



תאריך עדכון: 25.04.2022

שם המחלקה: המחלקה לתלמוד ותורה שבעל-פה

שם ומספר הקורס: Rabbinic Literature and Early Christianity

(ספרות חז"ל וספרות הנצרות)

09-961-01

שם הקורס באנגלית:

Rabbinic Literature and Early Christianity

שם המרצה: ד"ר אהרן עמית

סוג הקורס: הרצאה

היקף שעות: 2 ש"ס

סמסטר: א'

שנת לימודים: תשפ"ג

אתר הקורס באינטרנט: lemida.biu.ac.il

1. Course Goals and Study Material:

In this course we will study the relationship between Rabbinic Literature and early Christian works (known as the New Testament). After an introduction the course will concentrate on the comparison of specific Tannaitic legal sources found in rabbinic literature and a range of New Testament sources. This will be concentrated primarily on Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthians and legal content in the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John). Traditions in the New Testament sources will be compared with rabbinic literature with the goal of understanding the relationship between the two literary corpora. We will attempt to follow the development of specific traditions and understand how each of the edited textual traditions utilized and redacted them. An attempt will be made to understand which sources represent the earliest version of the various legal traditions.

2. Overall Course Goals:

Students will gain an understanding of the primary sources of Christianity in the New Testament. This will include Paul's authentic letters and the Gospels. In addition, students will gain an understanding of the development of a range of legal topics that are found in both literary traditions and gain methodological ability to examine topics on their own. Students will also gain an understanding of the primary methodological issues that scholars face in comparing Rabbinic literature to early Christian sources.

The Rabbinic sources were redacted *after* the New Testament sources, yet many times we can demonstrate that they represent early oral traditions that existed in the first century CE.

3. Course Content:

The course will concentrate primarily on Tannaitic sources found in a range of rabbinic sources; these will include Mishnah, Tosefta, Midrashei Halakhah, Talmud Bavli and Talmud Yerushalmi. Comparison will be undertaken between these sources and New Testament sources, including Paul's authentic letters and the Gospels. In addition we will read a range of scholarship on both rabbinic literature and early Christian literature keeping in mind that in the period we are studying "Christianity" was not yet a defined religion. Time permitting we will also examine some examples of common midrashic material in the two literary traditions.

4. Class Sessions:

The following is a projected order of topics that we will cover in our study. Before each class the lecturer will give instructions to participants how to prepare for each class. Sources and reading material will be posted on the course internet site. Topics could change based on class level and other factors:

Class Number	Topic	Reading/Sources
1	Introduction to Rabbinic Literature and Overview of the New Testament	Paula Fredriksen, "Paul and Judaism", 633-637; Stern, Sacha, "Time, Calendars, and Festivals", 669-672.
2-3	The Prohibition of Creating Factions	I Corinthians 1:10-13, Sifrei Deuteronomy 96, Bavli Yevamot 13b, Yerushalmi Pesahim 4:1 (30d)
4-5	Idol Meat and Kashrut in Corinth	I Corinthians 8 and I Corinthians 10:23-33, Tosefta Nedarim 4:6, Bavli Nedarim 81b, Bavli Pesahim 51a
6	Women's Roles in the Congregation – Head Covering and a Woman's Voice	I Corinthians 11:2-16 and I Corinthians 14:26-40, Tosefta Megillah 3:11, Bavli Megillah 23a, Bavli Berakhot 24a.
7	The Role of the Apostle and	I Corinthians 9:1-18, Mishnah



	Remuneration	Avot 1:18, Mishnah Avot 4:5.
8	The Meaning and Structure of the Service in Synagogue and Early Church	I Corinthians 14:1-33, Tosefta Berakhot 3:21, Tosefta Berakhot 3:5, Tosefta Megillah 3:20, Bavli Berakhot 8a.
9-10	Marriage and Divorce in Rabbinic Literature and the Synoptic Gospels	Matthew 5:31-32, 19:3-9, Mark 10:2-12, Luke 16:18, Mishnah Gittin 9:10.
11-12	<i>Pikuah Nefesh</i> in Rabbinic Literature and the Gospels	Mark 2:23-28, Luke 6:1-5, Matthew 12:1-8, John 7:22-23, Tosefta Shabbat 15:16-17, Mekhilta de Rabbi Ismael (Tractate Shabbata, Parasha 1), Bavli Yoma 85a-b.
13	Rabbinic Satire of New Testament Traditions	Bavli Shabbat 116a-b and Bavli Peshaim 57a-b and Matthew 5:14-19 and 25:31-46.
14	Summary and Preparation for Submission of Final Paper	

5. Course Eligibility and Prerequisites:

The course will be given in English and all class discussion will be held in English without Hebrew translation. It is optimal if students have a basic understanding of rabbinic literature and are able to read sources in the original, however, students who cannot read rabbinic literature in the original can participate using English translations (to be provided). There is no need to have prior knowledge of New Testament sources to participate in this course.

6. Course Requirements

The course will meet on zoom and students will be expected to have their cameras on for all class sessions. In addition, full class attendance is a requirement and attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class. Any student who misses more than 2 class sessions during the semester without permission will not be allowed to submit the final paper and will not receive a grade in the course.

7. Grade and Participation

The course grade will be based on class participation and a final paper with questions on the readings and topics covered in the class. Instructions will be given about the format and content of the final paper which has to be submitted in English by the end of the exam period following first semester (no later than March 8, 2023). Full class participation will be added to the grade by way of a bonus. The maximum bonus will be 4 points for full class attendance and active comments on readings and sources.

8. Bibliography

Amit, Aaron, "Schismata and 'Agudot: The Prohibition against Creating Factions in Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthians and Rabbinic Literature", *AJS Review* 44 (2020), 228-245.

Amit, Aaron, "The Knowledgeable and the Weak in 1 Corinthians and Rabbinic Literature", *The Faces of Torah: Studies in the Texts and Contexts of Ancient Judaism in Honor of Steven Fraade*, Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, Göttingen, 2017, 35-48.

Amit, Aaron, "A Rabbinic Satire on the Last Judgment", *Journal of Biblical Literature* (2010), 679-697.

Collins, Nina, *Jesus the Sabbath and the Jewish Debate, Healing on the Sabbath in the 1st and 2nd Centuries CE*, London, 2014, 27-123.

Fitzmyer, Joseph, "The Matthean Divorce Texts and Some New Palestinian Evidence", *Theological Studies* 37 (1976), 197-226.

Fredriksen, Paula, "Paul and Judaism", in *The Jewish Annotated New Testament*, , Second Edition, (eds. Amy-Jill Levine and Marc Zvi Brettler), Oxford University Press USA, 2017, 633-637.

Kiel, Yishai and Prods Oktor Skjæo, "'The Sabbath Was Made for Humankind': A Rabbinic and Christian Principle in Its Iranian Context", *Bulletin of the Asia Institute*, New Series, Vol. 25 (2011), 1-18.

Kister, Menahem, "Divorce, Reproof, and Other Sayings in the Synoptic Gospels: Jesus Traditions in the Context of 'Qumranic' and Other Texts", *Text, Thought, and Practice in Qumran and Early Christianity*, Proceedings of the Ninth International Symposium of the Orion Center for the Study of the Dead Sea Scrolls and Associated Literature (eds. Ruth Clements and Daniel Schwartz), Leiden, 2009, 195-212.

Stern, Sacha, "Time, Calendars, and Festivals", in *The Jewish Annotated New Testament*, , Second Edition, (eds. Amy-Jill Levine and Marc Zvi Brettler), Oxford University Press USA, 2017, 669-672.

