Introduction to Mishnah
Ebn Leader
CG-RAB-513
3 graduate credits
Level: Mekorot

Course description

This course is meant to serve as an introduction to reading Tana’itic text. Most of our time and effort will be devoted to the Mishnah, though we will also study other Tana’itic texts, such as Midrash and Tosephta.

Our Mishnah study will proceed along two parallel tracks; in the Iyyun track we will study tractate (דָּרֶךֶשׁ) in the original Hebrew. In the Bekiut track we will be quizzed each week on approximately 10 chapters of Mishnah, to be read in translation.

Requirements

- Participation and Bet Midrash preparation.
- Weekly Bekiut quiz.
- Written assignment: due December 8th.

Schedule

September 8-10
Torah Shebe’al Peh –
Introduction
Historical context
Rabbinic concepts

Bekiut (מסכת ראש השנה)

September 24
Torah Shebe’al Peh –
The Oral tradition

Bekiut (מסכת יומא)
October 1 - October 8

Where does the book start?
Looking at texts in literary context.

October 13 - 15

What is the experience being facilitated?
Looking at disagreement about ritual details.

October 20 - 22

Ritual as defining social boundaries.

October 27 - 29

Form and content in ritual – Kavanah

November 3 - 5

Ritual as defining leadership.
Ritual as exclusion – the Minim.
November 10 – November 17
Iyyun 1
Barochot Parak 1
Intro to Midrash Halacha – Blessing.
"מכלאות, באה שם"

Bekiut שושה

November 19 – November 24
Iyyun 2
Barochot Parak 2
Midrash Halacha – continued.

Bekiut בבא קמא א-ב, ה, בבא מצורופא א-ג, ו, בבא מתרא א-ב, ו

December 1 – December 3
No classes. Time to work on written assignment.

December 8
Paper due.

December 8 - 10
Iyyun 3
Barochot Parak 3
Disagreement and pluralism.
"משנה, אבות פ”ד מ”י
משנה, תורות פ”א מ”ג – ר
רבא, ר”י, ר”י, ר”י, ר”י, ר”י

Bekiut סנהדרין

December 15 - 17
Iyyun 4
Barochot Parak 4
Theology in structure – Moshe Klein “Mishnah K’darkah”

Bekiut והיד ה-ג

December 22
Siyyum