Hebrew 8
Spring 2013

Instructor
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Office hours by appointment

Prerequisites

Hebrew 7 or equivalent.

Course Goal

This course is intended for students who want to develop their ability to read and comprehend unpointed Hebrew texts in general, and texts in rabbinic vernacular in particular.

Course Description

In the course we will read and discuss works by the Nobel-prize-winning author, S.Y. Agnon, with the goal of enhancing the students’ Hebrew reading and comprehension skills and, secondarily, their Hebrew oral and written expression. We will pay special attention to (i) features of Rabbinic Hebrew that we encounter in Agnon’s writing and (ii) accuracy in parsing and vocalizing un-pointed texts.

In advance of each class, a text will be distributed together with a study guide. Students will be expected to have read the text, used appropriate tools to understand it, and addressed the issues raised in the study guide, and to be prepared to read the text aloud and explain it in class. A portion of each class will be devoted to discussion of the text in Hebrew.

Students will be evaluated based on preparation for class, class participation, written assignments and progress in their ability to read and comprehend texts. There will a final oral examination in which students will be given the opportunity to demonstrate their skills.