



LEARN: Sample Courses



Learn: Tanach

פרשנות המקרא

This course is designed to help develop the students' textual and analytical skills in the study of Chumash and its commentators. We will focus on a careful reading of the Chumash and we will aim to understand the difficulties and questions in the pesukim which motivated the various meforshim. We will examine and compare the various principles behind the individual commentaries in their interpretations, including their historical background and linguistic orientation. We will also examine the primary sources which underlie the commentaries, and we will discuss in depth the issue of p'shat vs. derash.

מנהיגות בתנ"ך

This course will explore the development of national leaders within Tanach. We will analyze prominent figures such as Moshe, Yehoshua, Devorah, Shlomo, and others. We will also examine less well-known dignitaries, including Otniel Ben Kenaz, Gideon, Yeravam Ben Nevat, and more. How does the Tanach portray the qualities of a positive leader or a negative one? When can a leader's strengths also contribute to his or her downfall? What is the development of different kinds of national leaders throughout the Tanach, and why do different time periods call for different leadership? We will thoroughly study the texts of Tanach, as well as the works of Chazal, Rishonim, Acharonim, and modern-day mefarshim in order to understand the different aspects of leadership through the lens of Torah.

ספר איוב

The book of *Iyov* is unfortunately one of the least studied books of *Tanach*. Yet, it deals with many of the fundamental philosophical questions about G-d and his Omnipotence and Omnibenevolence. In this class we will discuss these ideas and more as we study the story of a man whose life was torn down by suffering. We will see the classic philosophical Jewish texts that deal with this story and these issues.

סוגיות במפרשי רש"י

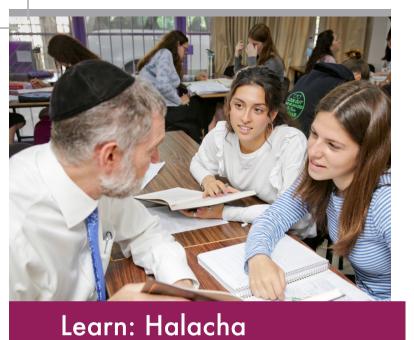
Simple enough for a six-year-old, yet complex enough to confound a sixty-year old, Rashi is arguably the most known and studied commentary on the Torah. However, he is also the least understood! To the untrained eye, Rashi's deceptively simple style creates an attitude of "what you see is what you get", rendering vast treasures of profound ideas and halachic concepts unattainable. This course will introduce the students to Meforshei Rashi, our guides in properly understanding Peirush Rashi in its entirety. With their help, we will learn to anticipate Rashi's questions, analyze the consistency of his answers within the p'shat of the pesukim, understand why he chose to cite certain Midrashim and not others, compare his approach with other Parshanim, reconcile contradicting commentaries from Rashi and gain an overall picture of select sugyot in Chumash. But, most importantly, we will prove time and time again that when it comes to Rashi, what you see is far inferior to what you actually get.





הלכות שבת

An in-depth analysis of the laws of Shabbat, tracing the halacha from the Torah and the Talmud through the Shulchan Aruch and modern response. The course will discuss both the positive commandments (e.g. kiddush, havdalah, hadlakat nerot, etc.) as well as the prohibitions of various relevant melachot (cooking, carrying, use of electricity, etc.) The goal is to penetrate the logical definition of each melacha and to apply this to practical halacha.



האשה והמצוות

This course is an in-depth study of the many mitzvot that pertain to women. We will discuss halachot including Talmud Torah, tefilla, specific laws of Shabbat and Chagim as well as the time-bound mitzvot. We will trace these issues beginning with the Torah and the Talmud and continuing through the piskei halacha of today's authorities.

הלכות ברכות

An in depth study of many of the issues involved in Birchot Hanehenin, with an emphasis on halacha l'maaseh. Source material includes Gemara, Rishonim, Shulchan Aruch, and Poskim. Some of the questions that we will discuss include: When is a new bracha required for eating additional food? Which food combinations require only one bracha, followed by which bracha? What are the halachic definitions of bread and cake? What is the proper bracha for: stuffed cabbage, ice cream with a cone, chocolate bar with almonds, cholent, pizza, apple pie, "mezonot" roll, matzah brei, challah kugel, Sugar Crisp, Rice Krispies, etc.?

הלכות כשרות

What do you do when you find a meat fork in the milk dishes? Can you use the same oven for milk & meat? Can you eat a salad at a non-kosher restaurant? These important questions & many more will be discussed in this class. In addition to extensive discussion about Basar B'chalav, we will also spend time on other issues including Tevilat Kelim, kashering, Bishul Akum (food cooked by a non-Jew), bugs, Kashrut in Israel, and much more. Students will emerge equipped with knowledge of what to do in many practical situations as well as knowing when they must ask a shailah.



Learn: Torah She'Ba'al Peh

גמרא

The study of Talmud (Gemara) is completely unlike any other field of study. The Gemara forms the basis of our Torah She'Ba'al Peh, as the discussions and debates begun by the Sages of Babylonia are continued throughout the ages. In MMY, Gemara is offered (optionally) in two different tracks reflecting the variety of Gemara backgrounds our students enter with. The introductory Gemara classes assume no background at all, and focusses on teaching the textual and analytical skills necessary to learn Gemara. By the end of a year in this class, students are able to prepare a sugya of Gemara on their own, even if they never opened one before coming to MMY! The advanced Gemara class spends less time on building textual skills, and more on advanced "lomdus" analysis in the classic Yeshiva style.

Sample Gemara Classes

גמרא פסחים

In addition to specific details of Leil Haseder, we will focus on other topics such as kiddush, havdalah, brachot and birkat hamazon.

גמרא ברכות

We will study the seventh perek of Brachot which deals primarily with the laws and text of birkat hamazon. As part of the regular Talmudic discussion, various laws concerning tefilla and brachot in general will also be covered. Topics include: zimmun, forming a zimmun group of 3, joining a minyan, the various halachot of answering "Amen", Shomeia Ke'oneh, the source and text for the various brachot of birkat hamazon, women and zimmun, honors to guests at meals, Bizui Ochlim, etc.



תורה מסיני

The term halacha is generally used to signify the normative mode of behavior that is expected of a Jew. However, halacha in essence is a legal process that transforms the Divine Word into the living word of the Almighty. This course will analyze the system of halacha and its development through the ages. Topics will include: Deorita, Derabanan, Torah She'ba'al Peh, Gezeira, Takana, Halacha L'Moshe MiSinai, the right of the Rabbanan to legislate, Bal Tosif, machloket, the status of un-accepted opinions, chumra, minhag, the halachic status of the modern posek, halacha and changes in societal norms, etc. We will analyze how our normative halacha, in all of its forms is in essence "Torah MiSinai".

אבן העזר

Even HaEzer, one of the four sections of Shulchan Aruch, deals exclusively with issues relating to women. Through a detailed analysis of specific topics in halacha, we will develop a panoramic approach towards the role of the Jewish Woman in the family. Topics will include: yichud, family planning, ketuba, the wedding ceremony, prenuptial agreements, and the problem of aguna.



Learn: Machshavah (Jewish Philosophy)

לחשוב מחשבות

See for yourself what serious Torah thought really has to say about many crucial areas. Deepen and broaden your thinking about life and Torah. In this course we will learn, analyze and discuss a wide range of classical sources (Tanach, Chazal, Geonim, Rishonim and major Achronim). Fascinating and critical sources and ideas, that one would normally require decades of intensive learning to be exposed to, will be telescoped into several hours a week. These classical sources and approaches will provide fresh perspectives on many important topics. A handful of the scores of topics we will explore are: "Ways of serving Hashem: the good, the bad and the ugly", "Can isssues of emunah be paskened?", "Is this Atchaltah D'Geula?" "Daas Torah, Bashert and Gilgul Neshamot: Which of these are Jewish concepts?" and "Messiahs: true and false".

להיות יהודי בעולם המודרני

Discovering pathways in Avodat Hashem and building personal strategies for spiritual growth to be used throughout one's life. Topics include: Chesed, Shabbat, Moadim, relationships, and child-rearing. Emphasis will be placed on confronting the challenge of the modern world and dealing with environments that are less than supportive of one's religious and ethical values. Part of this class will be based on classical Chumash commentaries – usually from the Parshat HaShavua – including Ramban, Sforno, Kli Yakar and Malbim. Another part of this class will be based on contemporary thinkers in the Orthodox world, reflecting various approaches to Avodat Hashem. The writings of leading personalities in the yeshiva world and Chasidic community will be examined including: Ohr Gedalyahu, Netivot Shalom, Sichot Mussar and Alei Shor.

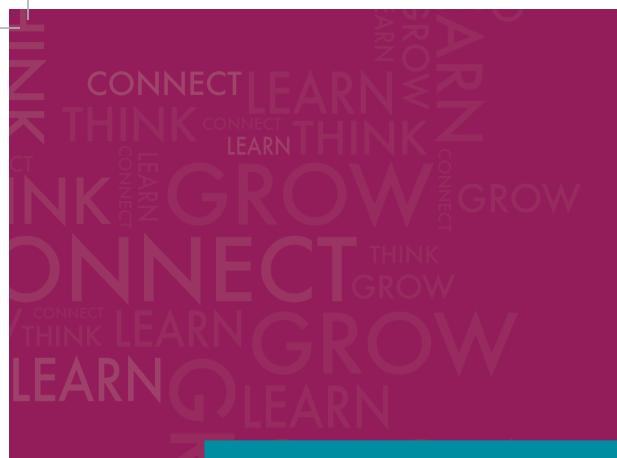


כתבי הרב קוק

This course will focus on the thought of Rav Avraham Yitzchak HaCohen Kook, arguably the figure who had the most influence on religious life in the modern state of Israel. Through a study of selective writings of Rav Kook, we will explore the astounding revolution which he brought about with respect to Eretz Yisrael, Medinat Yisrael, Geula and Galut, and attitude to Zionism which was emerging at the time. We will also explore how his philosophy transformed other central issues in modern Jewish life, such as mussar, torah ve'avodah, teshuva, limmud torah and more.

דרכי התחדשות בחוויה היהודית

The tendency for our *mitzva* observance to run dry and become mechanical is unfortunately all too prevalent. Often outlooks and perspectives from our youth result in jaded attitudes towards Avodat Hashem. In this course we will use classic and contemporary mussar and machshava sources, as well as Midrashim and Aggadot, as tools to re-examine familiar information. In the process, we will discover a surprisingly fresh outlook to *mitzvot*, inevitably strengthening our love for, and commitment to, our heritage. Topics include: the concept of time, how to experience a "real" Shabbat, the hidden power of Yom Tov, "fluff learning" vs "hard core", how to achieve mesirut nefesh for *mitzvot* (even if you don't live in communist Russia!), living and dying Al Kiddush Hashem, popular women's issues, and much more.



For our entire course catalog visit: http://bit.ly/mmycourse





