



Center for Jewish Life

Course Guide

Fall Semester 2009



Welcome to a new semester at the CJL! The CJL is committed to making Jewish learning opportunities available to all students, regardless of their past educational experience. We are committed to doing all that we can to meet your Jewish educational needs. If there is a class that you do not see listed here but that you think should be - let us know and we will do our best to accommodate you. If there is a teacher you think should speak on campus - let us know and we will try to arrange a visit. It is our hope that the classes we teach and arrange will only be the beginning in terms of Torah study, deep conversations, and Jewish education at Princeton University.

We hope you will contact us with any suggestions or comments that relate to this course guide.

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WEEKLY CLASSES



Lunch 'N Learn

Topics in Jewish Thought and Practice

Wednesday 12-1, in the CJL small dining hall (free for upperclassmen and grad students)

Taught by Rabbi David and Rabbanit Sara Wolkenfeld

As we enjoy lunch in the CJL small dining hall, we will study ideas and themes in Jewish thought and practice with the intention of provoking deeper insight into Jewish history and deeper connection to our own Jewish lives. Some of the topics covered will include spiritual elitism, reconciling traditional and academic methods of Torah study, philosophical implications of interfaith dialogue. If there is a topic you would like to hear about, please let us know!

***WEEKLY CLASSES* continued**

Beginners Talmud

Monday 7:30 – 8:30pm in the CJL Beit Midrash (top floor of the CJL)

Taught by Rabbi David Wolkenfeld

For centuries, the study of Talmud has been at the heart of Jewish spiritual and intellectual life. This weekly class is designed to give those with little or no prior exposure to Talmud study an introduction to Talmudic logic, legal reasoning, and hermeneutics. All texts will be provided in English translation as well as in the Hebrew/Aramaic original. Classes begin Monday, October 5th.

Advanced Talmud

Monday 8:30-9:30pm in the CJL Beit Midrash (top floor of the CJL)

Taught by Rabbi David Wolkenfeld

This semester, we will study the second chapter of *Pesachim*, which opens with a discussion of the severity of different types of Biblical prohibitions. This shiur will be based on a close analysis of the text, together with *Rishonim* on the *daf* and selected additional *Rishonim* and *Achronim*. This class is intended for those with the ability to prepare *Gemara* and *Rishonim* independently, but those who wish to push themselves a bit beyond their comfort zone are encouraged to do so. Classes begin Monday, October 5th.

Pre-Dinner Parsha!

Taught by Rabbi David and Rabbanit Sara Wolkenfeld and Rabbi Julie Roth

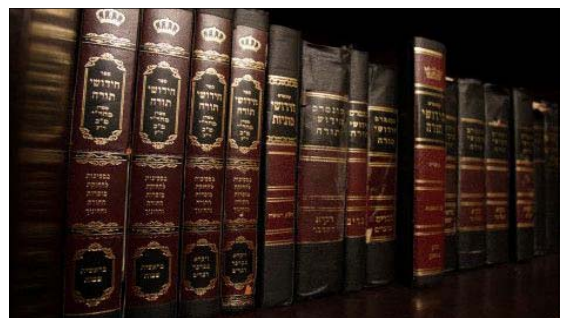
Beginning November 13th, Yavneh, Koach, and Kesher will time their Friday night services to allow the entire CJL community to come together and study. Each Monday, questions about some aspect of the week's Torah portion will be posted in the CJL building, and Friday night's class will be devoted to discovering answers to these questions. Excerpts from medieval and modern Torah commentaries (provided in English translation) will be used as a tool to help us explore the deeper meaning of the biblical text.

Mishmar – Open Beit Midrash

Sponsored by Yavneh

Thursday evenings

Pizza and drinks accompany an hour of informal learning, alone or in small groups. It's easy to find someone to learn with even without making plans ahead of time, and students of all skill levels and backgrounds are encouraged to attend.



SPECIAL SERIES

Taste of Judaism

Taught by Rabbi Julie Roth

Tuesdays, October 13, 20, & 27

7:00 PM in the library on the second floor

Ever wish you knew more about Judaism? This 3 part series on God, Torah, and the Jewish People will cover the basics in a fresh and thought-provoking way. Join us for new insights into “Believing, Behaving, & Belonging.” Great for Jews and non-Jews alike.

Eco-Judaism

Taught by Rabbi Julie Roth

Mondays, November 9, 16, & 23

12-1 PM, in the CJL Small Dining Room

What does Judaism say about reducing consumption, protecting natural resources, and the power of nature to inspire a sense of awe and wonder? Come and discuss the core Jewish values, texts, and ideas that support (and challenge) a modern environmental ethic.



ONE TIME SPECIAL LECTURES

Laugh with the Sinners: Judaism & The Afterlife

Taught by Rabbanit Sara Wolkenfeld

Wednesday, September 23

12-1 in the CJL small dining hall

Free for Upperclassmen and Graduate Students

What does life after death mean in a Jewish context? Do Jews believe in heaven and hell? What makes a person deserving of reward or punishment after death? Do we believe that only Jews merit a spot in heaven? If the High Holiday season has ever made you wonder about how we as Jews relate to the idea of the afterlife, this is the class for you.

Crash Course in Torah

Taught by Rabbanit Sara Wolkenfeld

Sunday, October 11

12-1:30 in the CJL small dining hall

Brunch will be served, free for Upperclassmen and Graduate Students

Over the course of the Jewish year, the entire Torah is read (in weekly portions). To celebrate, come study with us as we begin to read the Torah from the beginning again. What story (or stories) does the Torah tell? What's the point, and why have Jews kept on reading it for centuries? All are welcome to this festive brunch.

INDIVIDUAL HEVRUTA STUDY

Sara and David Wolkenfeld are available for one-on-one study of any Jewish text on any topic of your choosing.



Jonas Salk Fellowship in Jewish Medical Ethics Open Lectures

This fall, the CJL will be launching a selective 10 week forum in Jewish bio-medical ethics. The program will include discussions with outside experts and the study of Jewish texts lead by CJL educators. The fellows were selected last spring. There will be several lectures open to the wider community addressing, from a Jewish perspective, some of the most pressing issues of current medical ethics.

The lectures open to the broader public (subject to confirmation) are:

Wednesday October 14th, 5:30 pm. Rabbi Dov Linzer, Rosh Yeshiva and Dean, YCT Rabbinical School
Abortion

Wednesday October 21, 5:30 pm. Rabbi Len Sharzer, Finkelstein Institute for Jewish Medical Ethics
Assisted Reproductive Technology

Wednesday November 18, 5:30 pm. Rabbi Daniel Nevins, Dean, Jewish Theological Seminary of America
Organ Donation

Wednesday December 2nd 5:30 pm. Rabbi Aryeh Klapper, Dean, Center for Modern Torah Leadership
End of Life Healthcare Choices