

**Liturgy and Poetry of Yamim Noraim**  
RB LTGY 255  
Hebrew College Rabbinical School

Fall 2014-2015  
Mondays 2:30-4:00  
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**Texts**

Feld, Edward, ed. *Mahzor Lev Shalem* [MLS] This should be brought to each session. Also, bring a *Tanakh* to each session (Hebrew at least; Hebrew/English recommended).  
-Reuven Hammer, *Entering the High Holy Days*, JPS, paperback edition, 2005 (originally published in 1998).  
-Hayyim Herman Kieval, *The High Holy Days: A Commentary on the Prayerbook of Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur*, The Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies, 2004. (Commentary on Rosh Hashanah originally appeared in 1959. Commentary on Kol Nidrei night appended from his notes in 2004). Note that this book covers all of Rosh HaShanah, but only Kol Nidre/Arvit of Yom Kippur.  
-I plan to make all other assigned reading available to you on Schoology.

**Goals:** For students:

- to learn the structure of Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur Services.
  
- to identify the historical, literary and theological meaning of selected prayers of the High Holidays.
  
- to reflect deeply on the meaning of the High Holiday prayers not merely as texts on a page, but as passages to be recited in worship.

**Requirements:** Students will prepare the readings and assignments regarding the texts of the Mahzor assigned for each session and will prepare a course project.

**Course project:** Choose texts (in consultation with me) from the *Mahzor*. Present in a way you would teach in an adult education setting the history, literary analysis and potential spiritual meaning of these texts in a 10-12 page paper. Select your topic by 10/27; it will be due on 5/8.

Course Sessions:

1. 9/8 Introduction of course. The *Amidah* for *Ma'ariv shel Rosh HaShanah*. Unique Features in All the *Amidot* of *Rosh HaShanah* and *Yom Kippur*. Read: Hammer, 48-57. Kieval, *U'v'khen* – 78-79; the four brief additions to the *Amidah* – 71-72.  
Prepare Texts:  
-*Kedushat haShem/U'v'khen*. In MLS, p.13.  
-The four, brief, additions to the *Amidah*. In MLS, 12- *Zokhreinu LeHaim*; 12 – *Mi Khamokha Av HaraHamim*; 16 – *U'kh'tov LeHaim Tovim*; 16- *B'Sefer Haim*.
  
2. 9/15 Rosh Hashanah Amidah/Shaharit.  
Read: Hammer, 57- 68, top.  
Kieval: “The Structure of the *Kerovah*” – 185-188; *L'El Orekh Din* – 77; *Avinu Malkeinu* – 82-84.  
Prepare:  
*Birkat Kedushat HaYom* in the silent *Amidah* of *Arvit/Shaharit/Minha* on Rosh HaShanah, in  
MLS, *Atta vahartanu.... Yisrael veyom hazzikkaron* p.14-15 emphasizing the passages that are not found in the *Amidah* for *Shaharit shel Hol*.  
*Missod Hakhamim* MLS p. 81 bottom  
*Adonai Melekh* MLS p. 84  
*L'El Orekh Din*. MLS p. 85  
*Avinu Malkeinu* MLS p. 92-94  
9/22 NO CLASS (Thursday Schedule)
  
3. 10/6 Rosh Hashanah: *Teki'at Shofar*  
Read: Hammer: 68 bottom (“The Shofar Service”) – 74; 179-191, top.  
Recommended: Kieval: 106-132; 90-100.  
Prepare texts:  
*Teki'at Shofar*: MLS 118-120  
  
10/13 NO CLASS (Thursday Schedule)
  
4. 10/20 Rosh HaShanah: *Musaf – U'Netaneh Tokef*.  
- *U'Netaneh Tokef*, MLS 143-4  
-schoolology U'Netaneh Tokef packet.
  
5. 10/27 Paper topic due  
Rosh HaShanah: *Musaf*, continued.  
Read: Hammer, 75-85, middle (*Hineni, Malkhuyot, Zikhronot, Shofarot*); 90 (on *V'Khol Ma'aminim*).  
Kieval, 135 (*Hineni*); 145-146 (*V'Khol Ma'aminim*); 152-154 (*Malkhuyot, Zikhronot, Shofarot*).

*Malkhuyot, Zikhronot, Shofarot* MLS pp. 130-137

Prepare texts:

1. Examine the structure of each of the sections known as *Malkhuyot, Zikhronot, and Shofarot*.

-*Hineni*, MLS 140.

-*V'Khol Ma'aminim*, MLS 146-8.

-*HaYom Harat Olam*, MLS p. 158.

6. 11/3 Yom Kippur: *Kol Nidrei* and *Ma'ariv: Selihot*.  
Read:  
Hammer, 107-119.  
Prepare Texts:  
- *Kol Nidre* MLS p. 205  
- Look up the three verses that follow the *Kol Nidrei*: Numbers 15:26, Numbers 14:19, and Numbers 14:20 (and note Numbers 14:18). What is the meaning of these verses in the context of the story or set of laws in the Book of Numbers? (Note that there is a mistake in Hammer's explanation on page 112 of his book regarding this). What is the meaning of each of these three verses as they are chanted – divorced from their biblical context – at the beginning of the Yom Kippur service?  
- Exodus 34:5-7 (The core of the *Selihot* prayers is the *Shelosh Esrei Midot*, "The Thirteen Attributes" ("*Adonai, Adonai, El Rahum v'Hanun...*"). What is the meaning of these verses in the context of the story that surrounds them in Exodus? What is the meaning of these verses in the context of the Yom Kippur service? (The core of the meaning of the verses in the Yom Kippur service is the selective citation of the verses. Notice that the verses are not cited in the *Mahzor* in their entirety).
7. 11/10 Selihot Prayers for Yom Kippur Evening  
*Ya'aleh* MLS p. 223.  
*Ki Hinei Kahomer* MLS p. 227.
8. 11/17 *Vidui*.  
Read:  
- Hammer, 134, bottom – 141, middle; 191 – 196.  
- *Shma Kolenu-Anu Amekha* MLS 233-4.  
- *Vidui* MLS p. 234-5; *Al Het* – 237-8. Find these prayers in Shoharit, Musaf, Minha and Neila.  
- The versions of *Al Het* for all the services of Yom Kippur in as many mahzorim that are available to you.
9. 12/1 Yom Kippur: *Musaf: Seder Ha'Avodah, Eileh Ezkerah* (The Ten Martyrs).  
Read:  
Hammer 155-165.  
*Read/skim: Seder Ha'Avodah* (MLS p. 326-336).

-Compare the details of *Seder Ha'Avodah* with the original description of this service in the Torah reading for Yom Kippur, *Shaharit* (278-81).  
- *Eileh Ezkerah* (337-44) -compare "martyrologies" in other mahzorim

10. 12/8 Papers Due  
Yom Kippur: *Minhah, Nei'ilah*.  
Read: Hammer, 166-177.  
Prepare texts:  
-*El Nora Alila*, *MLS* p. 407  
-*Atta Notein Yad LaPoshim*, *MLS* p. 404  
-*Atta Hivdalta Enosh MeiRosh*, *MLS* p. 405
11. 12/15 Neilah II, wrap-up session.

## Selected Bibliography:

### Mahzorim:

- Aigen, Ron, ed. *Hadesh Yamenu Renew Our Days; A Prayer Cycle for the Days of Awe*  
Birnbaum, Philp, ed. *High Holyday Prayer Book*  
Feld, Edward, ed. *Mahzor Lev Shalem*  
Harlow, Jules, ed. *Mahzor for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur*  
*Gates of Repentance: The New Union Prayerbook for the Days of Awe*  
*Kol Haneshamah: Prayerbook for the Days of Awe*  
Goldschmidt, Daniel. מחזור לימים נוראים. Vols. I and II.  
Sachs, Jonathan, tr. *The Koren Rosh Hashanah Mahzor*  
Sachs, Jonathan, tr. *The Koren Yom Kippur Mahzor*

### Secondary Sources

- Agnon, S.Y. *Days of Awe*  
Arzt, Max. *Justice and Mercy*  
Elbogen, Ismar. *Jewish Liturgy: A Comprehensive History*  
Gaster, Theodore H. *Festivals of the Jewish Year*  
Hammer, Reuven *Entering the High Holy Days*  
Hoffman, Lawrence *Gates of Understanding II*  
Jacobs, Louis. *A Guide to Rosh Hashanah*  
Jacobs, Louis. *A Guide to Yom Kippur*  
Kates, Judith and Gail T. Reimer, ed. *Beginning Anew: A Woman's Companion to the High Holy Days*  
Kieval, Hayyim Herman *The High Holy Days: A Commentary on the Prayerbook of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur*  
Lew, Alan *This is Real and You Are Completely Unprepared: The Days of Awe as a Journey of Transformation*  
Millgram, Abraham. *Jewish Worship*.  
Reif, Stefan C., *Judaism and Hebrew prayer :New Perspectives on Jewish Liturgical History*  
Schach, Stephen R. *The structure of the High Holiday services*  
Swartz, Michael D. and Joseph Yahalom. *Avodah: An Anthology of Ancient Poetry for Yom Kippur*