

Torah Core 2: Shemot

RB-BIBLE-200

Tuesday and Friday 11:30 am to 1:00 pm

Fall 2014-15

Instructor: Rabbi Shayna Rhodes

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Welcome to the world of the Exodus, a world of redemption and revelation that will in turn take us back to creation. This course has multiple goals. As future rabbis, it is imperative that you know the contents of sefer Shemot, both as a whole and parsha by parsha. It is important that you learn to view the contents from various perspectives from ancient texts through to contemporary analysis. We will examine Aggadata in the Bavli along with early and late Midrash. Medieval scholarship will focus primarily on Rashi, and Ramban. We will touch upon several contemporary sources with the goal of broadening your own midrashic palette.

Along with knowledge of the contents of this sefer, it is equally important that skills are built to enable future independent study. Towards that end, goals for this class include an increased facility with Biblical text, i.e. become better readers of Tanakh, as well as an enhanced ability to decode, translate, relate to, internalize and build upon commentary. These skills, in turn will help in the ability to compose divrei Torah based on the parsha and the parshanut.

Along with the more concrete acquisitions of knowledge and skills, it is the goal of this course to increase a love for Torah, along with the knowledge of how one goes about studying Torah, and the awareness of the never-ending Exodus as a vehicle through which freedom and human dignity become manifest throughout the world.

Requirements:

Class Preparation - Bet Midrash sessions in addition to private study and English readings

Weekly reflections

Dvar Torah delivered to the class

List of all rishonim, achronim, and their works covered during the semester

Take Home Midterm

Take Home Final

Books Required: Mikraot Gedolot - Sefer Shemot