

Course Name:
Topics in Mishnah
Type of course: Lecture

Year of Studies:2020-2021 **Semester:** Fall **Hours/credits:** 2

Course Description:

The objective of the course is to enhance our knowledge and understanding of crucial ideas found in the Mishnah and Gemara. In each lesson, we will delve into various practical talmudic concepts, dissecting their points of application as well as the theories behind them. After completing the course, students will have a stronger appreciation of Torah She'bial Peh and will develop a deeper connection to many of its core concepts in specific.

Detailed Lesson plan:

Week 1 and 2 – Nighttime / Daytime Shema

- Mishnah Brachot 1:1, 1:2
- Devarim 6:7
- Brachot 9b
- Brachot 10b
- Iggerot Moshe OC 1:24
- Mishna Brurah 1:9
- Rashi Pesachim 107b
- Shabbat 34b

In these lectures we will discuss the origins of the most famous prayer in Jewish history. We will speak about it's time restrictions and applications. In addition, we will introduce the concept of *shaot zmaniyot*, or *Halachic hours*.

Week 3 and 4- Shomrim

- Shemot 22:6-14
- Mishnah Shavuot 8:1
- Bava Metzia 94b-95a
- Rambam sechirut 2:3
- Aruch Hashulchan Choshen mishpat 291:21-22

In these lectures, we will delve into the laws of paid watchmen, free watchmen, borrowers, and renters. We will discuss the level of responsibility each one has for the items they are using/watching as well as the nuances into what separates each one of these specific cases.

Week 5 and 6 – Brachot

- Brachot 6:1-4, 7
- Rif Brachot 12a
- Shulchan Aruch 209:3,
- Kitzur Shulchan Aruch 6:6
- Shulchan Aruch 167:9
- Mishna Brurah 167:49

In these lectures, we will discuss the topic of blessing one's food before eating it. We will analyze potential issues such as mixtures and hidden ingredients, learning the skills to determine which blessing is appropriate for which food. In addition, we will speak about the hierarchy of the blessings and how it applies on a practical level.

Week 7– Test 1

Week 8 and 9– Chanukah

- Shabbat 21b
- Rambam Chanukah 3:1-3
- Kitzur Shulchan Aruch 139:1
- Shulchan Aruch Orach Chaim 676:1-2
- Arizal Shaar Kavanot pg 108
- Rosh Pesachim 1:10
- Shabbat 23a

In these lectures, we will discuss the holiday of Chanukah. We will analyze the text of the gemara and learn about the holiday's roots. In addition, we discuss the mitzvah of lighting the chanukah candles and its various practical applications.

Week 10 and 11- Lying

- Shemot 23:7
- Ketuvot 17a
- Yevamot 65b
- Rambam Hilchot Deot 5:7

In these lectures, we will discuss the prohibition against lying. We will analyze the text of the gemara discussing a how to speak to a bride on her wedding day and other situations where bending the truth might be allowed. We will also discuss the psychological effect that lying has on a person's character.

Week 12 (Final Week) - Cumulative Final

Bibliography

- Bodner, Halachos of Brachos, chapter 4 page 79
- Bodner, Halachos of Other People's Money, pg 150
- Berstein, Sefer Zmanim KeHilchatam, pg. 347
- Druk, Rabbi Chaim, Noam 9, pg 235
- Forst, Laws of Brachos, page 218
- <http://www.shemayisrael.co.il/dafyomi2/bmetzia/bm-ch-18.htm>
- https://www.yutorah.org/lectures/lecture.cfm/728553/Rabbi_Hershel_Schachter/S_hur_on_Zmanim_in_Halacha
- Melamed, Pninei Halacha, Ikar Vitafel
- Midrash Chazit, Shir Hashirim 2:9, p. 46
- Myzmanim.com

Grading:

Attendance - 20 % (you can miss 2 classes)

Test 1 - 30%

Final – 50%