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).
-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:
-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
Recommended: Kieval: 106-132; 90-100.
Prepare texts:
Teki’at Shofar: MLS 118-120

10/13 NO CLASS (Thursday Schedule)

- U’Netaneh Tokef, MLS 143-4
- schoology 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’amim).
Kieval, 135 (Hineni); 145-146 (V’Khol Ma’amim); 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’amim, MLS 146-8.
   - HaYom Harat Olam, MLS p. 158.

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 Ame ха MLS 233-4.
-The versions of Al Het for all the services of Yom Kippur in as many mahzorim that are available to you.

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, Sha'arit (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. *מגורי😍לימים נראים* 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*