Tanach

Conflict and Resolution in Bereishit
Chazal teach us that there are many different layers and facets to the Torah, many concealed beneath the surface. In this course, we will uncover new ideas and philosophy hidden in some of the most famous stories in the Torah, focusing on personalities like Kayin and Hevel, and Yosef and his brothers, etc. What is the true reason behind these brotherly spats? Was it just a personal conflict or is there more to it? An emphasis will be put on an analysis of these relationships and the stories’ messages for modern times.

Sefer Shmot: Exile and Redemption
In this course, students will expand their understanding of the exile in Egypt as they work through midrashim to understand how Chazal understood the experience in Egypt. In addition, students will learn how to learn various mefarshim rarely studied such as Abarbanel and the Netziv to gain new insight into a section of Chumash that many are already familiar with.

Personalities in Sefer Bereishit
This course will focus on the many fascinating personalities in Sefer Bereishit. This is a highly text-based class that will focus on the structure and content of the sefer, and the underlying meaning of those elements. We will be developing our skills in learning Tanach as well as getting to know the stories on Sefer Bereishit on a more sophisticated level.

Mishneh Torah: Parshanut in Sefer Devarim
The study of Sefer Devarim will be enriched by an intense analysis of the classical parshanut on Sefer Devarim. Comparisons and contrasts between various mefarshim will be used to accomplish two important goals. First of all, we will use the parshanut to figure out the simple pshat in the sefer, as seen by the various mefarshim. Additionally, we will analyze the mefarshim thematically, discussing each mefarshim’s opinion on the major thematic messages in each section. This class will require daily Beit Midrash preparation, and will require good textual skills.
Parashat Kedoshim
In the Sifra it is written that פרשת קדושים was taught to בני ישראל in a public forum because most of the Torah is intrinsically connected with what it contains. The moral, ethical and halachic lessons that are found in the parsha can all be practically applied in our day-to-day lives. Through studying the simple meaning of the verses, as well as comparing and contrasting the approaches of various מפרשים and other sources in an intellectually challenging way, this goal can be achieved.

Chumash Bamidbar
The trials and tribulations of the Jews throughout their 40 years in the wilderness can be applied to our daily challenges in everyday life. In this course, we will travel along with the Jewish nation as they confront their challenges and learn important life-lessons that can enhance our character and personality.

Sefer Shmuel Alef
An in depth analysis of the stories in Shmuel Alef and how they pertain to us. For example, we will discuss the reason why Shaul was chosen to be the first King of Bnei Yisrael, and what we can take from that in terms of the leaders we choose for ourselves. The class will utilize textual analysis of the psukim themselves, as well as review of various meforshim on the Sefer to develop a keener understanding of the issues and controversies in this sefer.

Echoes from Above: Insights into Parshat Hashavuah
A Jew is required not only to read the weekly portion but to also live by its meanings. In this course, we will delve into the deeper meanings of the פרשה and apply them to our week and lives. We will also use the opportunity to develop students’ ability to put together their own divrei Torah.

Sefer Shoftim
This class will stress both parshanut and thematic analysis of Sefer Shoftim. We will be examining the different personalities in the sefer shoftim (e.g. Devorah, Yael, Shimshon), focusing on each one’s singularity and the philosophical and practical lessons they demonstrate. Why do Chazal criticize Devorah? Why did Shimshon marry non-Jewish women? Students will emerge with a new perspective on our role models, better insight into their personalities and the abilities necessary to continue their learning even after their year in Israel.

Musar HaNeviim
In this class, we will be discussing the moral messages that we can glean from various Sifrei Tanach. We will be learning significant sections from Yona, Yechezkia and Mishlei, with our emphasis on using the psukim as a springboard for improving our own美德. Once again, we will show how every perek in Tanach has a lesson for every generation.
manner, and to find the relevance of that learning to us on a personal and collective level. מגילת אסתר is known as "כתבוני לדורות," a work that transcends time and thus is continuously relevant.

The Wisdom and Mussar of Shlomo HaMelech
Hashem offered Shlomo anything he wanted and Shlomo chose wisdom. Though the study of Kohelet and Mishlei, the analysis of their commentaries and midrashim and how these teachings apply to our lives, we will be able to gain great insight into our perspectives and character and how we approach our avodat Hashem, midot and value system.

Ezra/Nechemia
We will learn this fascinating sefer which discusses the return to Eretz Yisrael after the first galut to Bavel. We will learn the sefer in depth, discussing the major themes of the sefer such as the conflict between politics and religion, and the place of religious idealism in the real world. Of course, we will also apply these concepts to our own times, as we too live in a generation that is returning to Eretz Yisrael.

Nach Yomi
We are the People of the Book and yet many of us have not yet read through our Book. Learning a perek a day of Nach, you will be able to accomplish the great feat of completing and knowing a much broader section of our holy Tanach.

Jewish Philosophy

Fundamentals of Jewish Philosophy
Surprisingly, many people who are Orthodox from birth have never studied and discussed many of the basic issues in Jewish Philosophy. How do we know there is a G-d? How do we know that our religion is the correct one? Is our Mesorah legitimate? Why do bad things happen to good people? How do good and evil coexist? If G-d knows everything beforehand, how do we still have the ability to make our own choices? These issues will be discussed and analyzed in conjunction with sources from Chazal and the Rishonim.
The Thirteen Principles of the Rambam
This is a text and discussion based course based on the "םע עיקרים של הרמב". Topics will include belief in G-d, G-d's character traits, doubting one's faith and the interplay between free will and Divine interaction with man. We will also compare and contrast the Rambam's opinions to those of other Medieval Jewish philosophers so that the full spectrum of Jewish philosophical thought is covered.

Spiritual Growth
This class will explore different dilemmas/ideas in basic Jewish thought, from a spiritual/mystical perspective. Some of these topics include: the true nature of the וּכְלֵי רָע, Torah morality vs. natural morality, using tefilla to develop a relationship with Hashem, how to elevate the physical world and how to use the cycle of chagim as a guide to spiritual growth.

Question You Should Ask, Answers You Should Know
Despite being religious Jews and benefiting from an extensive Jewish education, there are still so many fundamental questions that have not been answered. Topics that will be covered include: Why is there a world? How can we be so sure that Judaism is right when there are 6 billion people in the world who believe that we are wrong? How do you respond to a Christian missionary? Do we believe in reincarnation? If Olam Haba is so central to Jewish belief, then why is it not mentioned once in the Torah? There seem to be many d'Rabbanim’s that are far-fetched - why do they do this and what gives the Rabbis the right to impose new halachot upon us? These and other subjects will be studied with the aid of source material.

Emunah through Tevah
This class seeks to inspire a greater awareness of Hashem by seeing Hashem in the natural world around us. By studying the awe-inspiring science of the human body, animal world, plant life and natural forces from a spiritual perspective we will deepen our Emunah in Hakadosh Baruch Hu.

Midot Improvement
Derech Eretz Kadma L’Torah, Refined Midot are critical for every Torah Jew. With the aid of classic teachings of the greatest Rabbinic authorities from the Talmud to the Baalei Mussar to contemporary Gedolim, we will work towards Midot improvement. We will focus on working on our own midot, striving to become better people and better Jews. Some of the midot we will concentrate on include anger, jealousy, laziness, simcha, contentment, hakarat hatov and many more.

Am Kadosh
We live in a society and interact socially within ourselves and with fellow humans, but we also live in Hashem’s world and within His perspective. This, too, is a “social” interaction of a special kind. How do we coordinate the human and divine perspective as we interact in a multitude of scenarios in everyday life? How do we value time, society, and the meaning of our positive and negative impact upon others through our words and actions. What are my responsibilities as I live in this world? What do others owe me and what do I owe others? This course will delve into these important topics with the use of our holy sources and modern day research to see how we can improve as people who live in this world and are trying to serve Hashem in the process.

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Black and White
In this course, we will discuss the differences between the Daat-Leumi and Chareidi worldviews. Are secular studies good or bad? Why do charedi communities promote the kollel lifestyle? What is Daas Torah and do I have to listen to it? How do different communities see women’s role in Judaism? We will analyze the sources and logic behind the various positions that each community takes.

Chassidut
This course is an introduction to the deep teachings of the great Chasidic Masters such as the Baal Shem Tov, Rav Levi Yitzchak of Berditchev, the Baal HaTanya, Rebbe Nachman of Breslov, Rav Kook and Rav Shlomo Carlebach. The themes that will be covered in this very spiritual shiur include: Building a relationship with G-d through אמונה, בטוחון, יראה, אהבה, תפילה, שמחה, דביקות and ימים טובים. Open up your soul and be inspired by Chassidut.

Iyun Tefilla
We will be exploring the world of Tefilla to understand where it comes from, why we say it,
as well as conducting an in depth study of the actual Tefillot - specifically starting from Kabbalat Shabbat. We will also delve into a musical understanding of the different tunes that we use to further enhance our tefilla experience.

**Shemoneh Esrei: Dialogue with Hashem**

We will go through the Shemoneh Esrei in detail to understand how it is our vehicle to communicate our feelings, hopes, and dreams with Hashem. We will discuss why Chazal chose the particular structure of the Shemone Esreih and find insights in the brachot that will help us daven with appropriate kavanah each time. This course will enable you to transform your tefilla from something uninspired and rote into a truly meaningful experience.

**Inyanei D’Yoma**

An opportunity to try to build a connection between the times in which the various events in the Calendar fall out in terms of seasonal change, and the Parshiyot we read at or around those times. This will result in the coverage of pertinent events as they come - starting with Elul, the Yamim Noraim and Sukkot. Our shiur will be text based, and there will be time to analyze different sources bechavruta, and we will be trying to establish patterns and themes in the Chagim as well as the Parshiyot, with the hope that this will affect the way in which we ourselves relate to these when they occur.

**Haggada shel Pesach**

There are perhaps more commentaries written on the Haggadah than on any other sefer. This shiur will discuss many fascinating questions and answers of the commentaries, leaving you with a deeper understanding of the Pesach seder and with many brilliant insights to share with your family.

**The End of Days: Mashiach and Geula**

Virtually no aspect of Torah is as mysterious and esoteric as the study of the days of Mashiach. Who is Mashiach? When is he coming? What will happen when he comes? Will everyone be resurrected? Will they be resurrected as children or adults? Will there be poverty? Is there anything to the claim that the Lubavitcher Rebbe is the Mashiach? What will happen in the war of Gog and Magog? Is Medinat Yisrael part of the vision of the Geula? Is
there free will in the times of Mashiach? These questions and many more will be addressed in our study of sources relating to the fulfillment of the prophecy of the days of Mashiach and those preceding it.

Relationships from a Jewish Perspective
This course discusses the nature of our relationships that govern our interaction with our family, friends and Hashem. With an eye to the insights of Chazal, we will gain insights into how to improve our existing relationships, create new ones and to meet the inherent challenges involved in all relationships.

Derech Hashem
Derech Hashem is Rav Moshe Chayim Luzzato’s basic philosophical work, laying out explanations and reasonings behind every major philosophical issue. The study of this sefer is an essential building block in developing a healthy perspective on the Jewish worldview. The aim of the course is to become familiar with the purpose of Creation, what G-d wants from us, how we are able to best achieve it, the election of the Nation of Israel and the importance of Torah and its commandments.

Mesiyat Yesharim
This classic work on character development by Rav Moshe Chaim Luzzato, presents the reader with a systematic methodology for working on one’s self and in doing so, improving our relationship with G-d. We will analyze the text written hundreds of years ago and see how it very much applies to our lives of today.

Shivat Tziyon
We will be learning about Shivat Tzion through Tanach: יושע, זכריה, נחמיה. Our study of the mefarshim will include the writings of Rebbe Nachman of Breslov, Rav Kook and the Vilna Gaon. Our study of the past return to Tzion will help us gain perspective and inspiration on the miracle of Medinat Yisrael.

Mesilat Yesharim
This class will be primarily based on the writings of Rabbi Dessler and will explore various themes in contemporary Jewish thought. Topics to be discussed include human character and relationships, tefillah, and spirituality in the modern world.

The Philosophy of Rav Kook
Rav Avraham Yitzchak Kook is often described as the father of the Religious Zionism. His works such as “Orot” and “Orot Hate-shuvah” combine aspects of rationalism and mysticism. Participants in the class will discuss his basic philosophical ideas as well as the reflection of those ideas in his vision for the modern State of Israel.

Ahavat Chesed
Chesed is one of the foundations of the world and is supposed to occupy a significant amount of our time and our consciousness. This course is an important study of the monumental work on Chesed by the Chofetz Chaim. The teachings of Ahavat Chesed will be explored and discussed in depth with the goal of not only learning the practical laws and parameters of the halachot and philosophy of Chesed but also of gaining inspiration into becoming the ultimate Ba’alei Chesed, growing in our sensitivity to our fellow human beings and loving to do Chesed. Rav Kook’s ability to bring kabbalistic concepts into the real world will inspire everyone who studies his work.

Netivot Shalom
Each week, we will be studying a specific part of that week’s parsha and discussing it using the Chassidic/Kabbalistic sefer, Netivot Shalom to understand the parsha from a more spiritual perspective.

Kitvei HaRav: The Writings and Philosophy of Rav Soloveitchik
In this course, we will read and discuss some of the seminal works of Rav Yosef Dov Soloveitchik including The Lonely Man of Faith and Halachic Man. We will explore his philosophy as a continuation of the “misnagdish” worldview, and contrast it with more mystical trends in Jewish thought. We will also discuss Rav Soloveitchik’s opinions on various topics such as: Medinat Yisrael, secular studies and human suffering.

Alei Shor
We will be understanding the words of Rav Wolbe through his book Alei Shur. This magnificent Sefer will aid us in trying to look inside ourselves to better understand what we are looking for and how to get there.
Halacha

Mitzvot Ben Adam L’Chaveiro
The concept of Mitzvot Ben Adam L’Chaveiro is one of the foundations of Torah and should occupy much of our daily lives. This course is an analysis of the sources related to the many Mitzvot Ben Adam L’Chaveiro. Through our exploration of classical sources and discussions we will not only learn the practical halachot and parameters of Ben Adam L’Chaveiro but also gain inspiration into becoming Ba’alei Chesed and growing in our sensitivity to our fellow human beings.

Hilchot Shabbat
This shiur will delve into the development of the intricacies of the halachot of Shabbat. Through the study from the sources in Gemara, Rishonim and contemporary poskim we will conclude with the halacha l’maaseh. We will address questions such as using timers on Shabbat, reheating food, using hair spray, opening up a coke bottle, etc. This exciting shiur will make use of many halachic sources especially the Shmirat Shabbat Kehilchata. This class is given on beginner’s, intermediate and honors levels.

Hilchot Tefilla
Tefilla is a very important aspect of our daily Avodat Hashem and therefore, understanding its halachot is imperative. Through our study of the Shulchan Aruch and Mishneh Brurah we will gain a deeper understanding of the many halachot that govern our Tefilla.

Hilchot Brachot
This shiur is a discussion of the various types of brachot and the circumstances in which each apply. First, we will gain insight into the concept behind each bracha and brachot in general and then we gain practical knowledge of each bracha as well as Hilchot Brachot in general.

Hilchot Yom Tov
This course will examine the differences in halacha between Shabbat and Yom Tov, and provide a framework for understanding the unique halachot of the chagim. We will discuss such issues as cooking on Yom Tov and Yom Tov Sheni shel Galuyot.
Hilchot Orach Chayim
This weekly shiur is given with the objective of teaching the details of practical everyday halachot, that too often fall by the wayside. This shiur will cover ‘need to know’ halachot that govern our every day lives, such as נטילת ידים בבקר, Tefillat Haderech and Kibud Av Va’em. Every day of your life will be effected by this extremely valuable shiur.

The Kosher Kitchen
An in-depth analysis of the the many halachot and complications involved in keeping a kosher kitchen. We will explore halachot such as basar b’chalav, checking for bugs, how to kasher a pot that became traif, using a microwave for milk and meat, non-Jewish cooks and many other important and practical issues that arise on a daily basis in the kosher kitchen.

Science, Medicine, and Technology in Halacha
Jewish law is the most complex and vast legal system in the world and though thousands of years old still is fully relevant and applicable. This course will demonstrate the relevance and applicability of halacha to modern issues, medical ethics and technological innovations by studying how halacha addresses issues such as internet security, genetic engineering, organ donation, cloning and euthanasia.

Isha V’Hamitzvot
This shiur uses important halachic sources to greater understand the unique role of women in Judaism and the halachot that apply specifically to them. The course will include the study of the details of the halachot of tzniut, yichud, negiah and family purity. We will study the original sources from which we derive the halachot, as well as their applications according to contemporary poskim.

Jewish Marital Law
We will be studying the underpinnings of the Halachot of Marriage, and discussing the conceptual background of them, through a study of the mekorot. We will also contrast between Jewish and General concepts of marriage and learn about contemporary Halachic issues such as: extra-marital relations, pre-nuptial agreements, agunot, and birth control.

Ben Yisrael L’amim
Whether in the work place or college, we interact with non-Jews on an almost daily basis. This course will analyze and discuss the halachot and rationale that govern our interaction with the Gentile world. Such topics will include The Role of the Nations, Christmas, The 7 Mitzvot Bnei Noach, whether Christianity is Avodah Zara, intermarriage and conversion.

Da Ma lehashiv
“Do we really have to tie our shoelaces in a certain order? How do I explain the problems of cremations to my non-religious grandmother? Should I attend a non-Jewish holiday celebration for the sake of Shalom Bayit? Why can’t a non-Jew learn our Torah? These are just some of the questions asked by students that we address in this thought-provoking halacha class. We are taught to think for ourselves but are we prepared to answer these basic questions. Da Ma Lehashiv will give us the opportunity to explore these ideas using the thoughts of our great sages and just as important using our own abilities to analyze these very real situations.

Jewish History
Lessons of Jewish History
This class is designed for those who may have learned Jewish History in the past, but have forgotten it all because of a lack of context and relevance to their lives. In each class in this course, we will relive one full century. We will discuss the major events in world history, and how the events in Jewish history fit in to the broader picture. We will analyze important personalities in world and Jewish history and how they changed the course of the world and of the Jewish people. Most importantly, we will discuss the relevance of each century to our lives – what are the messages of our past for us today?

The Shoah
In this course, we will confront, discuss, examine and learn about the Shoah from multiple perspectives. We will review the history of the Holocaust, from the events leading up it until the aftermath. Philosophical issues will be discussed, such as G-d’s place in the Shoah, and the complex behavior of people in that time period.
Finally, we will hold frank discussions about the Shoah on a personal level, discussing our role in commemorating and reliving the Shoah.

Back To The Future
A look at current events that affect our lives through the Hashkafa and Halachic perspective of our sages. Every week we will discuss events of the week and analyze them through by means of our classical sources.

Midrash and Aggada
A fascinating look into some of the most intriguing stories and parables throughout the written and Oral Torah. While some may only read these stories on a superficial, simplistic level, when taking a deeper look we will unveil some of the most important and significant messages that affect our daily lives.

Talmud

Gemara: Beginner’s Level
An introduction to the basic rudiments of Talmudic structure, methodology, and concepts through the analysis of practical passages of the Talmud Bavli.

Advanced Gemara
A in-depth discussion and analysis of Masechet Berachot, utilizing the commentaries of the Rishonim. The course will focus on comparisons between various readings of the Gemara by the various Rishonim, and an analysis "בעיון" of the fundamental machloket between them. There will be a focus on developing the student’s independent reading skills in the Talmud and its commentaries.

Ein Yaakov
This shiur is a survey of the Aggada with the text of the Ein Yaakov. Aggada is the non-halachic part of the Talmud that focuses on the spiritual, moral and religious teachings of the Rabbis of the Talmud. It is a window through which we can peer into the great lives and times of the Tanaim and Amoraim. Through their inspiring stories, ethical teachings, and insights into the mystical world, the Aggada elevates and inspires you. Aggada makes the Torah come alive and ignites a spark in the souls of all who study it. Prepare to be inspired!
Neshot Chazal

Behind every great man stands a great woman. Throughout our Judaic studies, we’ve been introduced to our great sages: Rabbi Akiva, Rabbi Meir, etc. But do we really know them? From where did their greatness ensue? Who backed them and inspired them to study and become our great sages? This course will introduce us to their personal lives and their sources of inspiration - their wives.

Pirkei Avot

Masekhet Pirkei Avot is perhaps the most beloved of the 63 tractates of the Mishnah despite the fact that it is one of the few mishnayot that never developed into what we today call Ge’marah. This course invites you to find out why that is so. In addition to studying the teaching contained in Avot, we will meet the personalities from Mishnaic times whose lessons about life continue to influence us and guide us to this day. We will study how this Mishnah views the relationship between man and God (בין אדם למקום) as it is expressed in, and evolves from, the way we define our relationship between man and man (בין אדם לברו). Our complex modern society requires us to embed these maxims concerning ethics and righteousness into our lives in order to become Torah personalities.

Other

Anti-Missionary Training Course

Have you ever been confronted by a Christian missionary? Did you know how to respond to their claims? We will study the sources in Tanach that missionaries use to justify their claims and learn how to prove that they are mistaken. We will investigate such claims as the virgin birth, the suffering servant and many more, while gaining confidence in the veracity of Judaism.

Divrei Hitorerut

This required weekly class is the highlight of the week for many students. It is a motivational class, whose effects will stay with you for the rest of the week – at least. Using insights of the commentaries on the Parshat Hashavuah and of the Ba’alei Mussar, the shiur gives direction and focus to the student body, ensuring that they are getting the most out of their year and maximizing their potential.

Vaad

A Vaad is an informal shiur given twice weekly in your teachers homes. It is a more discussion oriented shiur given on topical issues. We will be discussing our past, present and future roles with the Jewish Community and within our families, in an atmosphere conducive to openness and acceptance. This is an inspiring and enjoyable way to further connect with your teachers.

Practical Ulpan

This course is for students who have gaining fluency in Hebrew as one of their goals in Israel. This ulpan will utilize radio, newspapers and personal interaction with Israelis in real-life scenarios to improve their ability to communicate in Hebrew with modern day Israelis, as well as gain a stronger awareness of Israeli culture and lingo.