Liturgy of Yamim Noraim
Hebrew College Rabbinical School
LITGY 593

Spring 2014
Mondays 11:30-1:00
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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). -Reuven Hammer, Entering the High Holy Days, JPS, paperback edition, 2005 (originally published in 1998).
-I plan to make all other assigned readings 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 for prayer.

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 March 24; it will be due on May 5.
Course Sessions:

1. **2/3**  
   Introduction of course. The *Amidah for Ma’ariv shel Rosh HaShanah*.  
   Unique Features in All the *Amidot of Rosh HaShanah* and *Yom Kippur*.  
   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. **2/10**  
   Rosh Hashanah Amidah/Shaharit.  
   Read: Hammer, 57- 68, top.  
   Prepare:  
   - *Birkat Kedushat HaYom* in the silent *Amidah* of Arvit/Shaharit/Minha* on Rosh HaShanah, in MLS, *Atta vahartanu….Yisrael veyom hazikaron 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  

3. **2/17**  
   Rosh Hashanah: *Teki’at Shofar*  
   Recommended: Kieval: 106-132; 90-100.  
   Prepare texts:  
   - *Teki’at Shofar*: MLS 118-120  

4. **2/24**  
   Rosh HaShanah: *Musaf* – *U’Netaneh Tokef*.  
   - *U’Netaneh Tokef*, MLS 143-4  
   - *schoology* U’Netaneh Tokef packet.  

4. **3/3**  
   Read: Hammer, 75-85, middle (*Hineni, Malkhuyot, Zikhronot, Shofarot*); 90 (on *V’Khol Ma’amanim*).  
   Kieval, 135 (*Hineni*); 145-146 (*V’Khol Ma’amanim*); 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’aminim, MLS 146-8.
   - HaYom Harat Olam, MLS p. 158.

Regarding Tashlikh, read: Hammer, 92-95; 97-102; Kieval, 175-176. Tashlikh MLS p.177

5. 3/10 Yom Kippur: Kol Nidrei and Ma’ariv: Selihot.

Read:
Hammer, 107-119. Recommended:
Stuart Gershon, Kol Nidrei, 117-139.
Jeffrey M. Cohen, Prayer and Penitence, 139-144.

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’Hanum…”)). 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).

6. 3/17 Selihot Prayers for Yom Kippur Evening
Ya’aleh MLS p. 223.
Ki Hinei Kahomer MLS p. 227.

7. 3/24 Vidui.

Read:
- Hammer, 134, bottom – 141, middle; 191 – 196.
- Shma Kolenu-Anu Amekha 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, Shaharit (278-81).
   - Eileh Ezkerah (337-44) - compare “martyrologies” in other mahzorim

9. 4/7  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

10. 4/28  Torah and Haftarah Readings, Rosh Hashanah
    Read: Torah reading for first day, 287-291; Maftir Reading, 293, middle; Haftarah for first day, 295-299; Torah reading for second day, 299, bottom-303, top; Haftarah for second day, 305, bottom – 307.

11. 4/28  Torah Reading and Haftarah in Shaharit and Minhah: Yom Kippur
    Mishnah Ta’anit 4:8. See the description of Yom Kippur there

12. 5/5

13. 5/12

14. 5/19
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. מהלכים ליום/report. Vols. I and II.

Sachs, Jonathan, tr. *The Koren Rosh Hashanah Mahzor*

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Secondary Sources

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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*

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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 Ancien Poetry for Yom Kippur*