses in halakha and contemporary Jewish thought. Rabbi Cohen is the rabbi of Tifereth Israel in Passaic, NJ.



**Rabbi Dr. Mordechai Cohen**

Rabbi Mordechai Cohen is a popular professor on campus and recipient of the Senior Professor Awards at Yeshiva College and Stern College. His research focuses on Jewish Bible interpretation in its Muslim and Christian cultural contexts. Among his publications are *The Rule of Peshat* (University of Pennsylvania Press 2020) and *Rashi, Biblical Interpretation, and Latin Learning* (Cambridge University Press 2021). In 2010/11, Cohen directed a fourteen-member international research group at the Israel Institute for Advanced Studies in Jerusalem that culminated in the publication of *Interpreting Scriptures in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam* (Cambridge University Press 2016). Cohen has taught an annual summer seminar at the Shandong University Center for Judaic and Inter-religious studies in Jinan, China since 2016, and has participated in philosophical conferences in Beijing. Having learned Mandarin, Cohen developed a network of Chinese scholars worldwide interested in engaging with Jewish learning. Since 2018 Cohen has implemented this vision through the Chinese-Jewish Conversation, which he directs. CJC is a forum for comparative study of these two cultural traditions, and also provides a welcome space on campus for YU's growing Chinese student population.



### **Professor Zahava Fertig**

Zahava Fertig is a graduate student who received her Master's degree in Biblical and Talmudic studies from GPATS (The Graduate Program for Advanced Talmudic Studies). She continued her studies at GPATS as a Shana Gimmel student in the Gemara track while teaching Tanakh at Stern College. Additionally, Zahava is pursuing a Master's Degree at YU's Azrieli Graduate School of Jewish Education and Administration. After studying in MMY for a year, Zahava attended Stern College for Women, where she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science. Zahava has a background in teaching, having worked with high school and college students in various informal settings. She has taught while participating in multiple fellowship programs such as the Shevet Glaubach NCSY Advisor Fellowship, Maayanot HS-GPATS Fellowship and the CUNY Hillel International Fellowship. Additionally, Zahava has served as a GPATS Scholar-in Residence at several synagogues, including the Young Israel of Jamaica Estates, Ohav Shalom in Merrick, Long Island, and in Skokie, Illinois.



### **Professor Hindy Feder**

Hindy Feder has been teaching Torah to girls and women in the Five Towns, NY, since 2004. She is a Yoetzet Halakha who advises women on questions pertaining to Taharat Hamishpaca. She is a fellow at Nishmat's Halachic Research Institute, currently writing for the upcoming second volume of Nishmat HaBayit, Hilchot Niddah Responsa. Hindy had the opportunity to study in GPATS in 2004. She is a graduate of Stern College, Azrieli Graduate School, and Nishmat's Miriam Glaubach Center's U.S. Yoatzot Halakha Program. Hindy lives in Lawrence, NY with her husband and four children.

# Jewish Studies Faculty

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**Rabbi Azi Fine**

Rabbi Azi Fine is currently the campus Rabbi on the Beren Campus. Rabbi Fine attended Yeshivat Shaalvim, and then continued on at Yeshiva University in Rabbi Michael Rosensweig's shiur. Rabbi Fine majored in Biology and minored in Psychology. He is currently in the RIETS Semicha Program while pursuing a Masters in Azrieli Graduate School of Education, and the RIETS Ferkauf certificate program in Mental Health Counseling. Rabbi Fine and his wif, Ellie, live on the Beren campus and are always giving shiurim and meeting with students.



**Rabbi Zev Goldberg**

In addition to teaching at Stern College, Rabbi Zev Goldberg is the Rabbi of the Bais Medrash of Bergenfield (BMOB), a vibrant and growing synagogue in Bergenfield, NJ. Additionally, Rabbi Goldberg is the Chair of the Halakha Department at Naaleh High School for Girls where he also teaches. Rabbi Goldberg is the President Emeritus of the Rabbinical Council of Bergen County (RCBC) and a Dayan on its Beit Din L'Giyur. Rabbi Goldberg received his Semikha from RIETS and his BA from Yeshiva College. He is a passionate and animated teacher who is focused on developing meaningful relationships with his students.



# Jewish Studies Faculty

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**Rabbi Meir Goldwicht**

Rabbi Goldwicht is the Joel and Maria Finkle Visiting Israeli Rosh Yeshiva and a rosh yeshiva at the Yeshiva Program/Mazer School of Talmudic Studies at Yeshiva University. He is also head rosh yeshiva at the Irving I. Stone Beit Midrash Program. In addition to his regular classes at Yeshiva University, Rabbi Goldwicht delivers shiurim extensively all over the New York metropolitan area and in Israel. Rabbi Goldwicht is also Rosh Kollel at Camp Mesorah.



**Rabbi Lawrence Hajioff**

Originally from London, England, Rabbi Lawrence Hajioff graduated with honors in political science from Manchester University. After working for MTV in news production, and winning the national competition 'Jewish Stand-Up Comedian' of the Year, Rabbi Hajioff traveled to study in Israel and then Monsey to receive his rabbinical smicha ordination from Yeshiva Ohr Somayach. Rabbi Hajioff is the educational director of Birthright Israel Alumni in Manhattan, New York. He has been instrumental in implementing programs for Birthright Israel in Manhattan such as the very successful adult bar and bat mitzvah program which some four hundred people have completed so far. He also leads trips to Israel and Poland three times a year for hundreds of young professionals. On behalf of Birthright Israel, he leads leadership trips to Israel, Poland and Prague. Rabbi Hajioff is on the full time faculty of Stern College for Women at Yeshiva University. His very popular credited courses include courses on Jewish Philosophy, Mysticism, Jewish holidays, Shabbat and many others. He teaches introductory Judaic studies courses, which cover all the foundations of Jewish thought. He recently received the "Professor of the Year" award in Judaic Studies from the senior year students at Stern. His very popular book *Jew Got Questions* was published by Feldheim in 2014.

# Jewish Studies Faculty

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**Dr. Joshua Karlip**

Joshua M. Karlip is Associate Professor of Jewish History and Herbert S. and Naomi Denenberg Chair of Jewish Studies at Yeshiva University, where he has taught both in the Bernard Revel Graduate School of Jewish Studies and Yeshiva College since 2007. Karlip also will teach in the newly created Fish Center of Holocaust Studies at Yeshiva University. He also serves on the Academic Advisory Board of the Center for Jewish History. His scholarship to date has focused on the relationship between traditional Judaism and modern secular Jewish movements such as Yiddishism. He addressed this theme in his critically acclaimed book, *The Tragedy of a Generation: The Rise and Fall of Jewish Nationalism in Eastern Europe*, published by Harvard University Press in 2013. Karlip's forthcoming book, *Oyfn Sheydveg: At the Crossroads: Jewish Intellectuals and the Crisis of 1939* (Vandenhoeck and Ruprecht, 2020) is a critical edition, replete with a full English translation, annotation, and book-length introduction of a Yiddish journal that served as a forum for Jewish intellectuals to react to Nazism.



**Rabbi Dr. Richard Hidary**

Rabbi Dr. Richard Hidary is a professor of Judaic Studies at Yeshiva University. He was a Starr fellow at Harvard University's Center for Jewish Studies and a Clal - LEAP fellow at the Katz Center for Advanced Jewish Studies, University of Pennsylvania. He is the author of *Dispute for the Sake of Heaven: Legal Pluralism in the Talmud* (Brown University Press, 2010) and *Rabbis and Classical Rhetoric: Sophistic Education and Oratory in the Talmud and Midrash* (Cambridge University Press, 2018). He is currently writing a commentary on Talmudic discussions of Jewish holiday and recording Daf Yomi classes (available on YouTube). He also runs the websites [teachtorah.org](http://teachtorah.org), [pizmonim.org](http://pizmonim.org), and [rabbiniacs.org](http://rabbiniacs.org).

# Jewish Studies Faculty

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**Mrs. Michal Yacker-Inslicht**

Michal Yacker-Inslicht is a Jewish Studies Professor at Stern College, as well as the Program Coordinator/Madricha for the Mechina Pathways Program. She holds a BA in both Judaic Studies and Psychology from SCW and an MS in Jewish Education from the Azrieli School of Jewish Education and Administration. Michal also teaches in Jewish private schools and has been involved in both formal and informal Jewish education.



**Dr. Jill Katz**

Dr. Katz teaches archaeology and anthropology at Yeshiva University with a specialty in biblical archaeology. Dr. Katz has excavated at several sites in Israel, including Ashkelon, Tel Haror/Gerar, and most recently Tell es-Safi/Gath where she currently serves as Area Supervisor for Area P. Her research interests focus on the nature of Israelite leadership during the time of the Judges (Iron I period) and on emergent urban life during the time of King David (Iron IIa). She received her B.A. from Harvard University and a PhD from University of Pennsylvania.



**Mrs. Emma Katz**

Mrs. Emma Katz is originally from Highland Park, NJ. Emma attended Yeshivah of Flatbush, Michlelet Mevaseret Yerushalayim, earned her Bachelors degree in Judaic Studies and Education from Stern College for Women, and her Masters degree in Jewish Education from Azrieli Graduate School of Jewish Education and Administration. Emma has taught in many formal and informal Jewish educational settings, including Shulamith High School for Girls in the Five Towns and Ida Crown Jewish Academy. Emma participated in the Bellows Eshkolot Tanakh Educators Program at Matan Yerushalayim, learning both Tanakh content and new and innovative educational methodology from leading Jewish educators. Emma serves as the Director of NILI, The Women's Initiative of the YU Torah Mitzion Kollel of Chicago. Emma currently lives with her husband, Rabbi Yossi Katz, and 3 sons in Linden, NJ.



**Rabbi Kalman Laufer**

Rabbi Kalman Laufer serves as faculty at both Yeshiva University's Isaac Breuer College and Stern College for Women teaching courses in Medical & Business Ethics. Rabbi Laufer completed his Semikha (Yorah Yorah) at RIETS in 2017 and is currently pursuing Yadin Yadin (Dayanus) in the Rabbi Norman Lamm Kollel L'Horaah at RIETS under the auspices of Rabbi J. David Bleich and Rabbi Mordechai Willig. Rabbi Laufer graduated Yeshiva University's Sy Syms School of Business with a Bachelor's Degree in Finance and a Master's Degree in Accounting as well as a Master's degree in Bioethics from Albert Einstein College of Medicine/Cardozo Law School. Rabbi Laufer focuses his studies in areas of Bioethics and Medical Halakha specifically working on Halakhic issues that arise in caring for parents suffering from Alzheimer's Disease or dementia. He also serves as an independent member of the St. John's Riverside Hospital Ethics Committee. Rabbi Laufer lives on the Upper West Side with his wife Talya and his three sons Jace, Shea, and Sam, where he serves as the Assistant Rabbi of The Jewish Center. The Laufers enjoy hiking (especially in National Parks), skiing/snowboarding, cooking, arts & crafts, and watching the occasional hockey game.



**Dr. Michelle Levine**

Dr. Michelle Levine is a tenured Associate Professor of Bible and has been teaching courses in Tanakh and medieval commentaries since 2001. She is also a faculty member of GPATS, spear-heading the new Tanakh Track. She holds a BA, summa cum laude with Honors, in Biology, from Brooklyn College; an MS in Bible from the Bernard Revel Graduate School of Jewish Studies; and a Ph.D. in medieval biblical exegesis and medieval Jewish history from New York University. She has been awarded Jewish studies professor of the year (2011). Dr. Levine is the author of *Nahmanides on Genesis: The Art of Biblical Portraiture* (Brown University Press, 2009), based on her dissertation, for which she received doctoral fellowship awards, and she is currently completing a book on Ramban's commentary on the Wilderness Narratives, which will be published next year. Dr. Levine has published numerous articles on topics in Tanakh and medieval Jewish exegesis in academic journals and in books of collected essays, particularly on her field of expertise, Ramban's literary analysis of the narratives and songs of the Torah. She has presented papers on Ramban's commentary at academic conferences in the U.S., Israel, and internationally. Dr. Levine has also been teaching an ongoing weekly Tanakh and Parshanut series in her Queens, New York, community for the past twenty-four years.



**Professor Miriam Levy-Haim**

Miriam Levy-Haim is the academic advisor for Jewish Studies on the Beren Campus. She has created youth and adult Jewish education curricula for organizations such as the Rohr Jewish Learning Institute and CTeen, and has written and guest-edited for Tablet Magazine. She studied at Machon Alte's Seminary Chaya Mushka and at the Drisha Institute for Jewish Education, and has a master's in Middle Eastern Studies from the CUNY Graduate Center.



**Rabbi Ari Mermelstein**

Ari Mermelstein is Associate Professor of Bible and Second Temple Literature at Yeshiva University, Chair of the Department of Bible, Hebrew, and Near Eastern Studies, and assistant director of the YU Center for Jewish Law and Contemporary Civilization and the Israeli Supreme Court Project, both based at Cardozo Law School. He holds a PhD in Ancient Jewish History from NYU's Department of Hebrew & Judaic Studies and a J.D. from NYU Law School.



**Rabbi David Nachbar**

Rabbi David Nachbar received his semicha from RIETS and continued his studies as a member of the Bella and Harry Wexner Kollel Elyon of Yeshiva University. He holds a master's degree in medieval Jewish history from the Bernard Revel Graduate School of Jewish Studies. In addition to teaching at Stern College, Rabbi Nachbar also serves as a maggid shiur for GPATS and as a Judaic Studies faculty member at TABC.

# Jewish Studies Faculty

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**Dr. Nechama Price**

Dr. Nechama Price is the Director of Yeshiva University's Graduate Program for Advanced Talmud and Tanakh Studies (GPATS) and teaches Tanakh and Halakha at Stern College. Nechama received certification from GPATS, earned masters degrees from Azrieli Graduate School and Bernard Revel Graduate School, and an Ed.D from Azrieli Graduate School focusing her research on the impact of female Torah scholar role models on high school students. She is a certified Yoetzet Halakha, and currently serves as a Yoetzet Halakha (Halakhic Advisor) for the communities of Teaneck, Englewood, Tenafly, Livingston, West Orange, and Long Branch NJ. Nechama is the author of *Tribal Blueprints*, a Maggid imprint which analyzes the lives and personalities of the twelve tribes. Nechama is a community scholar and speaks all over North America. She lives in Bergenfield, NJ with her husband & four children.



**Dr. Deena Rabinovich**

Professor Deena Rabinovich is the department chair for Jewish Studies and the director of the Legacy Heritage Foundation program at Yeshiva University's Stern College for Women. She also directs the MaTEACH Fellowship for the Azrieli Graduate School of Jewish Education and Administration. Previously, Dr. Rabinovich was the Director of Israel Guidance at Yeshiva University High School for Girls in Holliswood and the assistant principal at the North Shore Hebrew Academy Middle School in Great Neck. During the 1997-1998 academic year, she participated in the Lead Educators Education program at the Melton Center of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.



**Rabbi Zev Reichman**

Rabbi Zev Reichman is an alumnus of Yeshiva Shaar Hatorah-Grodna, Yeshivas Chevron, and Yeshivas Rabbeinu Yitzchok Elchanan. He has a passion for teaching Torah and connecting with fellow Jews. He earned his semicha from Yeshivas Rabbeinu Yitzchok Elchanan and was an inaugural member of the Bella and Harry Wexner Semicha Honors Program and Kollel Elyon. He founded and then served as director of Yeshiva University's Mechinah Program for seven years. He is currently a teacher at Yeshiva University's Isaac Breuer College. He has authored seven popular books of Torah: *Flames of Faith: An Introduction to Chassidic Thought*, *Remove Anger from Your Heart: A Torah guide to patience, tolerance, and emotional well being*, *Path to the Tree of Life: Lessons on Tanya* (2 volumes), *Daf Delights on Bava Kamma*, *Daf Delights on Bava Metzi'a*, and *Daf Delights on Sanhedrin*. Approximately 15,000 copies of these Torah works have been distributed. Since 2002 he has served as the Rabbi of East Hill Synagogue in Englewood, New Jersey.



**Professor Moriah Rosensweig-Weiss**

Professor Moriah (Rosensweig) Weiss loves teaching Tanakh and Jewish History in Stern College for Women and combining the two by delving into the rich backgrounds and methodologies of the mefarshet Tanakh. A graduate of Stern College, Professor Weiss received a Masters in Jewish Education from Azrieli Graduate School of Jewish Education and Administration and a Masters in Jewish Studies from Bernard Revel Graduate School of Jewish Studies. Professor Weiss is writing her doctoral dissertation on the interface between Ashkenazic and Sephardic thought and Jewish values within the context of Jewish Medieval Intellectual History. She lives with her husband and children in West Hempstead, NY.



# Jewish Studies Faculty

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**Professor Smadar Rosensweig**

Ms. Smadar Rosensweig is a professor of Bible at Stern College for Women at Yeshiva University, as well as a professor of biblical studies at Allegra Franco Sephardic Women's Teachers College. Previously, she was a professor of Judaic studies and history at Touro College. Ms. Rosensweig received a master's degree in philosophy and a master's degree in arts from Columbia University. She gives shiurim and lectures throughout the metropolitan area and across the country.



**Rabbi Shay Schachter**

Rabbi Schachter currently serves as the Rabbi and Rosh Beit Midrash at the Young Israel of Woodmere, overseeing its extensive adult educational programs. He also serves as the Rabbi and spiritual leader of Yachad, the Orthodox Union's international program for individuals with disabilities. Since the summer of 2017, Rabbi Schachter has served as the Rabbi of Camp Simcha, Chai Lifeline's camp for children battling cancer and chronic illnesses. Rabbi Schachter received his rabbinic ordination from RIETS and holds an MA in Jewish Education and Administration from the Azrieli Graduate School of Yeshiva University. He joined as a full-time faculty member of Stern College in 2022.

# Jewish Studies Faculty

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**Dean Shoshana Schechter**

Professor Shoshana Schechter is the Associate Dean of Torah Studies at Stern College for Women and the director of the Mechina program at the college. She is a graduate of Stern College for Women, with a B.S. in both Judaic Studies and English Literature and holds master's degrees from Bernard Revel Graduate School of Jewish Studies and Columbia University School of Journalism. Shoshana is a frequent lecturer on topics in Tanah and has been involved in Jewish outreach programs on four continents.



**Rabbi Ilan Schimmel**

Rabbi Ilan Schimmel has been teaching at the Ramaz Upper School for nine years and is currently the chair of Jewish Law and thought. He also serves as an adjunct professor of Jewish thought at the Stern College for Women, where he teaches courses focusing on the religious thought of Maimonides and Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik.

# Jewish Studies Faculty

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**Mrs. Michal Schonbrun**

Michal Schonbrun currently serves as one of the Campus Rebbetzins of Stern College for Women. Michal herself attended Stern College, where she earned her BA in Sociology and Judaic Studies. In addition to giving shiurim and meeting with students, Michal spends her day learning in her fourth year at YU's GPATS. Prior to GPATS, Michal taught as a 3rd-grade Morah in Yeshivat Noam.



**Rabbi Dr. David Shatz**

Professor David Shatz is the Ronald P. Stanton University Professor of Philosophy, Ethics, and Religious Thought, editor of *The Torah u-Madda Journal*, and editor of the MeOtzar HoRav series. After graduating as valedictorian of Yeshiva College, Professor Shatz was ordained at the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary and earned his PhD with distinction in general philosophy from Columbia University. He has edited, co-edited, or authored 16 books and approximately 100 articles and reviews on general and Jewish philosophy. Professor Shatz has been chosen numerous times as outstanding professor by the senior class at Stern, and was a winner in the John Templeton Foundation Course Competition in Science and Religion. In recognition of his achievements as a scholar and teacher, he was awarded the Presidential Medallion at Yeshiva University.

# Jewish Studies Faculty

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**Mrs. Mahnaz Shmalo**

Professor Mahnaz Shmalo has been an adjunct professor at Lander College for Women since 2012, teaching courses in Law, Midrash, and Bible. She has also taught on the faculty at Yeshiva University's Stern College for Women, since 2018. Professor Shmalo has been a bridal counselor for over two decades. As a graduate of Nishmat's Yoetzet Halakha program, she has continued to be a resource to her students as well as members of her community, guiding them in the laws of taharat hamishpacha. Professor Shmalo is an active guest speaker on Tanakh and the Jewish holidays



**Rabbi Lawrence Teitelman**

Rabbi Lawrence Teitelman is a multi-time alumnus of Yeshiva University, having received his BA in Mathematics from Yeshiva College, MS in Semitic Languages from the Bernard Revel Graduate School, and Ordination from the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary, as well as graduate degrees in Mathematics and Computer Science from NYU Courant and CUNY respectively. He began his academic career at YU in the late 1980s as a TA and Lab Instructor for the introductory CS course sequence (then taught in Pascal). He subsequently switched to industry where he worked as a system developer / analyst in a variety of disciplines, while also teaching at CUNY's Queens College. Last year, Lawrence returned "home" to Yeshiva University, joining the full-time faculty of Stern College's CS Dept.

# Jewish Studies Faculty

FALL 2023



**Rabbi Mordechai Torczyner**

Rabbi Mordechai Torczyner became the Rabbi of Eitz Chayim of Dogwood Park in West Hempstead, NY in 2023. From 2009 to 2023, Rabbi Torczyner was Rosh Beit Midrash of Beit Midrash Zichron Dov in Toronto. He previously served as rabbi of Young Israel of Pawtucket, Rhode Island and Congregation Sons of Israel in Allentown, Pennsylvania. Rabbi Torczyner delivered bioethics classes for medical professionals at Lehigh Valley Hospital (Pennsylvania) and since 2010 he has delivered dozens of Continuing Education classes for medical professionals with accreditation by the University of Toronto. The Ontario Medical Association recognized Rabbi Torczyner with its Community Service Award in 2019.



**Mrs. Sara Twersky**

Mrs. Sara Twersky received her B.A from Stern College in 2009. She received her Masters from Azrieli and is now pursuing her Doctorate at Revel. She also manages the organization of special programming at Revel and manages their social media. She teaches in the Bible department at Stern College.

# Jewish Studies Faculty

FALL 2023



**Rabbi Mordechai Willig**

Rabbi Willig, is the Rabbi Dr. Sol Roth Professor of Talmud and Contemporary Halahah at YU's RIETS program. He has been a Rosh Yeshiva at the Mazer School of Talmudic Studies since 1973 and a Rosh Kollel at RIETS. Rabbi Willig received a B.A. in mathematics from Yeshiva College in 1968 and an M.S. in Jewish History in 1971 from the Bernard Revel Graduate School. He received semicha that same year. He has served as spiritual leader of Young Israel of Riverdale in the Bronx, NY, since 1974, and has written a sefer, *Am Mordechai*, and many articles in Torah scholarship journals.



**Rabbi Daniel Wolff**

Rabbi Daniel Wolff graduated from Yeshiva University and received his Rabbinic Ordination from REITS. He has been teaching classes in halaha in the Stern College Jewish Studies Department for the last number of years. He has also been the rabbi at congregation Beth Tefillah in Paramus since 2003.

# Jewish Studies Faculty

FALL 2023



**Rabbi Shlomo Zuckier**

Shlomo Zuckier, a Founder of the Lehrhaus, is the Flegg Postdoctoral Fellow in Jewish Studies at McGill University and a lecturer at the Bernard Revel Graduate School of Jewish Studies. He recently completed a PhD in Religious Studies at Yale University as well as studies in Yeshiva University's Kollel Elyon. Shlomo was formerly Director of the Orthodox Union's Jewish Learning Initiative on Campus at Yale University. An alumnus of Yeshivat Har Etzion and Yeshiva University (BA, MA, Semikhah), he has lectured widely across North America, and is excited to share Torah and Jewish scholarship on a broad range of issues. He has taught at Yale Divinity School, Yeshiva University, the Drisha Institute, Bnot Sinai, and Tikvah programs, and has held the Wexner and Tikvah Fellowships. Shlomo serves on the Editorial Committee of Tradition, is co-editor of *Torah and Western Thought: Intellectual Portraits of Orthodoxy and Modernity*, and is editing the forthcoming *Contemporary Uses and Forms of Hasidut*.



**Rabbi Dr. Dov Lerner**

Rabbi Dr. Dov Lerner is a Clinical Assistant Professor at the Straus Center for Torah and Western Thought—with responsibilities for teaching courses in the college, mentoring students, conducting research, and publishing writings reflective of the center’s intellectual emphases. He received both his BA in English literature and his semikha from Yeshiva University, and his MA, in Religion, and Ph.D., in the History of Judaism, from the University of Chicago’s Divinity School. He lives in Queens, NY, with his wife and two children, where he serves as the Rabbi of the Young Israel of Jamaica Estates.



**Rabbi Dr. Meir Soloveitchik**

Rabbi Dr. Meir Y. Soloveichik is director of the Zahava and Moshael Straus Center for Torah and Western Thought at Yeshiva University and the rabbi of Congregation Shearith Israel. Prior to this, Soloveichik served as associate rabbi at Congregation Kehilath Jeshurun in Manhattan. Rabbi Soloveichik has lectured throughout the United States, in Europe, and in Israel to both Jewish and non-Jewish audiences on topics relating to Jewish theology, bioethics, wartime ethics, and Jewish-Christian relations. His essays on these subjects have appeared in the *Wall Street Journal*, *Commentary*, *First Things*, *Azure*, *Tradition*, and the *Torah U-Madda Journal*.