

Course Name and Number:

# Select Topics the "Aggada" – Rabbi. A. Kahn

02-371-80/81

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**Type of course:** Lecture

**Year of Studies:** 2015-2016 **Semester:** Fall & Spring **Hours/credits:** 2

**Course Description:**

Description: An in depth study in the non-legal sections of the Talmud. The student will be introduced to the "Aggadic" sections of the Talmud in an attempt to understand the underlying philosophy of the Talmudic sages. Primary sources will be consulted, where necessary literary analysis will be employed.

**Detailed Lesson plan:**

**1. Introduction**

Attitudes towards Aggadot Students Guide to the Talmud pp. 139-153, 195-200,201-207. Rambam Guide part 3 sec.43 Letter of Avraham son of Rambam, found in introduction to Ein Yakov. Ramchal ibid . [English translation in A. Feldman , The Juggler and the King 203-211 ]

**2. Moshe went up to heaven**

Menachot 29b,Sifri Deut. 357. Avot d' Rebbi Natan chapter 6. Shulchan Oruch of Arizal page 50,51.[C. Eisen "Moshe Rabbeinu And Rabbi Akiva" Jewish Thought vol 1 no 2 67-124]

**3. "These and these are the words of the living G-d"**

Eruvin 13b,6b ,Yerushalmi Yevamot end ch. 1 [Gitten 6b] Tosfot Shants Edyot 1:5 , Sanhedrin 88b. Schimmel The Oral Law pg 1-3 Rambam Commentary to Mishna Sanhedrin 10:3 רמבם הלכות ממרים פרק א הלכה ד, אלבק מבוא למשנה 61 [Korman pg 121,122, 139,140]

**4."It`s not in heaven"**

Bava Metzia 59b , Yerushalmi Moed Kattan 3:1 81c,d (see hagah in Yaffah Mareh) Avot D' rebbe Natan chapters 6, 25 ,Sanhedrin 68a,Sukka 28a, Pirki d`R, Eliezer chapters 1-2, Rav Nissim Gaon Brachot 19a,שו"ת מן השמיםMargoliot ed. pg33-35,Yerushalmi Shabbat 2:6, Shabbat 130b, Nidda 7b, Avot 2:10[Urbach "The Sages" 118,119,Urbach "Halacha & Prophecy" Tarbiz 1947 pp1 ff.] Korman 48-76

**5. The "Disappearance" of Elazar ben Aruch**

Avot 2:8,9,14. Chagiga 14b Adrn chapter 6,14, Shabbat 147b,Kohelet R. ch.7, [Midrash Tanaim 26:13,] Michilta Rashbi pg158f.

**6. Maaseh Merkava & Maaseh Berashit**

Chagiga 11b, Rambam Guide, introduction (c.f. sec.2 chapter 2) Kaplan "Meditation & Kabbalah" 19-22,[Urbach "The Sages"576-579 ]

**7. "Four who entered Pardes"**

Chagiga 14b, Meditation & Kabbalah 24-27,A. Kaplan,

### Ben Azai:

### Yevamot 63b,Kituvot 63a, Sota 4b, Midrash Shir Hashirim (Grunhirt ed.)pg. 17f. Shabbat 156b,Korman 205

**Ben Zoma:**

Rashi Chagiga 14b ד"ה ונפגע,15 see text in Ein Yakov,

[Zohar vol.2 pg 109 Bahir sec 63.]

### Elisha ben Avuya; "Acher":

Chagiga 15a, Tosfot "Shuvu",Yerushalmi 2:1.

Zohar vol. 1 pg 204b. Zohar Chadash 24b, שני לוחות הברית, מסכת ר"ה ע' נט.

"On Repentance" Peli pg95f

**R. Akiva:**

Chagiga 15b, Zohar vol. 1 pg 26b

**8. Putting a fence around the Torah**

Avot 1:1 Avot d Rabbi Natan ch.1, Sanhedrin 29a [Margoliot Hayam note 29] 46a ibid note. Drashot Haran ch.11 pg 192. Rabbi Joseph Soloveitchik "Catharsis" Tradition vol 17 no 2 43-45

**9. "There was once a Student..." a conversation with Eliyahu**

Shabbat 13b, Adrn ch.2. רמבם הלכות איסורי ביאה פרק כ; הלכה א [see Magid Mishna] Ramban in Sefer Hamisvot neg.353 (last part). Ramban "The Disputation", Shulchan Oruch Even Haezer 20:1 , Biur haGra

**10. "Rabbi" Eliezer ben Durdiya**

Avoda Zara 17a, Yoma 85b Mishna & Gemara , Rambam Commentary on the Mishna, Tosfot Yishanim "Tishuva", Rambam Yad,Teshuva 4:1; Yoma 29a (top line) Rashi, Rambam Guide sec. 3 chapter 8, Peli "On Repentance" (Soloveitchik)269-277

**11. Resh Lakish**

Yoma 86b see Yerushalmi Terumot 8:10 46b,Gladiator Yerushalmi Gitten 4:9 46a-b,

B.M. 84a, Frankel Mavo 129-130

**12. Rabbi Akiva`s Students; Sfirat Haomer**

Yevamot 63b, Minachot 68b, Sperber Minhagi Yisrael Volume 1, 101-111, Uruch Hashulchan (Epstein) Oruch Hayim Sec.493, פענוח אגדות 190-199 , Rav Shrira Gaon, Yerushalmi Taanit 4:8, Rambam Milachim 11:3, פסיקתא רבתי Chapter 2 (Para 56b-57a)Yoma 9a, Tosefta Menachot 13:22

**13. Drinking on Purim**

Migila 7b,Sanhedrin 65b, Shabbat 156b, Chulin 8a

**14. Jesus**

Sanhedrin 43a (see “Steinzalts” edition for uncensored passage) Herford "Christianity in Talmud & Midrash" 83-86,Sanhedrin 107b Sota 47a, Herford ibid 50-54

**15. The "Threat"of Rav Shimon bar Yochai**

Pesachim 112a, Sanhedrin 12a, Brachot 61b (Yerushalmi Brachot 9:7) Ben Yohoyoda Pesachim , שוהם פרשת ואתחנן אבניcited in Korman 179 note 18, Korman 172-183

**16. The age of the World**

Sanhedrin 97a, Lipshitz Drush Or Hachaim, Aryeh Kaplan “Immortality, Resurrection, And the age of the Universe; A Kabbalistic view” Ktav, Hobokin N.J. 1993 1-15, 75-127

**17. Who was the first man ?**

Sanhedrin 97a, Chagiga 13b, Mishna Kilaim 8:5 [Likuti Yitzchak ] Midrash Rabba Gen. 3:7,28:4 Shabbat 88b, Fathers according to Rabbi Nathan chapters 31,91, Aryeh Kaplan Sefer Yetzirah pg.187, Ginzberg Legends of the Jews vol.5 pg.3 note 5.

**Course requirements**

Attendance to frontal lecture,

preparation, and mastery of basic texts.

There will be a final administered after each semester.

**Grade Components: Number Grade**

Final – 70%

Attendance – 30%

#### Bibliography:

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Epstein I. The Babylonian Talmud Soncino press London

Feldman A, The Juggler and the King, Feldheim, Jerusalem 1990

Freedman H., & Simon M., Midrash Rabbah (10 vols) 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

Herford R.T. Christianity in Talmud and Midrash

Kaplan A.., Immortality, Resurrection, And the age of the Universe; A Kabbalistic View Ktav Hobokin N.J. 1993

Kaplan A.,Sefer Yetzirah, Weiser, Maine 1990

Korman A. Deciphering Aggadot, Tel Aviv 1991 (Hebrew)

Neusner J., The Talmud of the Land of Israel

Chayes Z.H. Students Guide to the Talmud pp. 139-153, 195-200,201-207

Urbach E. The Sages - Their Concepts & Beliefs Jerusalem, Magnes Press1979

W.Z. Harvey "The Pupil, the Harlot and Fringe Benefits" Prooftexts 6 (1986) 259-264

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