Courses offered by the Rabbinical School are not be open to everyone. If the course is listed in the general listings or community education listing as well as here, then it is open to non-rabbinic or cantorial students.

BTI students should contact dean of Rabbinic School for permission to take course listed here only.

**BIBLE**

**Genres and Themes of Biblical Literature 2**
Rachel Adelman  
**CG-BIBLE-502B-C1**  
3 graduate credits  
Tuesdays, 11:00 am – 1:00 pm  
Level: Mekorot

This course entails an introduction to the full complement of Biblical poetry, in its literary and historical context, and to modes of poetic interpretation and analysis. The course will cover selections from the Torah, Psalms, Proverbs, and the Book of Job, as well as selections from the Prophets such as Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Zechariah. We will discuss poetry imbedded within narrative, genres of Prophetic writings, apocalyptic revelations, and wisdom literature. Second part of a two-semester sequence.

**Song of Songs**
Rachel Adelman and Greg Mobley  
**CG-BIBLE-532-C1**  
3 graduate credits  
Thursdays, 2:30 pm – 4:30 pm  
On Campus

Lovelyric: The Song of Songs in Jewish and Christian Interpretation. This will be an interfaith journey of text study among students from Hebrew College and Andover Newton along the path of the Song of Songs. We will explore the beauty and passion of its poetry in the plain sense (in Hebrew and comparative translations), and draw upon Jewish and Christian interpretive traditions (midrashic, allegorical, and mystical).
Core Text: Torah - Bereshit 2
Rachel Adelman
RB-BIBLE-101-C1
4 graduate credits
Mondays and Wednesdays, 11:30 am – 1:00 pm
Level: Year 1

The Jacob Saga and Joseph and His Brothers: Colorful coats, dreams and near fratricide, famine, exile, and reconciliation mark the dramatic narrative of Joseph and His Brothers in the last third of Bereshit. This course will engage in a careful reading of the biblical text, drawing on midrash as well as modern literary responses, from Israeli poetry to Thomas Mann's great novel. In addition to honing our text skills, we will consider various themes such as the problem of continuity/discontinuity (toledot), dreams and their interpretation, models of recognition and teshuvah, and family secrets and shame.

Shemot II: The Book of Exodus in Hasidic Imagination
Arthur Green
RB-BIBLE-413-C1
4 graduate credits
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:30 am – 1:00 pm
Level: Year 2

The course will examine three major themes of Sefer Shemot—the exodus from Egypt, the Sinai Revelation, and the Mishkan—as they are seen in key writings of the Hasidic movement. Because the Hasidic teachings are late works based on multiple levels of earlier tradition, sources from the Talmud, the Zohar, and the medieval commentators will also be consulted. The course will serve three functions: 1) an understanding of the ways in which later mystical thinkers engage in the ongoing spiritualization of the tradition; 2) providing models for contemporary personal and spiritual readings of the Torah narrative; 3) developing textual skills for reading Hasidic and other late rabbinic Hebrew texts.

The Prophets in Bible, Theology, and Jewish Life
Nehemiah Polen
RB-BIBLE-416-C1
2 graduate credits
Tuesdays, 11:30 am – 1 pm
Level: Year 3

This course will introduce the major literary prophets Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and the Book of the Twelve. We will examine the place of the prophets in biblical history, their theological and political roles, and their enduring literary and moral stature. Major themes include the centrality of ethics and concern for the poor; attitudes toward Temple, ritual, and Torah; covenant, restoration, and the future of Israel. Attention to the beauty and power of the Hebrew text will be a central focus.
Cantorial

Basic Cantillation
Louise Treitman
CG-CANTR-519-C1
3 graduate credits
Fridays 9:00 am – 11:15 am
Level: Mekorot
Prerequisite: Hebrew 4 or permission of the instructor

This class is an introduction to the basic concepts of Torah cantillation. Emphasis will be placed on acquiring the skills needed to chant Torah on weekdays, Sabbaths and Festivals using a common Ashkenazi trope. Topics will also include the rituals surrounding the Torah service, the history of cantillation/trope, correct contemporary pronunciation of biblical Hebrew, and the underlying syntactic structure of the system of cantillation. While this course is primarily for rabbinical students, others are welcome (depending on size of the class), provided they have adequate sense of musical pitch and the ability to read and translate biblical Hebrew. Course does not count for graduate credit for students in the Cantorial Ordination programs. Prerequisite: Hebrew 4 or permission of the instructor

EDUCATION

Clergy as Educator
Alvan Kaunfer
RB-EDUC-921-C1
3 graduate credits
Friday 10:15 am – 12:15 pm
Levels: Year 2 and students enrolled in Hebrew 6A

The purpose of this course is to introduce the student to key educational areas that rabbis or cantors may likely encounter in their work, including teaching, interactive sermons, adult education, informal education, havurot, family education, and dealing with a Religious School. This semester will have a practical emphasis. One of the goals of this course is to provide the student with educational concepts, tools, techniques and resources which he/she can use in the student’s future work in the rabbinate or cantorate.

Clergy as Educator
Alvan Kaunfer
RB-EDUC-921-C2
3 graduate credits
Monday 2:30 pm – 4:30 pm
Levels: Year 1

The purpose of this course is to introduce the student to key educational areas that rabbis or cantors may likely encounter in their work, including teaching, interactive sermons, adult education, informal education, havurot, family education, and dealing with a Religious School.
This semester will have a practical emphasis. One of the goals of this course is to provide the student with educational concepts, tools, techniques and resources which he/she can use in the student’s future work in the rabbinate or cantorate.

**HEBREW LANGUAGE**

**Hebrew VI**  
David Roth  
CG-HEBRW-206-C1  
4 graduate credits  
Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays, 2:30 pm – 4:00 pm  
Level: Mekorot  
*Prerequisite: Hebrew 5*

In the Academic Modern Hebrew VI course, students will continue to develop in each Modern Language skill area: reading, writing, listening and speaking. Intermediate to advanced level content will be covered: G’zarot in the verb system; advanced vocabulary and idiomatic expressions within Hebrew text, which will be taught with a lens into the classical texts; next step syntax templates and vocabulary, will be implemented as well. Genres are diverse (academic scientific articles, lit reviews, editorials, poetry, songs) representing the multi historical layers of our Hebrew language. Spoken Modern Hebrew is used in all meetings.

**Hebrew 6A**  
Harvey Bock  
CG-HEBRW-206A-C1  
4 graduate credits  
Mondays & Thursdays, 2:30 pm – 4:00 pm  
Level: Year 1  
*Prerequisite: Hebrew 5*  
*Open to Aleph Level Students by INVITATION only.*

This course, intended for first-year rabbinical students, will cover the material of both Hebrew 6 and Hebrew 7, at an accelerated pace. The class is open to Aleph Level students by special INVITATION only or by special request made to the instructor or Dean of the Rabbinical School.
HISTORY

Second Temple and Early Rabbinic Judaism
Jonathan Klawans
CG-HIST-151-C1
2 graduate credits
Tuesdays, 2:30 pm – 4:00 pm
Level: Year 1

This course is a survey of the diversity and development of Judaism in the ancient world, covering some of the events and phenomena that shaped ancient Judaism: the impact of Hellenism, the Maccabean revolt and the Roman conquest. Some course time is devoted to the first century of the Common Era—the important period that saw both the birth of Christianity and the destruction of the ancient Jewish state, which in turn gave way to the beginnings of rabbinic civilization.

INTERDISCIPLINARY

Beit Midrash
Beit Midrash Staff
Mekorot—RB-INTD-051 (Mon & Wed 9-11:15 am; Tues 9-10:45 am; Thurs 9:30-11 am)
Year 1—RB INTD 101 (Mon, Tues, Wed 9-11:15 am; Thurs 9:30-11:15 am; Fri 9-10 am)
Year 2—RB INTD 201 (Mon 9-11:15 am, 2:30-4 pm; Tues & Wed 9-11:15 am;
Thurs 9:30-11:15 am; Fri 9-10 am)
Year 3—RB INTD 301 (Mon 9-11:15 am, 2:30-4 pm; Tues & Wed 9-11:15 am;
Thurs 9:30-11:15 am)
Year 4—RB INTD 401 (Mon 9-11:15 am, 2:30-4 pm; Tues & Wed 9-11:15 am;
Thurs 9:30-11:15 am)
Year 5—RB INTD 501 (Tues & Wed 9-11:15 am, Thurs 9:30-11:15 am)

Regular Bet Midrash participation is a required part of the Rabbinical School program. Complementing formal classroom study, students will be paired in “hevrutot” for intensive study of Jewish texts. This takes place during daily Bet Midrash hours within a supervised study-hall setting, where tutors are available to help students work with the original sources and to discuss ideas and issues that emerge from the text study.

Havurot
Staff
RB-INTD-175-NC
Wednesdays 2:15 – 3:15 pm
Non-Credit Only

This course is required for all rabbinical students; optional for cantorial ordination students.
Israel Seminar Part II
Minna Bromberg
RB-INTD-511-J1
3 graduate credits
Taught in Jerusalem
Levels: Years 3 and 4

This course is a series of conversations, including guest speakers, around key themes in Israeli life, both historical and contemporary. Culture, political, and religious issues will all be considered.

JEWISH THOUGHT

Classical Jewish Thought
Nehemia Polen
RB-JTHT-318-C1
2 graduate credits
Thursdays 2:30 pm – 4:00 pm
Levels: Years 1 & 2
Open to Level 1 & 2 rabbinical students NOT enrolled in Hebrew 6A

This course will consider concepts and articulations of the nature of God, creation and revelation as they developed from biblical through medieval times, including consideration of rabbinic, philosophic and kabbalistic sources. This course is open to Level 1 & 2 rabbinical students who are NOT enrolled in Hebrew 6A.

Medieval Jewish Thought
Nehemia Polen
CG-JTHT-519-C1
2 graduate credits
Thursdays, 11:30 am – 1:00 pm
Level: Year 3

This course will explore central topics such as the nature of God; prophecy; body and soul; language; virtue and the good life; reasons for the commandments; prayer, repentance and study; rationalism and mysticism; the messianic age and the afterlife; modes of scriptural and Talmudic interpretation. We will discuss main figures such as Saadiah, Bahya, Rashi, Halevi, Maimonides, Nahmanides and the circle that produced the Zohar. Key texts will be read in Hebrew.
Contemporary Jewish Thought in Historical Context  
Dan Judson  
RB-JHT-518-C1  
2 graduate credits  
Thursdays, 11:30 am – 1:00 pm  
Level: Years 4 & 5

This course has two components. In the first half of the semester we will explore American Jewish history focusing on themes of particular importance to rabbinical students like the emergence of denominations and the evolution of the American synagogue. The second half of the course is a survey of the seminal Jewish thinkers who wrote in an American context such as Mordecai Kaplan, Abraham Joshua Heschel, Joseph Soloveitchik, Judith Plaskow and others.

We will ultimately be aiming to place our own historical moment and our own theologies within broader historical/theological frameworks.

LITERATURE

Introduction to Reading Rabbinical Literature  
Harvey Bock  
RB-LITER-501-C1  
2 graduate credits  
Thursdays, 11:30 am – 1:00 pm  
Level: Mekorot

A continuation of study begun in the fall in the Introduction to Biblical Literature course, this course focuses on developing students’ skills in reading Hebrew texts from the Tanakh and rabbinic commentary, with a primary focus on narrative material. Students will read selections in Tanakh with Rashi’s commentary, with the goals of familiarizing students with the writing style of Rashi and of the midrashic sources on which he draws, and developing the students’ skills in independently reading such material with accuracy and comprehension.

PRACTICAL RABBINICS

Internship Seminar  
Susan Shevitz  
RB-PRAC-349-C1  
2 graduate credits  
Tuesday 11:30 am – 1:00 pm  
Level: Year 4

In this semester we will be exploring the nature of the rabbinate. Through personal reflection, course readings, studying texts and meeting with rabbis in the field, we will be refining our own rabbinic visions. We will also be utilizing our internships to analyze professional issues in the rabbinate.
Rabbinical Internship 1
Daniel Judson
**RB-PRAC-400-C1**
3 graduate credits
Times TBD
Levels: Year 4

Students will be placed in internships at synagogues and other Jewish institutions in Greater Boston. Students will have on-site supervision. Internships are designed to enable students to understand the relationship between their theoretical education and their practical learning.

Seminar in Rabbinic Leadership
Rabbi Rim Meirowitz
**RB-PRAC-510-C1**
2 graduate credits
Tuesdays 11:30 am – 1:00 pm
Level: Year 5

The goal of this course is to expand and concretize students’ understanding of how rabbis can become effective and even visionary leaders. It is intended to help participants think about and develop their leadership capacities.

Rabbinical Internship 2
Daniel Judson
**RB-PRAC-550-C1**
3 graduate credits
Times TBD
Level: Year 5

Fifth year Rabbinic students will be placed in internships and student pulpits at synagogues and other Jewish institutions in the greater Boston area.
Introduction to Midrash
Allan Lehmann
RB-RAB-537-C1
2 graduate credits
Fridays, 11:30 am - 1:00 pm
Level: Mekorot
Prerequisite: Hebrew 5

The ancient rabbis excelled at reading the Bible, and midrash was one of their central modes of expression. This course will introduce some of the main genres and techniques of classical Midrash, building a foundation for further study of rabbinic literature. Learning to read with the ancient rabbis will also open possibilities for contemporary re-readings of scripture.

Introduction to Talmud
Shayna Rhodes
CG-RAB-520-C1
4 graduate credits
Mondays and Wednesdays, 11:30 am – 1:00 pm
Level: Mekorot

Students in this course will learn the skills of analyzing a variety of Talmudic texts, aggadic and halakhic. How are Talmudic sugyot (thematic units of a Talmudic tractate) constructed? What are the recurring technical terms of a Talmudic “discussion”? What are the conceptual assumptions of Talmudic discourse? What are the social and cultural contexts of the sugyot? Students will learn basic Talmudic terminology, including a glossary of Hebrew and Aramaic terms and concepts, and how to use dictionaries, concordances and other reference tools to decipher and understand a Talmudic sugya. This course also includes selections from the commentaries of Rashi and the Tosaphot with an examination of their interpretive concerns and methods. Students will be required to record selections from the Talmudic texts in order to improve skills in reading Rabbinic Hebrew. Some previous exposure to rabbinic literature is desirable.

Core Text: Talmud - Berakhot 2
Micha’el Rosenberg
RB-RAB-101-C1
4 graduate credits
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:30 am – 1:00 pm
Level: Year 1

A continuation of the fall semester, we will complete the fourth chapter of tractate Berakhot, then continue on to a study of sugyot relating to the sacrificial service, Shema, and the Amidah, as a means of thinking about various approaches to and purposes of “prayer.” The focus continues to be both on building skills that are necessary for reading, understanding,
appreciating, analyzing and participating in Talmudic discourse and on developing more sophisticated and nuanced thinking about prayer.

Core Text: Rabbinics - Nashim uGevarim A  
Jane Kanarek  
RB-RAB-301A-C1  
4 graduate credits  
Mondays and Wednesdays, 11:30 am - 1:00 pm  
Levels: Years 2, 3 and 4

A study of essential Talmudic sources in *Seder Nashim* introduces classical rabbinic concepts, categories and practices concerning the roles and status of women and men. Students will read these classical rabbinic sources for their own understanding in light of the present day. They will consider issues that surround gender roles in contemporary Jewish practice through readings and discussions.

Core Text:  Rabbinics - Nashim uGevarim B  
Ebn Leader  
RB-RAB-301B-C1  
4 graduate credits  
Mondays and Wednesdays, 11:30 am – 1 pm  
Levels: Years 2, 3 and 4

A study of essential Talmudic sources in *Seder Nashim* introduces classical rabbinic concepts, categories and practices concerning the roles and status of women and men. Students will read these classical rabbinic sources for their own understanding in light of the present day. They will consider issues that surround gender roles in contemporary Jewish practice through readings and discussions.

Core Text:  Rabbinics - Nashim uGevarim C  
Micha’el Rosenberg  
RB-RAB-301C-C1  
4 graduate credits  
Mondays, 11:30 am – 1 pm + 4-6 hours of Beit Midrash time.  
Levels: Years 2, 3 and 4

A study of essential Talmudic sources in *Seder Nashim* introduces classical rabbinic concepts, categories and practices concerning the roles and status of women and men. Students will read these classical rabbinic sources for their own understanding in light of the present day. They will consider issues that surround gender roles in contemporary Jewish practice through readings and discussions. Course includes 4-6 hours of Beit Midrash time in addition to regular class meeting.
Hilkhot Kiddushin uGittin  
Jane Kanarek  
**RB-RAB-316-C1**  
2 graduate credits  
Tuesdays, 2:30 pm – 4 pm  
Levels: Years 2, 3 and 4

This course covers the laws of marriage and divorce. With a view to practical rabbinic applications, it surveys the essential rules and regulations that traditionally govern Jewish marriage ceremony and divorces. Having laid the groundwork for classical concepts and practices, the course considers present-day innovations, the challenges they pose and the opportunities that they provide.

Hilkhot Avelut  
Carl Perkins  
**RB-RAB-315-C1**  
2 graduate credits  
Levels: Years 2, 3 and 4  
Tuesdays, 2:30 – 4:00 pm

This course reviews the impact of illness, dying, and death on the individual, family and community. We will both explore the essential halachic concepts that come into play at the end of life, and review the practical responsibilities of rabbis who perform funerals and guide the bereaved through the stages of Jewish mourning.

Kashrut  
Micha’el Rosenberg  
**RB-RAB-426-C1**  
2 graduate credits  
Wednesdays, 11:30 am – 1:00 pm  
Level: Year 5

The study of a variety of laws relating to what contemporary Jews commonly refer to as “kashrut” (even as we complicate the idea that these laws are all part of one set of concerns), considering laws relating to the mixing of milk and meat, mixtures of permitted and forbidden foods, kashering utensils, and the kashrut of various kinds of cheese. Our primary focus will be acquisition of relevant data points and translating those data points into language that makes sense for various communities. A secondary focus will be on skill-building with regard to study of Shulhan Arukh. For students desiring further enrichment, the study of other halakhic texts such as Tur, Beit Yosef, and the various commentaries on the Shulhan Arukh will be provided.