

THE TALMUD'S MEDIEVAL COMMENTATORS AND MODERN SCHOLARSHIP

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Office Hours: Mon. and Wed. 2:40-3:55 pm and by appointment

This course examines selected sugyot of the Talmud that illustrate important issues focused on by modern Talmudic scholars. The course concentrates on the importance of the study of the Rishonim (and, occasionally, Aharonim) in sharpening the questions that scholars raise with respect to the sugya, and in helping them formulate answers to those questions, even though their answers usually differ from those of the traditional commentators. Another important goal of the course is to enhance the student's ability to prepare the text of the Bavli and its commentators on his or her own.

Students are expected to enter each class having carefully prepared the Talmudic texts together with assigned Rishonim. Students are responsible for all of Rashi's commentary on a sugya, even when it is not specifically assigned in the syllabus. Rashi's commentary will be analyzed line by line in class only when students have specific questions or difficulties or when I feel some specific purpose will be filled by doing so. I will specify instances where I want you to pay particularly close attention to Rashi.

Grades: Grades are based on the following:

Class participation (40%) This will be evaluated based on students' preparation of and ability to discuss intelligently primary texts and selected secondary literature. **It is up to the student to make an appointment with me to ensure that your perception of the quality of your class participation corresponds to mine.** Please be advised that if you do not make such an appointment, you may be in for a rude surprise at the end of the semester. We want to make every effort to ensure that this does not take place.

Midterm exam (20%); Final Exam (40%)

The midterm will be held on Monday, October 28. The midterm will be an in-class exam. Students will be asked to translate and explain unmarked texts that we have studied in class. Students will not be asked to prepare material not covered in class. The date of both the midterm and the final will not be changed. No student will be permitted to take the exam on any other day or in any other place but the classroom. Additional quizzes may be scheduled should the need arise.

The final exam must be taken on the date, time, and place assigned by the registrar, or on the official make-up date, except in case of a documented medical necessity. No informal arrangements will be made.

ASSIGNMENTS:

I. Bavli Megillah 8b-9b

1. Rabbi Yaakov Emden, *Hagahot ve-Hidushim al Massekhet Megillah*

II. Bavli Ketubot 63b-64a

1. Ozar ha-Geonim

III. Bavli Sanhedrin 8a-9b

1. Rashi
2. Yad Ramah, s.v. *Piska* on 8a; s.v. *Otivnei* on 8b; s.v. *ve-Ika* and *Rabenu* on 9b
3. Hidushei ha-Ran, s.v. *Matnitin* on 8a and *u-ve-Makom* on 8b.
4. Yerushalmi Sanhedrin 1:1

IV. Sanhedrin 43a

1. Meiri (*Beit ha-Behirah*)
2. Ozar ha-Geonim

V. Bavli Sanhedrin 45a-b

1. Rashi
2. Yad Ramah

VI. Bavli Sanhedrin 53a

1. Rashi
2. Yad Ramah, s.v. *Amar* and *Dayakinan*

VII. Bavli Sanhedrin 61a-b, 67a, Yerushalmi Yevamot 16:6 (15d)

1. Mishnah Sanhedrin 7:6 and 7:10
2. Bavli Sanhedrin 61a-b
3. Rashi, s.v. *Ha-Omer*
4. Maharam Mi-Lublin, commenting on Rashi, s.v. *Ha-Omer*
5. Bavli Sanhedrin 67a
6. Rashi, s.v. *Ha-Omer E'evod* and *Ravina*
7. Tosafot, s.v. *Ravina*
8. Yerushalmi Yevamot 16:6 (15d)

VIII. Bavli Hullin 2a-b

1. Rashba, s.v. *Setam*
2. Tosafot, s.v. *Ana*

IX. Bavli Hullin 108a-109a

1. Rashi
2. Tosafot on 109a, s.v. *ve-Amar*
3. Ritba on 109a, s.v. *Rashi*
4. Meiri

XII. Summary and Conclusion