



Course

Name and Number:

World of the Sages - Rabbi Ari Kahn
02-500-80

Type of course: Lecture

Year of Studies: 2017-2018 **Semester:** Fall & Spring **Hours/credits:** 2

Course Description:

The course will deal with an analysis of the worldview of the Sages of the Talmudic and post-Talmudic period, as is reflected by their comments found in the Talmud and Midrashic literature. Specific attention will be paid to the Rabbinic approach to Biblical Characters.

Throughout the course Biblical Passages will be studied, and then reconsidered from the perspective of the Sages. Theological issues will be raised and the philosophical opinions of the Sages will be analyzed.

Spring Semester 02-500-80

1 Freedom.

Brachot 4b, 12b, 28a, Pesachim 50a, Makot 24b

2 The Ten Plagues

Exodus 7-10, Rashi 10:10, Ezekiel 29:1-3

3 Revelation at Sinai

Shevu'oth 20b, Midrash Rabbah - Exodus 47:1

מכילתא דרבי ישמעאל יתרו - מס, דבחדש יתרו פרשה ד"ה + שמות כ"ת מכילתא דרבי ישמעאל יתרו - מס,
דבחדש יתרו פרשה ז"ה זכור ושמורת מדרש זוטא - שיר השירים [בובר] פרשה א"ה ב ישקני מנשקות

The Sages Their Concepts and Beliefs, pages 146-150

4 The Disappearance of Moses

Exodus 32, Zohar 1:67b, Talmud Yoma 44a, Talmud Sanhedrin 7a.

5 The Golden Calf.

Zohar, prologue 1b-2a, Megilah 7b, Sotah 17a, Shabbat 88a

The Sages Their Concepts and Beliefs, pages 554-564

6 The Sabbath & Temple the underlying connection.

Pesikta De Rab Kahana 2:10, Midrash Rabbah - Exodus 34:1, Shabbat 118b, Chagigah 12a, Mishna Avot 4:1

תלמוד ירושלמי תענית פרק א דף סד עמוד א ה"א

The Sages Their Concepts and Beliefs, pages 37-65

7 Sacrifices

Yoma 23a, Brachot 8a, Rambam Guide 3:46

אליהו רבה [איש שלום] פרשה ז ד"ה ושחט את בנות רמב"ן ויקרא פרק א פסוק טת רמב"ם הלכות מעילה פרק ח הלכה ה

The Sages Their Concepts and Beliefs, pages 368,435. Introduction to the Code of Maimonides, pages 407-514

8 Betzalel, builder of the Tabernacle

Brachot 55a, Sanhedrin 69b, Midrash Rabbah - Exodus 34:1, Midrash Rabbah - Exodus 40:1-3, Midrash Rabbah - Exodus 50:2, Midrash Rabbah Numbers 12:3, Sotah 11b

מדרש תנחומא [ורשא] פרשת תצוה סימן י ד"ה [י] וזה הדברת מכילתא דרבי ישמעאל בשלה - מס, דעמלק בשלה פרשה א ד"ה וידי משה

The Sages Their Concepts and Beliefs, pages 555-557

9 The Cherubs

Exodus 25, Rosh HaShana 17b, Yoma 54a,b, Baba Bathra 99a,

10 Nadav and Avihu

Midrash Rabbah Exodus 3:1, Midrash Rabbah Leviticus 20:9,10, Midrash Rabbah Numbers 15:24, Sanhedrin 52a, Zevachim 115b

11 The Unwritten book

Mishna Yadayim 3:5, Talmud - Shabbat 115b-116a, Midrash Rabbah Genesis 64:8

מסכת סופרים פרק ו הלכה א פירוש הספורנו על התורה ספר במדבר פרק י"לה

The Sages Their Concepts and Beliefs, pages 286-297

12 The Sin of the Spies

Numbers 13,14. Psalm 106:19-27, Deuteronomy 1:27, Talmud Gitten 55b

Course requirements

Attendance, mastery of the primary and secondary sources.

A final examination will be given at the end of each semester.

Grade Components: Number grade.

Final – 70%

Attendance – 30%

Bibliography:

Beisdin A. Man of Faith in the Modern world Ktav 1989

Braude W.G., Pesikta Rabbati (Yale Judaica series 18), New Haven 1968

Epstein I. The Babylonian Talmud Soncino press London

Freedman H., & Simon M., Midrash Rabba (10 volumes) London 1939

Ginzberg L. The Legends of the Jews (vols. 1-6) Philadelphia, 1913-1928

Goldin J., Fathers according to Rabbi Nathan (Yale Judaica series 10), New Haven 1955

Neusner J., The Talmud of the Land of Israel

Spiegel S. The Last Trial 1969

Twersky I. Introduction to the Code of Maimonides Yale 1980

Urbach E. The Sages - Their Concepts & Beliefs Jerusalem, 1979