

Course Name:
Topics in Mishnah
Type of course: Lecture

Year of Studies:2020-2021 **Semester:** Spring **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 – Purim

- Shulchan Aruch 693:3,
- Mishna Brurah 693:7.
- gemara megilla 14a
- Megilla 4a,
- Shulchan Aruch 687:1
- Rama and S”A 695:1
- Gemara Megillah 7b.
- Rambam (Laws of Megillah 2:15),
- Rif Megillah 3a in Dapei HaRif,
- Rosh Megillah Perek 1 Siman 8,
- Tur Orach Chayim 695:1
- Megillat Ester 9:22
- S”A 695:4.
- Mishna Brurah 694:1
- Deuteronomy 22:5

In these lectures we will discuss the origins and various Mitzvot of the holiday. We will analyze selected pieces of gemara from masechet Megillah as well as excerpts of the Megillah itself. Students will feel enabled to celebrate the holiday with a substantial depth of knowledge and understanding.

Week 3 and 4- Lashon HaRah

- Vayikra 19:16
- Devarim 27:24
- gemara Sota 42a
- Rambam Deot 7:2
- Pesachim 87b
- Chofetz Chaim, Hilchot Lashon Harah

In these lectures, we will delve into the idea of forbidden speech. We will speak about its causes, effects, and ramifications. In addition we will discuss various laws pertaining to when lashon harah would be allowed, and when one might even be obligated to say it.

Week 5 and 6 – Pesach

- Shulchan Aruch 434:2, Mishna Brurah 434:8- bedikat chametz
- Rambam (Sefer Hamitzvot Asin 157
- Rama 473:7
- Pesachim 116b

In these lectures, we will learn about the different aspects of the holiday. Specifically, we will analyze the concept of chametz and in terms of its searching/burning/not seeing etc. We all also dissect select passages from the Haggadah allowing the students to enhance their depth and breadth of knowledge about the holiday.

Week 7– Test 1

Week 8 and 9– The Golden Path of the Rambam

In these lectures, we will delve into the timeless advice of the Rambam. We will discuss different scenarios and situations as to when and where the Rambam's sagely advice would and wouldn't apply.

- *Numbers* 12:3
- *Rambam Shemoneh Perakim* chapter 4
- *Rambam Mishneh Torah Hilchot Deot* chapter 1-2
- Rambam on *Pirke Avot* 4:4.
- *Sotah* 4b

Week 10 and 11- Sefirat HaOmer

In these lectures, we will discuss the mitzvah of counting the omer. Does this mitzvah apply biblically nowadays? We will also learn about important concepts such as *chadash*. Finally, we will discuss the spiritual opportunities that the Omer brings as well.

- Vayikra 23:15-16
- Vayikra 23:14
- Tur 489:1
- Shulchan Aruch 489:8
- Sh"t Maharash HaLevi Siman 5
- Rambam Hilkhos Temidin U-musafin 7:22-4
- Menachos (66a)
- Tosafos Menachos 66a
- Or Ha-chayim (Emor 23:15)
- Rashba - Responsa 3:284

Week 12 (Final Week) - Cumulative Final

Grading:

Attendance - 20 % (you can miss 2 classes)

Test 1 - 30%

Final – 50%

Bibliography

- Aristotle, "The Nicomachean Ethics Book 4, Chapter 3 (1123a36-1125a35) Summary." *Shmoop*. Shmoop University, Inc., 11 Nov. 2008.
- Belsky, Piskei Harav Belsky page 122
- <https://www.haggadot.com/clip/persian-dayeinu-tradition>
- Mansour, Rabbi Eli , - <http://www.dailyhalacha.com/Display.asp>
- Rimon, Rav Yosef Tzvi
<https://www.etzion.org.il/en/sefirat-haomer-biblical-or-rabbinic-obligation-0>
- Shechter, R' Herschel "Inyanei Purim"
- Shternbuch, Rav Moshe, Moadim UZmanim (Vol 4 Siman 286 pg 46)
- Shternbuch, Rav Moshe, Teshuvot Vihanhagot, 1:555
- Stepler, Purim in a new light,
- Soloveitchik, Rav Yosef Dov "Sacred and Profane," in *Gesher* III: 1 (1966), p.16.
- Yosef, Rav Ovadia, Chazon Ovadyah (pg 55)