The Torah tells us to go through life with a partner. It is not good to be alone. The Torah focuses on married life - much more so than on the ritual of marriage. Regarding the latter, it says very little. The rabbis over the years have put together a process that takes one from single status to married status, involving the couple, the families, and the community.

The Torah and the Talmud teach us how difficult it can be to find the right mate. Both agree that at times a marriage does not work out and it is necessary to bring it to an end. The rabbis have created a complex divorce ritual that legally ends a married union.

This course will continue to build text skills as it introduces you to the halachic world of kiddushin and gittin. We will focus almost entirely on marriage, covering the basic parts of a traditional ceremony and beginning to look at how they operate in today's world. Our texts will take us back to Tanakh, through Talmud, the Codes, and responsa literature up through modern times.

Each class requires Bet Midrash time for preparation. In addition there will be English readings. There will be a final take-home exam that will be due 12/22.