

SUMMER
E X P E R I E N C E

2023

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

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David: When Trouble Comes from Home

The most charismatic king of all, the great warrior for whom the women danced victory dances, also experienced bitter moments of hardship and failure. What does it teach us about David as a family man and monarch? Does family mean loyalty, and is love blind? We will study some of the episodes from the story of Bat Sheva and Uriah, through the rape of Tamar, and the revenge-rebellion of his son Absalom



Vered Hollander-Goldfarb



STUDY



Rabbi Eliana Mastrangelo

Beyond the Oven of Akhnai: Revelation and Authority through the figure of Rabbi Eliezer

Where does Torah come from? Does it emerge from the collective effort of sages to understand and decide the law? Is it handed down from student to teacher without room for innovation? Who gets to decide? What role do moral intuition, prophecy, and magic play? Is revelation a dialogue or a monologue? Together we will explore talmudic texts which center on Rabbi Eliezer, a powerful sage and magician who is often cast as the rabbinic arch-conservative, embodying Torah as a received tradition from which it is impossible to deviate. We will read stories and halakhic texts of magic, power, and revelation to complicate this characterization and ask what we can gain by seeing Torah from his perspective

The Torah of Human Rights

Rabbi Samson Raphael Hirsch (1808-1888), often regarded as the founder of Modern Orthodoxy, was one of the most important leaders in the Jewish struggle for human rights during the Age of Emancipation in Europe. He expressed his conception of human rights in political writings in which he proclaimed the moral imperative of equality and framed the denial of human rights as a form of enslavement, a conception which he then used to interpret the enslavement of Israel in Egypt in his Commentary on the Torah. Rabbi Hirsch's conception of the mission of Israel, Jewish law and the Messianic era all reflect the ideal of human equality for which he struggled. In this course, we will explore Rabbi Hirsch's Torah of human rights as it unfolds in his political and religious writings.



Dr. Shaiya Rothberg



Dr. Chanan Gafni

The Torah in Jewish, Christian, and Islamic Interpretation

No sooner had the Bible as we know it been canonized than it's interpretation became the subject of fierce debate between Jews and the nascent Christian church. Centuries later, with arrival on the scene of Islam, the battles still raged, and now all three major monotheistic religions took part in the polemics. In this course we will discuss these diverse conceptions of Biblical meaning. In addition, we will explore the pivotal role that these early disputes played in the evolution of modern interpretive approaches to the biblical text.

Who is a Jew?

We will examine biblical, halakhic and historical sources on Jewish identity as we look at the issues of matrilineal/patrilineal definitions of who is a Jew, the origin and history of conversion, and contemporary issues in Israel such as what Jews qualify under the Law of Return.



Rabbi Alan Iser



EXPLORE



Rabbi David Greenstein

Moral Challenges for a Person Living in a Corrupt Society - Zoharic Perspectives

How might a person who wishes to live with integrity negotiate living within a society that has lost its moral compass? The Zohar discusses Biblical characters (- Noah is the most salient example) and situations that can help us wrestle with this ever-recurring and contemporary issue. Classic Biblical, Rabbinic and Zoharic texts (in English translation) will be the basis for our investigations.

Tefillah Workshop

Prayer and spiritual practice are at the heart of the Jewish experience. By giving a central place to prayer and spirituality, we can get closer to God, to each other, and to the spiritual and deep places within us. From a long tradition of spiritual practice throughout the generations, we will give space to singing, chanting and other various practices in prayer. Together we will raise our voices and our souls and deepen our connection to prayer. The spiritual place can be touched in our lives from looking deeply at tradition, thought, and longing, to be precise in how we connect to the divine dimension.



Rabba Nava B. Meiersdorf

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Terry Cohen Hendin, MSW

Volunteer Program

VOLUNTEER & STUDY whisks you away from the CY campus, affording you the unique opportunity to engage with Israeli society, volunteering with a local non-profit, educational or cultural institution utilizing your skills and interests. Hebrew may be helpful, but not essential. A minimum commitment of 3 mornings or afternoons a week includes thorough orientation, preparation and professional support throughout the experience. **NOTE:** Volunteer placements are personally created with consideration of participant's class schedule and availability as well as their specific skills and interests. The volunteer settings will be in one of three areas: Non Profit Organizations/NGO's, educational institutions, or cultural institutions

Talmud I

In this course we will study talmud extract dealing attributing special function to the mikveh waters. We will pin down what is at stake according to the rabbis when using the mikveh in order to change a person or an object's halachic status. We will refer particularly to the conversion, women and men sexuality as well as nazirite and cooking vessels. This class is particularly a good fit for beginners. We will work on the punctuated version of Steinsaltz edition and work through talmud section with a fantastic pedagogical support.



Rabbi Dr Eliora Peretz



TALMUD TORAH LISHMA



Rabbi Joel Levy

Talmud II

This course is for students who have already spent time learning tannaitic sources and who are beginning their journey into unpacking the highly compressed literary and legal texts of the Babylonian Talmud. We will aim to help students begin to acquire the skills to become independent readers of the Talmud and to see the philosophical and religious issues at play behind the highly technical language of the text.