



Course Name and Number:

World of the Sages - Rabbi Ari Kahn

02-499-80

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.

Fall Semester 02-499-80

Detailed Lesson plan:

1. The Fratricide of Cain

Midrash Rabbah - Genesis 22:2

2. The leadership of Noah, "A Stupid Shepherd"

Sanhedrin 108a, Midrash Rabbah - Genesis 30:9, Zohar Hashmatot, Margoliot edition Bereishit 254b, Zohar, Vayikra, Section 3, Page 15a, Seder Olam chapter 1

3. The Monotheism of Abraham - From logic to revelation.

Nedarim 32a, Midrash Rabbah Genesis 64:4, Midrash Rabbah Genesis 38, Midrash Rabbah Genesis 95:3, Midrash Rabbah Genesis 39, The Sages Their Concepts and Beliefs, pages 19-36

4. The Sacrifice of Isaac

Shabbat 89b, Midrash Rabbah - Genesis 56:8

The Sages Their Concepts and Beliefs, pages 400-419

5. The Personality of Sarah.

Midrash Rabbah - Genesis 45:1, Midrash Rabbah - Genesis XLV:3, Midrash Rabbah - Genesis XLV:4, Midrash Rabbah - Genesis LX:16, Zohar Volume 1, 133a

פסיקתא רבתי איש שלום פרשה מ"ד דבר אחר בחדש

Man of Faith in the Modern World, pages 83-89

6. The competition of Esau and Jacob.

Midrash Rabbah 99:9, Midrash Rabbah 65:22, Midrash Rabbah - Genesis LXV:10, Midrash Rabbah - Genesis LXXVIII:14

7. The emergence of a Nation

Sotah 46b, Sotah 17a, Midrash Rabbah 69:8, Midrash Rabbah 28:3

תרגום (יונתן) ירושלמי על בראשית פרק לד פסוק לא

Man of Faith in the Modern World, pages 29-36

8. The Struggle of Jacob.

Hulin 91a, Zohar Bereshit 170a, Yoma 86a,

פרקי דרבי אליעזר [היגר] - "חורב" פרק מהת רעיא מהימנא חלק ג, דף ק ע"ב

9. The leadership of Judah. Proto-messianism

Midrash Rabbah 85:1,2,5,11,

מכילתא דרבי ישמעאל בא - מס, דפסחא בא פרשה יד ד"ה ומושב בנית תוספתא ברכות [ליברמן] פרק ד הלכה יז

The Sages Their Concepts and Beliefs, pages 682-692

10. The Heroism of Joseph.

Eicha Rabbah Introduction section 24, Sotah 36b, Sanhedrin 102a, Migilah 16b, Sukka 52a

רמב"ן בראשית פרק מב פסוק ט

The Sages Their Concepts and Beliefs, pages 521-523

11. The Death of Jacob

Midrash Rabbah - Genesis 96:1, Midrash Rabbah Genesis 98:2, Midrash Rabbah Genesis 99:5, Pesachim 56a, Midrash Rabbah Genesis 98:3, Midrash Rabbah Deuteronomy 2:35, Mishna Eduyyot Chapter 2:9, Talmud - Berachoth 61b, Midrash Rabbah Genesis 53:11

ספרי דברים פסקא לאת אליהו רבה [איש שלום] פרשה כא ד"ה פעם אחת הייתי

12. The Emergence of Moses as leader.

Midrash Rabbah Exodus 1:8,26,32, Hulin 139b,

מדרש תהלים [בובר] מזמור קיד ד"ה בצאת ישראלת ויקרא רבה [מרגליות] פרשה לב ד"ה ה גן נעולת במדבר רבה [וילנא] פרשה יג ד"ה כ ביום הששית במדבר רבה [וילנא] פרשה כ ד"ה כב וישב ישראל

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