

Jewish Living Core 2A: Mo'ed
RB RAB 200A
Mondays 11:30 am - 1:00 pm
Fall 2014-2015
Jane Kanarek

This course centers on intensive study of selected *sugyot* from the third chapter of **מועד קטן**. Chosen *sugyot* focus on the intersection of festivals and mourning and address questions such as: What happens when times of rejoicing and mourning coincide? How does ritual shape emotion and emotion shape ritual? How do we negotiate communal and individual obligations? What are our individual and communal responsibilities in mourning and in celebrating? As we consider these questions, we will solidify and expand upon textual skills built during the first year of study, continuing to see the ways in which form and content join in creating meaning. These skills will include the ability to:

- Identify, translate, and define words that function as building blocks of the sugya (**מונחים** (טכניים))
- Identify a sugya's layers
- Articulate a sugya's organizing principles
- Know why you do not understand something in a sugya
- Ask a range of questions about a sugya
- Use **ש"ר** as a help and not a hindrance
- See the ways in which form and content together create meaning
- Begin to use **תוספות** and other **ראשונים**
- Utilize secondary readings as aids to deepening understanding of a sugya
- Enjoy studying Talmud!

Benchmarks

- Further command of Mishnaic and Talmudic idiom and exposition (Hebrew Grammar)
- Basic familiarity with the grammar and syntax of Talmudic Aramaic (Aramaic)
- Strong competence reading **משניות** (Rabbinic Literacy)
- Ability to prepare independently a **סוגיא** of elementary to moderate complexity (Rabbinic Literacy)
- Familiarity with the dictionaries and resources of the **מדרש בית** that help with **תלמוד** preparation (Bet Midrash)

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- Fundamental Knowledge of festival הלכה, particularly in regard to labor (Core Knowledge)

Electronic Devices

- No cell phone use in class.
- You may use computers and tablets in class, but please do not use the internet or email. If people do use the internet or email during class, then I will institute a no computers/tablets policy.

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Requirements

1. You will be expected to come to class with a good (but not perfect) understanding of the **סוגיא**. This includes being able to identify and translate **טכניים מונחים**, identifying the sugya's layers (tannaitic, amoraic, anonymous), and the sugya's argument structure. These are all skills that we will work on together, but it is essential that you come to class on time and well prepared!

Source sheets and study guides will be distributed via Schoology.

2. **Do not use English or Hebrew translations while preparing for שיעור**. Please use the Vilna text as your main **גמרא**. While translations may solve your immediate question, in the long run they do not help you acquire the skills to become an independent (and independently thoughtful) learner of **גמרא**.

3. For each of the assigned **secondary readings**, please do the following:

- Write one question that you have which stems from the article's main argument (one sentence).
- Write one idea that you have that connects the article with the rabbinic material we have been studying in class (no more than three sentences).
- Your questions and ideas must be emailed to me at jkanarek@hebrewcollege.edu by 10pm the evening before the day on which the reading is due.

4. There will be two in-class writing assignments.

5. The course will have an **in-class midterm** (November 5) and a **final exam** (December 17). The final will have a take-home and an in-class component.

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Required Text: קטן מועד מסכת

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September 8
ותוספתא משנה

September 10
בי"ע יד קטן מועד
אבל אינו נוהג אבילותו – ודחי עשה דרבים
Writing assignment #1 (in class)

September 15
סוגיא א
יג ע"ב – יד ע"א
ואלו מגלחין-לא תיקו
Jane Kanarek, "Talmud" in *Enzyklopädie jüdischer Geschichte und Kultur (Encyclopedia of Jewish History and Culture)*, (forthcoming)
****draft only, not for circulation**

September 17
המשך סוגיא א

(September 22 - no class, Thursday schedule; September 29, no class: ה"ר ערב)

October 6
ב סוגיא
יד ע"א – יד ע"ב
אמר שמואל קטן-דלמא יש מהן אסור ויש מהן מותר
Jonathan Z. Smith, "The Bare Facts of Ritual," in *Imagining Religion: From Babylon to Jonestown* (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1982), 53-65.

October 8
סוגיא ג
יז ע"ב
והנזיר והמצורע מטומאתו לטהרתו – משמרתיה מיהא שלימא ליה
(October 13 - no class, Thursday schedule; October 15, no class: רבה הושענא)

October 20

ד סוגיא

אייע יח-בייע יז

’וגו המימה יוצא הנה - מותרין במועד לגלח מותרין שאמרו אלו כל רבנן תנו

Catherine Bell, “Basic Genres of Ritual Actions,” in *Ritual: Perspectives and Dimensions* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1997), 93-137.

October 22

המשך ד סוגיא

October 27

ה סוגיא

יד ע"ב

אבל אינו נוהג אבילותו – ודחי עשה דרבים

יט ע"א-ב

הקובר את מתו שלשה ימים – הלכה כדברי המיקל באבל

Writing Assignment #2 (in class)

October 29

ה סוגיא המשך

November 3

Review

November 5

Midterm

November 10

ו סוגיא

יט ע"ב

אמר רב הונא בריה דרבי יהושע – שאסור ברחיצה עד הערב

Gary A. Anderson, “Introduction: The Expression of Emotion in Cross-Cultural Perspective,” in *A Time to Mourn, A Time to Dance: The Expression of Grief and Joy in Israelite Religion* (Pennsylvania: The Pennsylvania State University Press, 1991), 1-18.

November 12

No class: CJLS meeting

November 17

ו סוגיא המשך

November 19

ז סוגיא

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יט ע"ב-כ ע"א

בעא מיניה אביי מרבה – וכן אורי ליה רבי אלעזר לרבי פדת בריה אפילו קברו ברגל

November 24 - no class: עיון יום with Hovevei Torah

November 26

סוגיא ח

כ ע"א

ת"ר קיים כפיית המיתה – ואפילו שעה אחת

December 1

סוגיא ט

כג ע"א – כד ע"א

מפני שאמרו שבת עולה – אין אבילות בשבת

December 3

סוגיא י

יט ע"ב, כ ע"א

שלשים יום מנלן – תלתין הוו

יתיב ר' חייא – דאי קרי חד יומא חג

Jane Kanarek, "Joseph's Mourning," in *Biblical Narrative and the Formation of Rabbinic Law* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2014), 106-138.

December 8

סוגיא יא

כא ע"ב

תנו רבנן אבל שלשה ימים הראשונים אסור במלאכה – אבל מדבר עמו מן הצד

December 10

Review: Putting Together the Big Picture

December 15

No class: review for final

December 17

Final exam