



אגדות חז"ל

AGGADA

Rabbi Ari Kahn

הרב ארי דוד קאהן

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

NAME OF COURSE: Aggada -(Ancient Jewish Theology)

Lecturer: Rabbi Ari Kahn

5778

אגדות חז"ל

Aggada

Syllabus 2017/18 Fall Semester

2 credits

א. **מטרות הקורס** (מטרות על / מטרות ספציפיות):

course objective

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.

ב. **תוכן הקורס**:

Students will be presented with primary texts and major commentaries. Texts will be studied and analyzed both in context, and within the larger literature.

מהלך השיעורים:

תכנית הוראה מפורטת לכל השיעורים: (רשימה או טבלה כדוגמת המצ"ב)

1

Topic:

Moshe went up to heaven

Primary source:

Menachot 29b

Additional readings:

C. Eisen "Moshe Rabbeinu And Rabbi Akiva"

2

Topic:

Moshe went up to heaven- and the Death of Rabbi Akiva

Primary source: Talmud Bavli Brachot 61b, Avot d' Rebbi Natan chapter 6. Shulchan Oruch of Arizal page 50,51

Additional readings:

Rubenstein J. L, Talmudic Stories: Narrative Art, Composition, and Culture, Baltimore 1999 Theodicy and Torah 182ff

3

Topic: "These and these are the words of the living God"

Primary source: Eruvin 13b, Yerushalmi Yevamot end ch. 1

Additional readings:

Michael Rosensweig, "Elu Va-Elu Divre Elokim Hayyim: Halakhic Pluralism and Theories of Controversy." Tradition 26:3, 1992.

Schimmel The Oral Law pg 1-3

Shut min haShamayim, Mosad Harav Kook edition, introduction by Rav Reuven Margoliot.

4

Topic: "These and these are the living words of God"

Primary source: Eruvin 6b, Sanhedrin 88b

Additional readings:

Leaves of Faith page 65f

Korman pg 121,122, 139,140

5

Topic: "It`s not in heaven"

Primary source: Bava Metzia 59b, Mishnah Keilim 5:10

Yerushalmi Moed Kattan 3:1 81,d

Additional readings:

Rubenstein J. L, Talmudic Stories: Narrative Art, Composition, and Culture, Baltimore 1999

Torah, Shame and the oven of Akhnai 34ff

Maharal in Netivat Olam, Netiv Ahavat Reiah, chapter 2

Marc Saperstein, Decoding the Rabbis (Cambridge, Massachusetts and London, England: Harvard University Press, 1980), p. 1-21,

Urbach "The Sages" 118,119

6

Topic: Early Life and Death of Rabbi Eliezer

Primary source:

Sukka 28a, Pirki d`R, Eliezer chapters 1-2, Sanhedrin 68a, Bereishit Rabbah 8:5

Additional readings:

Y.D. Gilat, R. Eliezer Ben Hyrcanus – A Scholar Outcast. Bar Ilan University Press, Ramat Gan 1984, especially pages 479-491

Rav Nissim Gaon's Commentary to Talmud Bavli Brachot 19a, cited in Shita Mikubetzet Bava Metzia 59b. Ohr Sameach commentary on the Rambam Laws of Yesodai Hatorah 9:4,

Sefer Hachinuch Mitzva 496

Kol Eliyahu, commentary to Talmud Bavli Bava Metzia 59b

7

Topic: The "Disappearance" of Elazar ben Aruch

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

Additional readings:

Alon Goshen Gottstein, "Rabbi Eleazar b. Arakh: Symbol and Reality," Gafni, Jews and Judaism in the Second Temple, Mishna and Talmud Period (Hebrew)

Alon Goshen Gottstein, The Sinner and the Amnesiac: The Rabbinic Invention of Elisha ben Abuya and Eleazar ben Arach 233-265 (English)

8

Topic: "Four who entered Pardes"

Primary source: Chagiga 14b

Additional readings:

Meditation & Kabbalah 24-27,A. Kaplan,

Alon Goshen Gottstein. "Four Entered Paradise Revisited." The Harvard Theological Review 88, no. 1 (1995): 69-133

A. van der Heide, 'PARDES: Methodological Reflections on the Theory of the Four Senses', Journal of Jewish Studies 35 (1983), pp. 147-159

9

Topic: Elisha ben Avuya

Primary source: Chagiga 15a

Additional readings:

Rubenstein J. L, Talmudic Stories: Narrative Art, Composition, and Culture, Baltimore 1999

Torah,

Elisha ben Abuya- Torah and the Sinful Sage 64ff

10

Topic: Elisha ben Avuya – The View from the Jerusalem Talmud

Primary source: Jerusalem Talmud Chagiga 2:1

Additional readings:

ALON GOSHEN-GOTTSTEIN, The Sinner and the Amnesiac: The Rabbinic Invention of Elisha ben Abuya and Eleazar ben Arach, pages 1-221

11

Topic: What is Chanukah?

Primary source: Shabbat 21a

Additional readings:

Alon, Gedalia. Did the Jewish People and Its Sages Cause the Hasmoneans to Be Forgotten? 1977, 1977.

12

Topic: Write on a Horn of a Bull

Primary source: Yerushalmi Shabbat 2:1, Talmud Avodah Zara 8a

Additional readings:

ספר יערות דבש חלק ראשון - דרוש ב (המשך)

ספר מגלה עמוקות - אופן רנב

ליקוטי מוהר"ן מהדורא קמא סימן לח אות ו

ג. חובות הקורס:

דרישות קדם:

Mastery of basic texts, including commentaries, understanding of ideas.

חובות / דרישות / מטלות:

מרכיבי הציון הסופי (ציון מספרי / ציון עובר):

grade will be given in numbers

30% grade will be based on attendance and participation

70% of grade based upon the final exam

ד. ביבליוגרפיה: (חובה/רשות)

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

- Alon, Gedalia. Jews, Judaism, and the classical world, Jerusalem, the Magnes Press, Jerusalem, 1977, p. 1-17
- Bialik, H, N. Revelment And Concealment : Five Essays Translated by Zali Gurevitch Ibis Editions Jerusalem 2000
- Braude, W.G., Pesikta Rabbati (Yale Judaica series 18), New Haven 1968
- Freedman, H., & Simon M., Midrash Rabba (10 vols) London 1939
- Epstein, I. The Babylonian Talmud Soncino press London
- Gilat, Y.D. R. Eliezer Ben Hyrcanus – A Scholar Outcast. Bar Ilan University Press, Ramat Gan 1984,
- Ginzberg L. The Legends of the Jews (Volumes 1-6) Philadelphia, 1913-1928
- Goldin, J., Fathers according to Rabbi Nathan (Yale Judaica series 10), New Haven 1955
- Goshen-Gottstein A, The Sinner and the Amnesiac
The Rabbinic Invention of Elisha ben Abuya and Eleazar ben Arach, Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2000
- Kahn, A, Emanations Targum Michigan, 2001
- Kahn, A, Explorations Targum Michigan, 2002
- Kahn,A, Echoes of Eden Gefen Jerusalem 2011
- Kaplan, Aryeh, Immortality, Resurrection, And the age of the Universe; A Kabbalistic view Ktav Hobokin N.J. 1993
- Kaplan, Aryeh Sefer Yetzirah, Weiser, Maine 1990
- Korman, A. Deciphering Aggadot, Tel Aviv 1991 (Hebrew)
- Lichtenstein, A, Leaves of Faith (volume one Ktav Publishing House 2003
- Neusner, J., The Talmud of the Land of Israel: A Preliminary Translation Chicago Studies in the History of Judaism -1989- University of Chicago Press

Chajes, Z.H., The Students' Guide Through The Talmud, 2 ed., Jacob Shachter, Yashar Books, 2005
Feldman, A, The Juggler and the King, Feldheim, Jerusalem 1990
Urbach, E. The Sages - Their Concepts & Beliefs Jerusalem, 1979
Rubenstein, J. L., Stories of the Babylonian Talmud Baltimore 2010
Rubenstein, J. L., Rabbinic Stories (Classics of Western Spirituality) New Jersey 2002
Rubenstein, J. L., Talmudic Stories: Narrative Art, Composition, and Culture, Baltimore 1999
Saperstein, M. Decoding the Rabbis Cambridge, Massachusetts and London, England: Harvard University Press, 1980
Urbach, Ephraim E. Collected Writings in Jewish Studies. Edited by Moshe D. Herr, Robert Brody, Jerusalem: Magnes Press 1999

Articles:

Aharon, Arend – “The Purim Meal of Rabbah and R. Zera - Explanation of Talmudic Commentators” BDD 8 1999(Hebrew)

Edwards, Laurence L. “Rabbi Akiba's Crowns Postmodern Discourse and the Cost of Rabbinic Reading” *Judaism: A Quarterly Journal of Jewish Life and Thought* Vol. 49, No. 4, Fall 2000

Goshen Gottstein, A, "Rabbi Eleazar b. Arakh: Symbol and Reality," *Gafni, Jews and Judaism in the Second Temple, Mishna and Talmud Period*

Gottstein, Alon Goshen. “Four Entered Paradise Revisited.” *The Harvard Theological Review* 88, no. 1 (1995): 69-133

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

Levine, N, “Reading Crowned Letters and Semiotic Silences in Menachot 29b” *Journal of Jewish studies*, vol. liii , no. 1, spring 2002

Lubitch R, “A feminist's look at Esther” *Judaism: Vol. 42, No. 4, Fall 1993*

Rosensweig, M, “*Elu Va-Elu Divre Elokim Hayyim: Halakhic Pluralism and Theories of Controversy.*” *Tradition* 26:3, 1992.

Urbach *"Ha Masorot al Torat ha Sod bi Tequfat Ha Tannaim"* "Studies in the Talmud, Halacha and Midrash". World Congress of Jewish Studies 7, Studies in the Talmud, Halacha and Midrash (1977)

Urbach, E.E.: Studies in Mysticism and Religion Presented to G.

Scholem The Magnes Press; Jerusalem (1967), Heb. sect. 1–28

van der Heide, A. "PARDES: Methodological Reflections on the Theory of the Four Senses", Journal of Jewish Studies 35 (1983), pp. 147-159

Wiesel, Élie, "Rabbi Johanan and Resh-Lakish" Alei Shefer (1990) 175-194

אלון גושן-גוטשטיין "מצוות ציציתת הזונה והסיפור הדרשני" מחשבת חז"ל 45-58
חיפה תש"נ

חומר מחייב למבחנים:

**required material for the exam, all primary texts and commentaries,
including material discussed in class.**