



MMY
Michlelet Mevaseret Yerushalayim

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 *Meforshai 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*.



Learn: 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 *Birchat 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, "mezono" 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, pre-nuptial 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 issues 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>

