As future rabbis, you are in the process of both learning the words of your predecessors as well as adding your own voices to the tradition. This course is designed to enable you to take your next step as a link in our tradition’s voice, building both your technical skills and your content knowledge in the area of נזיקין. We will study selected סוגיות from the eighth chapter of מסכת בבא קמא, known as פרק החובל. This chapter focuses on torts — damages — and specifically assessment and restitution for harm caused by another person. Through close readings of several סוגיות and relevant articles, we will address questions such as: How did the rabbis utilize scriptural exegesis in constructing their worldview? How did the ancient rabbis view human beings and their legal responsibilities to one another? How did they understand social status and its legal consequences? How did they understand personhood? How do we understand these categories? This class aims to solidify and build on your previously acquired textual skills.

These skills include the ability to:

- Identify, translate, and define words that function as sugyah building blocks (מונחים טכניים)
- Identify a sugyah’s layers
- Articulate a sugyah’s organizing principles
- Know why you don’t understand something in a sugyah
- Ask a range of questions about a sugyah
- Use רש”י as a help and not a hindrance
- Begin to use ראשונים as an interpretive tool
- See the ways in which form and content together create meaning
- Utilize academic approaches to the study of Talmud for a deeper understanding of a sugya
- Enjoy studying Talmud

**Benchmarks**

- Further command of Mishnaic and Talmudic idiom and exposition (hebrew grammar)
- Ability to prepare independently a סוגיא of moderate complexity (rabbinic literacy)
- Familiarity with the dictionaries and resources of the בית המדרש תלמוד that help with preparation (rabbinic literacy)
- Continued development of Talmud literacy (rabbinic literacy)
- Independent charting and analysis of a sugya’s argument (rabbinic literacy)
- Exposure to one area of rabbinic ethics (core knowledge)
Requirements

1. You will be expected to come to class with a good (but not perfect) understanding of the sugya. This includes being able to identify and translate מונחים טכניים, 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!

Do not use English translations or the Steinsaltz Hebrew commentary while preparing forשירת ה phảnי. 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.

2. For each article that we read, please write a description of the author’s main argument. Your descriptions of the argument should be no more than one paragraph in length. They should include the author’s thesis and the main points that the author uses to build her or his argument. Please e-mail your paragraphs to me before the class meeting.

3. There will be three main assignments.

Assignment #1 - Oct. 9

- This assignment consists of a sugya outline of פָּרָשָׁת שְׁמוֹאֵל הַבָּרִי-פָּרָשָׁת שְׁמוֹאֵל הַבָּרִי (לְמַאָרְאֵי ضִיחַת עֵין - בֵּנוֹיָה אֲלָא בֵּנוֹיָה). Your outline should:
  a. Delineate which sources are tannaitic, amoraic, and anonymous.
  b. Divide the sugya into smaller textual units that are each subsections of the argument.
  c. Include punctuation.

Bold = tannaitic material
Underlined = amoraic material
Plain = anonymous

The easiest way to do this assignment is to paste the sugya into your word processor and then divide it into units on your computer. The goal of this assignment is to help you see more clearly the literary composition of a sugya and the way in which this will help you to better understand the argument. You do not need to translate the sugya.

Assignment #2 - November 11

In-class midterm.

You will be asked to translate and explain a sugya that we have already studied in class. We will go over in class the way in which I want you to translate and explain the sugya.

Assignment #3 - December 18

Take home and in-class Final

The take home portion will be an essay that integrates the readings with the sugyot we have studied and the in-class will be a translation and explication of an already studied sugya.
Required Texts

בבלי באת קמא

Source sheets and articles will be posted on schoology.

September 16
עין תחת עין - the Biblical Background
Please study the source sheet along with the commentary of William H.C. Propp from the Anchor Bible Commentary, Exodus 19-40 (posted on schoology).

September 18
עין תחת עין
משנה,/tosfata,מדרשים הלכה

September 30
usalem
פ"ע"ב
אני עין תחת עין - את המכ אדוס לתשלומי (עד הנקודות)

October 2
הפורש פ"ע"ב

October 7
פ"ע"ב פ"ע"א
תניא ר"דוספתא ביהודה - כתוב במ"ר לדל בדרל

October 9
פ"ע"א
אביני אמר אתיה מデート דיני הוקי - לומר שמי שמי אוות בניווק אלא במק
Assignment #1 Due (highlighting the sugya)
Please e-mail the assignment to me and bring a copy to class
October 14 (CJLS meeting - no class)
Review your version of the highlighted sugya with my version (on schoology)
צער - עלות שלב במקומך נוק
פד "ע"ב - פד "ע"א
צער חומא בשופט - לדמיום אתרים

October 16
צער המשו

October 21
צער במקומך נוק
פד "ע"א
אמרו כן אדם - אמר כן זה

October 23
ריפוי
פד "ע"א
ריפוי הכהו - והויב בורפיו כמאם כמאב

October 28
פד "ע"א
אמרו - וקרו לי תור המוהך

October 30
שבת
פד "ע"ב
שבת רואני אמור - תוק

November 4 (no class: school-wide day of learning)

November 6
שבת
פד "ע"מש
ראוניים

November 11
In-class midterm
November 13
שבת ב’
מה ‘ז– ‘א
בערבה – פלוגת זאב

November 18
שבת ב’ המשכן

November 20
בושת
פ ‘א
בושת הכל לפי המוב钗ים והמתביישים – אלא מחוזרת מותניהו רבי שמتعاون ייס

November 25
בושת המשכן
פ ‘א – ‘יב
ומא תנה להא מתניין – הכא נמי דמיימו ליימכלם

November 27
בושת המשכן
פ ‘א – ‘יב
הоборотים וחברת – שביש על נב הדור

December 2
בושת המשכן
פ ‘א – ‘יב
בער ‘א אבא – הכא דמיימו ליימכלם

December 4
בושת המשכן
December 9

December 11
Review (in class)

December 16
No class (review)

December 18
Final exam (in-class and take home)