**RABBINIC ANTHROPOLOGY**

This is a six-session mini-course, based on a variety of primary and secondary sources, examining classical Jewish views on the creation of humans, human nature, body and soul, and the purpose of human existence.

Each session presupposes approximately four hours of preparation, divided between secondary readings and *Bet Midrash* preparation of primary texts. This is not a lecture course. Please read and prepare material BEFORE each meeting, INCLUDING THE FIRST, and be prepared to read sources and discuss readings in class.

**WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT:** A sermon based on a theme from the course, using several of the sources presented. You may choose the “occasion” of your sermon (a particular *parasha*, Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, birth/baby naming, *shloshim*, etc.). A somewhat “formal” sermon, written out fully, 6 - 10 pages. Due Monday following Simchat Torah.

**I. CREATION IN GOD’S IMAGE**

**PREPARE:** Bereshit 1:26-27 and 5:1 with Targum Onkelos and Yonatan, RaSHI. (See also Targum Yonatan to Bereshit 5:3.)

Midrash Bereshit Rabbah, Chapter 8. (Skip #2)

II. HUMAN NATURE: AGGADIC SOURCES

PREPARE: Mishnah Sanhedrin 4:5
B. Sanhedrin 38a (beginning lefikhakh fifth long line) – 38b (ending brit ha-shem – ninth long line)


III. Continued

PREPARE: Sefer ha-Aggadah, Ha-QBH u-veyn Adam la-La-Maqom, 1-2, 5-7, 91-93.
“Tov va-Ra” 1-5, 9-10, 17, 23-25, 40-42, 51-56.


IV. HALAKHIC DIMENSIONS

PREPARE: Mishnah Sanhedrin 5-7 (emphasize 6:5)
Mishnah Makkot 1:10
Tosefta Yebamot 8:7

READ: *Y. Lorberbaum, Tselem Elohim, pp. 100-103; 194-201.
*Jeremy Cohen, Be Fertile and Increase, Fill the Earth and Master It, pp. 124-165

V. BODY AND SOUL IN KABBALAH

PREPARE: *R. Meir Ibn Gabbai, “Avodat ha-Qodesh 1:17 (skip Zohar passage) and 19 (portions marked)

READ: I. Tishby, Wisdom of the Zohar, pp. 677-703; 749-773. (In Bet Midrash)

VI. MODERN ERA

PREPARE: *Sefat Emet, Tazri’a (as marked) – 1879 (p. 79), 1895 (p. 95), 1896 (p. 96).

READ: *Arthur Green, “Judaism and the Good”
Radical Judaism, pp. 120-131.