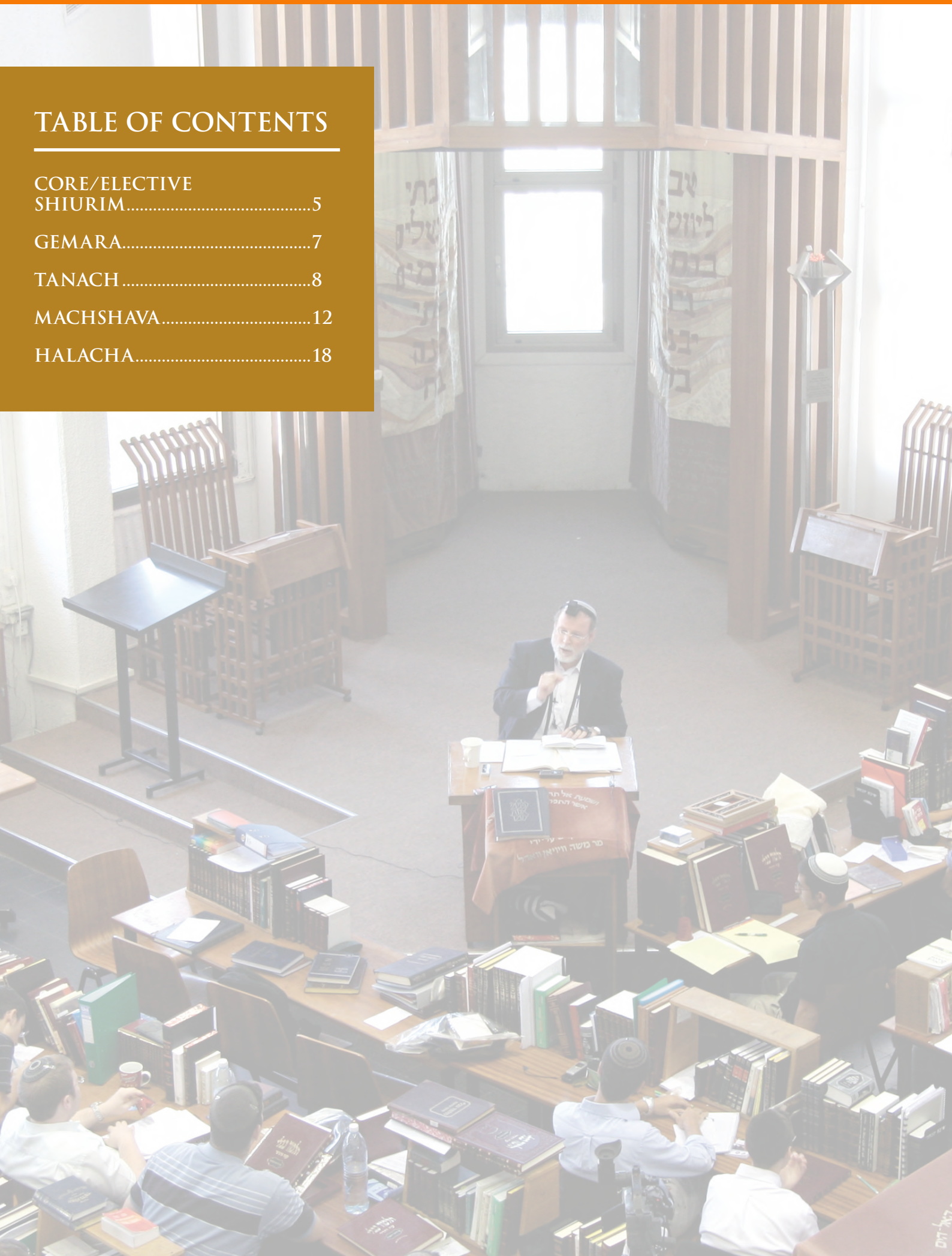


# YESHIVAT HAKOTEL EDUCATIONAL CATALOGUE



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## INTRODUCTION

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The year(s) in Israel can be a springboard to long-term meaningful Talmud Torah and educated Halacha observance.

Accomplishing this hinges on familiarizing oneself with the Torah and on acquiring the skills that enable meaningful independent study.

Yeshivat Hakotel acquaints talmidim with Torah in the broadest sense of the word and facilitates your future study of each of its areas on the deepest level.

The following booklet delineates how these goals are accomplished through a methodic, comprehensive, and expansive program of shiurim and independent study in the four basic areas of Torah study: Gemara, Tanach, Machshava/Hashkafa, and Halacha.



RABBI REUVEN TARAGIN

## SAMPLE AFTERNOON SHIURIM 3:30 PM – 4:15 PM

TOPIC	SUNDAY	MONDAY
TANACH	PARSHA KEPSHUTA RABBI TARAGIN	NEVI'IM RISHONIM RABBI HELLER
MACHSHAVA	CLASSICAL JEWISH PHILOSOPHY RABBI HORN	MODERN JEWISH PHILOSOPHY RABBI KATZ
HALACHA	PRACTICAL HALACHA RABBI FISCHER	CONTEMPORARY HALACHIC TOPICS RABBI BRODY
MUSSAR	AVODAT HAMIDOT RABBI CUTLER	אש קודש רב לשם

## SAMPLE NIGHT SHIURIM 10:45 PM – 11:30 PM

TOPIC	SUNDAY	MONDAY
TANACH	5 MEGILOT AND IYOV RABBI TARAGIN	TREI ASAR RABBI FLEISHER
MACHSHAVA	מחשבת הרמב"ם רב ששר	מחשבת המהר"ל רב יואל רוזנברג
CHASSIDUT	INTRODUCTION TO CHASSIDUT RABBI HELLER	SEFER HATANYA RABBI LIEBERMAN
TORAT ERETZ YISRAEL	TORAT ERETZ YISRAEL RABBI SCHWAT	KUZARI RABBI KEMPINSKI

חמישי	רביעי	שלישי
תהילים הרב טוביה ליפשיץ	ספר ירמיהו הרב ישעיהו הדרי	נביאים אחרונים הרב ארי הלר
עיון תפילה הרב ישעיהו הדרי	בין חסידים למתנגדים הרב ראובן זכריה	רמב"ם - יסודי התורה הרב ציקי ברלין
רמב"ם - הלכות בית הבחירה הרב אביגדור ננצל	אורח חיים הרב אהרן מורה	סוגיות אקטואליות בהלכה הרב ישעיהו שטיינברג
אורות התחיה הרב אבנר ששר	מאמר הדור - הרב קוק הרב ברוך וידר	שמונה פרקים לרמב"ם הרב יהודה עובדיה

TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
<b>כתובים</b> רב ליפשיץ	<b>NEVIIM ACHRONIM</b> RABBI ALTSHUL	<b>משלי</b> רב ברלין
<b>13 IKARIM OF RAMBAM</b> RABBI SHTEINBERGER	<b>הרב קוק מחשבת</b> רב גרינפילד	<b>PHILOSOPHY OF RABBI SOLOVEITCHIK</b> RABBI BRODY
<b>HILCHOT SHABBAT</b> RABBI KATZ	<b>WORKPLACE HALACHA</b> DR. HOCHHAUSER	<b>SEPHARDIC HALACHA</b> RABBI MOREH
<b>CHOVAT HATALMIDIM</b> RABBI HELLER	<b>LEARNING FROM OUR GEDOLIM</b> RABBI TELLER	<b>MESILAT YESHARIM</b> RABBI MILSTON

TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
<b>TEHILLIM BAKOTEL</b> RABBI CUTLER	<b>SHIR HASHIRIM</b> R' BRANDWEIN	<b>METHODOLOGY OF P'SHAT</b> RABBI GORDON
<b>MOREH NEVUCHIM</b> RABBI BRODY	<b>נפש החיים</b> רב קלופשטוק	<b>דרך ה'</b> רב טובול
<b>BNEI YISSOCHAR</b> RABBI DEUTSCH	<b>NETIVOT SHALOM</b> RABBI MILSTON	<b>RABBI NACHMAN'S STORIES &amp; PHILOSOPHY</b> RABBI TARAGIN
<b>כתבי הרב קוק</b> רב עובדיה	<b>DERISHAT TZIYON</b> R' GROSS	<b>אורות הקודש</b> רב עובדיה

## שיעורים בעברית לדוגמא – 6:45 PM

נושא	ראשון	שני
תנ"ך	שיחות פרשת שבוע הרב אביגדור נבנצל	נביאים ראשונים הרב טוביה ליפשיץ
מחשבה	סוגיות במחשבת ישראל לדורותיה ר' בועז דהן	כוזרי הרב גדי שליון
הלכה	הלכות שבת הרב אביגדור נבנצל	מדרשי הלכה ואגדה הרב רוני קלופשטוק
מוסר/השקפה	בנין אמונה הרב גדי שליון	דרך ה' הרב שלמה טובול



YESHIVAT HAKOTEL FACULTY



RABBI BINYAMIN YAEGER

## CORE/ELECTIVE SHIURIM

In addition to a carefully balanced core curriculum, Hakotel also ensures that there are shiurim offered in topics that may be less fundamental, but are of interest to individual talmidim.

Different talmidim have affinities for diverse areas of Torah or for alternate methods of studying the same area. In recognition of Chazal's assessment that individual perspectives are as different as individual faces, Hakotel offers a variety of shiurim in each area of Torah study. This variety ensures that each talmid finds quantity and selection in whatever area(s) he chooses to focus on.

Hakotel's program consists of a basic core curriculum in each of the four areas of Torah study buttressed by additional elective options.



RABBI REUVEN TARAGIN

## GEMARA

The depth and scope of Gemara have made it the focal point of traditional Jewish learning. Most talmidim who maintain long-term Torah learning are those who have successfully developed the skills and commitment necessary to learn Gemara in a meaningful and consistent fashion.



RABBI ARI HELLER

Many talmidim do not initially enjoy learning Gemara because they lack the textual skills necessary to read and comprehend the Gemara and/or the conceptual skills that facilitate appreciation of the complex ideas inherent within it.

Because of the difficulty inherent in learning Gemara, Hakotel devotes the majority of the day to its study. Success in yeshiva hinges on one's ability to invest the hours and maintain the focus necessary to become a Gemara lamdan.

The central segment of each of the yeshiva's three sederim is devoted to Gemara learning. Each of these segments develops different skills.

Morning Seder teaches the skills necessary to analyze a sugya (piece/topic) independently. The seder consists of guided chavruta study which culminates with a shiur that demonstrates how the sugya can be comprehensively understood.

During Afternoon seder a two-hour slot is devoted to b'kiut learning. The goals of b'kiut learning are to strengthen reading skills and expand topical scope. To assist the development of reading skills, Hakotel offers a number of reading groups where talmidim review what they have prepared with rebbeim/meishivim who correct and comment on textual nuances.

Night Seder begins with a chavruta with an older talmid which further enhances development of skills and familiarity with Gemara learning. In addition, the learning with an older chavruta offers the opportunity to receive advice from one who recently faced the same challenges. Night seder Gemara can be either b'kiut or iyun oriented, or combine both. Each option is overseen by a night seder meishiv who helps review the material.



R' ELAN MAZER

# TANACH

Tanach is the direct word of Hashem (Torah) and eternally relevant prophecies (Nach).

Sadly many talmidim are not well versed with Nach and even with parts of the Torah and are often unfamiliar with the tools needed to learn Tanach in a meaningful way.

Hakotel's program develops both familiarity with and the ability to learn Tanach in a meaningful way. The core shiurim include shiurim in each area of Tanach (Torah, Nevi'im, and Ketuvim). Talmidim interested in further Tanach learning can participate in one or more of the additional elective shiurim.

## A) CORE OPTIONS

### PARSHA K'PSHUTO

**RABBI REUVEN TARAGIN**

The goal of this methodological shiur is to develop both familiarity with and the ability to independently analyze parshiyot. The shiur relates to the most basic textual level and focuses specifically on how structure, word usage, and parallels develop the message of both stories and mitzvot. Although preparation is not required, a booklet of guiding questions that enhance preparation of the parsha is provided.

### NEVI'IM RISHONIM

**RABBI ARI HELLER**

The shiur covers Nevi'im Rishonim, which includes Yehoshua, Shoftim, Shmuel Aleph, Shmuel Bet, Melachim Aleph, and Melachim Bet, both b'kiut and b'iyun.

The shiur summarizes each perek and focusing on its place in the overall structure of the sefer. Talmidim acquire a clear outline of each sefer which both crystallizes their understanding of the material and serves as a reference guide for future chazara.

In addition to the overview, the shiur focuses on the major "sugyot" of each sefer and includes:

- 1) an in depth analysis of the main themes and messages of each sefer, and those which run throughout the sefarim as a unit,
- 2) a literary analysis of the text by comparing it with, and contrasting it to, other stories in its specific sefer and throughout the Tanach.

The shiur's method of study also helps talmidim acquire both thematic and literary methodologies of studying Tanach.

### NEVI'IM ACHRONIM

**RABBI ASHER ALTSHUL**

This shiur teaches the sefarim of the last of our Nevi'im which includes a number who lived in the period when Am Yisrael returned to Eretz Yisrael. The shiur seeks to identify the messages we can learn for the similar period in which we live. The shiur helps talmidim develop methodology for their own independent study.

### KETUVIM

**STAFF**

Ketuvim include a number of philosophical sefarim (Tehilim, Mishlei, Iyov, Kohelet) and a number of historical sefarim (Ezra, N'chemya, D'vrei Hayamim). This basic shiur offers an overview of both areas of Ketuvim.





RABBI JESSE HORN

## B) TORAH

### SHNAYIM MIKRA

**RABBI ARI CUTLER**

There is a chiyuv to learn the weekly parsha with Onkelos, Rashi, or other mefarshim. The booklet given out helps deepen one's weekly independent study of the parsha by identifying the central themes of the parsha and familiarizing talmidim with the parshanim and their chiddushim.

### PARSHANUT HAMIKRA

**RABBI BARUCH ORENBUCH**

This shiur discusses the following topics:

- 1) What is parshanut and why is it necessary?
- 2) Differing types of parshanut – particularly p'shat vs. d'rash.
- 2) Targumim (Onkelos, Yonatan, and Yerushalmi) and other early parshanut.
- 3) Medieval commentaries – Rashi, Rashbam, Ibn Ezra, Ramban, Seforno, B'chor Shor, Abarbanel . . .
- 4) Modern and contemporary parshanut – Malbim, Hemek Davar, Shadal, Nechama Leibowitz...

The shiur shows how the period in which each parshan lived and the issues he faced shaped the style and content of his commentary.

### SUGYOT B'PARASHA

**RABBI JESSE HORN**

This shiur identifies textual, philosophical, and theological issues that form a sugya in the parsha and shows the difference between the approaches of different classical mefarshim.

The shiur helps develop methodology of how to build a sugya in Chumash.

### PARASHA THEMES

**RABBI BINYAMIN YAEGER**

This shiur, given by the noted author, teaches how to identify and develop central themes in each parsha based on Midrashei Chazal and their development by later commentaries.

### MITZVOT IN THE PARASHA

**RABBI DOVI FISCHER**

This shiur develops a familiarity with and appreciation of the mitzvot found in the weekly parsha. The shiur emphasizes the context in which the mitzvah appears within the parsha and also teaches how to present the mitzvot studied as part of a Shabbat d'var torah.



## C) NEVI'IM

### TREI ASAR

**RABBI BARUCH ORENBUCH**

The shiur begins the year preparing for Yom Kippur by learning Sefer Yonah with a focus on literary analysis of the book and its themes an explanation of why Chazal chose to read it on Yom Kippur.

During Choref, the shiur continues with the nevu'ot of the earliest of the twelve nevi'im – Hoshea, Amos, and Micha and includes a comparison between each of them and between them and Sefer Yesahaya.

### TREI ASAR

**R' YISHAI FLEISHER**

Will the house of Eisav burn like lit hay at the hands of the house of Yaakov as foreseen by the navi Ovadia? Will the town of Ninveh hear the call to repentance of the reluctant navi Yonah? Will the Beit Mikdash in Yerushalayim be rebuilt as foreseen by Chagai, Zecharia and Melachi? Will the Jewish dispersion be in-gathered by the merciful G-d of the navi Amos?

Trei Asar is a collection of terse visions communicated to the great sages, perfectly suited to today's sound bite generation. Yet the words of Trei Asar remain a mystery to many Jews.

This shiur, brings talmidim in contact with the text, the historical context, and the traditional understanding of the message therein and gives them a chance to offer their own explanations.

### HAFTAROT

**RABBI SHMUEL HERSCHLER**

This shiur teaches an in-depth understanding of the weekly Haftarah. The messages relayed from the nevi'im to Klal Yisrael are talmidim are brought to appreciate perakim which are often only glanced at briefly.

### DAVID HAMELECH – IYUN B'SIFREI SHMUEL/MELACHIM

**RABBI BARUCH ORENBUCH**

Dovid HaMelech is the most developed character in all of Tanach. The shiur develops a deeper appreciation of Dovid by beginning in the middle of Shmuel Aleph where we meet him as a young shepherd and continuing through all of Shmuel Bet where he builds a large empire and the beginning of Melachim Aleph where he is passes on the kingship to his son Shlomo. The shiur shows how he related to other characters – Michal, Shaul and Yoav – and see how Chazal and mefarshim related to him.





RABBI TUVYA LIFSHITZ

## E) KETUVIM

### FIVE MEGILOT

**RABBI REUVEN TARAGIN**

The shiur covers the five megilot read on different yamim tovim. It begins with Sefer Kohelet which proves the religious understanding of the meaning of life by raising and refuting the alternatives. The shiur also covers Megilot Esther, Rut, and Eicha as they are read through the year.

### SHIR HASHIRIM

**RABBI ARI CUTLER**

The shiur uses both the p'shat and Chazal's historical interpretation of Shir Hashirim to help appreciate and develop our interpersonal relationships and our relationship with Hashem. In addition, the shiur shows how Rabbi Soloveitchik (in U'vikashtem Misham and Fate and Destiny) used the sefer to enhance our understanding of Medinat Yisrael and d'veikut with Hashem.

### SHIR HASHIRIM

**R' MICHAEL BRANDWEIN**

The shiur approaches Shir Hashirim from both p'shat and d'rash perspectives. It shows the interplay between nuances in the text and homiletic messages as well as the themes that develop throughout the entire megila.

The shiur also addresses the differing opinions of the Rishonim as to the nature and message of Shir Hashirim.

## SEFER MISHLEI

**RABBI DOVI FISCHER**

This shiur studies the themes of the timely and timeless life lessons taught in Mishlei. Using mekorot from Chazal as the background, the shiur examines the teachings of Shlomo Hamelech through topics presented in the various perakim.

The shiur covers a perek each week and gain a deeper understanding of the motive behind the choice of parables and their logical progression.

## SEFER TEHILIM

**RABBI TUVYA LIFSHITZ**

Based on insights from classical and modern commentators, the shiur teaches different perspectives of understanding Biblical Poetry through Sefer Tehilim. Using literary analysis and classical commentaries, the shiur shows how the different perakim of Tehilim were understood in the past and how we can understand them today.

The shiur also deals with hashkafic issues surrounding Tehilim as well as issues surrounding the modern academic approaches to Tanach study.

## SEFER IYOV

**RABBI REUVEN TARAGIN**

Sefer Iyov addresses the question of human suffering by telling of Iyov and his friends' attempts to explain his suffering. The shiur uses the discussion to deal with the broader issue of s'char v'onesh in this world.

## MEGILAT RUT

**R' YISHAI FLEISHER**

This shiur reveals the deeper meaning of the Book of Rut as seen through Midrash and Aggadic Literature. Talmidim are encouraged to think through textual anomalies and create their own homiletical interpretations in a Torah – true creative environment.



## MACHSHAVA (JEWISH PHILOSOPHY)

Machshava is an endless world of study. That being said, Hakotel's core shiurim teach the basic classical and contemporary approaches to the central issues of both philosophy and hashkafa.

Talmidim interested in further Machshava learning can participate in one or more of the additional elective shiurim offered by topic, sefer, and/or author.

### A) CORE

#### CLASSICAL JEWISH PHILOSOPHY

**RABBI SHLOMO BRODY**

This shiur explores in-depth the central issues focused on by the classic Jewish philosophers. Topics include: t'shuva, belief in God, Divine Providence, reward and punishment, t'fila, mashiach, olam haba'a, and ta'amei hamitzvot.

The shiur examines different perspectives on each topic, including approaches found in Tanach, Gemara, Rishonim, and Achronim.

#### CONTEMPORARY JEWISH PHILOSOPHY

**RABBI YESHAYAHU SHTEINBERGER**

This shiur is an important overview of philosophical issues that concern a contemporary ben torah through the writings of Chazal interpreted mainly by Rashi, the Maharal, the Rambam, the Gr"a, and recent thinkers like Rabbi Kook, Rabbi Soloveitchik, Rabbi Hutner, and Rabbi Dessler.

#### MODERN JEWISH PHILOSOPHY

**RABBI DAN KATZ**

This shiur fosters a better understanding of Jewish values and beliefs by addressing topics such as Religious Zionism, Torah u'mada, Jewish ethics, and relations with non-Jews. Sources are drawn from the writings of the greatest rabbonim of the twentieth century including Rabbi Kook and Rabbi Soloveitchik.

#### HASHKAFKA 101

**RABBI REUVEN TARAGIN**

Hashkafa means outlook and is the term used to refer to section of Jewish Philosophy that deals with how we should view our lives and missions in this world.

This shiur presents the major sources that pertain to central hashkafic issues in an organized fashion and helps talmidim develop a clear understanding of our hashkafa on life.

#### YESODEI YAHADUT

**RABBI MOTTY BERGER**

We often find ourselves without the answers to the many of Judaism's most basic questions. This is because the answers are either unknown or not fully understood.

This shiur strengthens the understanding of Judaism's central beliefs and develops the skills necessary to properly explain them to others.

#### SURVEY OF JEWISH PHILOSOPHERS

**RABBI YOSHI GREENFIELD**

This shiur offers an overview of the teachings of the giants of Jewish thought responsible for Jewish Philosophy as we know it today.

The shiur covers the rational thinking of the Rambam, the mysticism of the Ramban and the Ramchal, and the revolutionary ideas of more contemporary philosophers such as Rabbi Kook and Rabbi Soloveitchik.

#### THE 13 PRINCIPLES OF FAITH

**RABBI YESHAYAHU SHTEINBERGER**

The Rambam established what have become widely accepted as the 13 basic principles of faith. This shiur examines the sources behind (both in the Rambam and beyond) and implications of each of these principles.



RABBI YESHAYAHU SHTEINBERGER



RABBI YESHAYAHU HADARI, ROSH YESHIVA EMERITUS

## B) RISHONIM

### THE PHILOSOPHY OF THE RAMBAM

**RABBI ARI HELLER**

Many believe that since Moshe Rabbeinu there was no individual who impacted Judaism as significantly as the Rambam. He is known as one of the greatest, most systematic, and, perhaps, most influential of Jewish Philosophers.

This shiur presents the Rambam's views (and the disagreements they generated) on central hashkafic-philosophic topics such as creation of the world, free will and Divine Knowledge (determinism), reward and punishment, after-life, t'chiat hameitim, t'shuva, n'vua, development of Torah Sheb'al Peh, understanding aggadot Chazal, the ideal man, the balance between individual growth and contributing to the community, perfection of midot, Talmud Torah, relating to a materialistic world, the destiny of Am Yisrael, and y'mot hamashiach.

### MOREH NEVUCHIM

**RABBI SHLOMO BRODY**

This shiur studies the most important Jewish philosophical text – Rambam's Moreh Nevuchim. Topics include the role of philosophy in emunah, ta'amei ha-mitzvot, and the esoteric teachings of the Torah. The shiur also explores other central issues in Rambam's thought found in his other writings.

### SHEMONA PERAKIM

**RABBI AVNER SHESHAR**

This shiur delves into the philosophy of the Rambam regarding the topic of "torat hanefesh" (the nature of the soul) as presented in his introduction to Pirkei Avot.

The shiur focuses on the human soul, source of life and its parts, and physical/spiritual maladies and the ways to heal them.

### SEFER HAKUZARI

**R' YITZI KEMPINSKI**

The "Kuzari" was written by Rabbi Yehuda Halevi, a talmid of the Rif (Rabbi Yitzchak Alfasi) and a friend of the Ibn Ezra as a dialogue between a Jew and the king of the Kuzars who was searching for the truth. The sefer presents Judaism's most basic principles and is, therefore, crucial to developing one's understanding of Judaism.

The shiur focuses on the central themes of the sefer and their implications for developing ourselves properly.

### THE PHILOSOPHY OF THE MAHARAL

**RABBI YOEL ROSENBERG**

The Maharal, one of the greatest Jewish Philosophers, concretized a system of Jewish thought that synthesized the approaches of the rationalists and kabbalists that predated him. His philosophy served as the cornerstone for those who came after him till today.

The shiur introduces talmidim to the basic tenets of the Maharal's philosophy by studying his most basic sefarim.

### THE PHILOSOPHY OF THE RAMCHAL

**RABBI YEHUDA OVADYA**

This shiur studies the philosophy of the Ramchal who is one of the most important figures in Jewish Philosophy. The shiur focuses on a number of the key differences between his opinions and those of the Rambam regarding issues such as olam Haze, olam haba'a, t'chiat hameitim and y'mot hamashiach.

### DERECH HASHEM

**RABBI SHLOMO TUBUL**

Derech Hashem deals with the foundations of emunah in a methodical and in-depth fashion and enables one to strengthen his emunah and serve Hashem with a deeper understanding and true simcha. In the sefer, the Ramchal, who was a great talmid chacham and kabbalist, presents deep kabbalistic concepts in a simple and clear fashion.

The shiur uses the sefer to present a clear, organized understanding of Judaism's basic principles.

## C) ACHRONIM

### THE PHILOSOPHY OF RABBI SOLOVEITCHIK

**RABBI SHLOMO BRODY**

What makes Rabbi Soloveitchik one of last generation's most important Jewish Philosophers?

This shiur explores the Rabbi's writings on a range of topics, including teshuva, the nature of the religious experience, tefilla, Zionism, suffering, and love. Particular attention is paid to how Rabbi Soloveitchik used traditional sources as well as general philosophy to build his unique worldview and to the continued relevance of his ideas.

### THE PHILOSOPHY OF RABBI KOOK

**RABBI YOSSI GREENFIELD**

Rabbi Kook was the rabbi most identified with the return to Eretz Yisrael in the 20th century. He identified the moment as one Hashem had chosen for the beginning of the geula process and formulated the principles that became the philosophical underpinnings of the Religious Zionism worldview.

This shiur introduces talmidim to the central tenets of Rabbi Kook's philosophy and personality and how these are meant to impact our outlook on Medinat Yisrael and our relationship with it.



RABBI SHLOMO BRODY

### NEFESH HACHAYIM

**RABBI RONI KLOPSTOCK**

Nefesh Hachayim was written by Rabbi Chaim Volozin as the manifesto of the modern yeshiva movement he began by founding the Volozin yeshiva. The sefer explains the philosophy and kabbalistic significance of the yeshiva system and its focus on Talmud Torah.

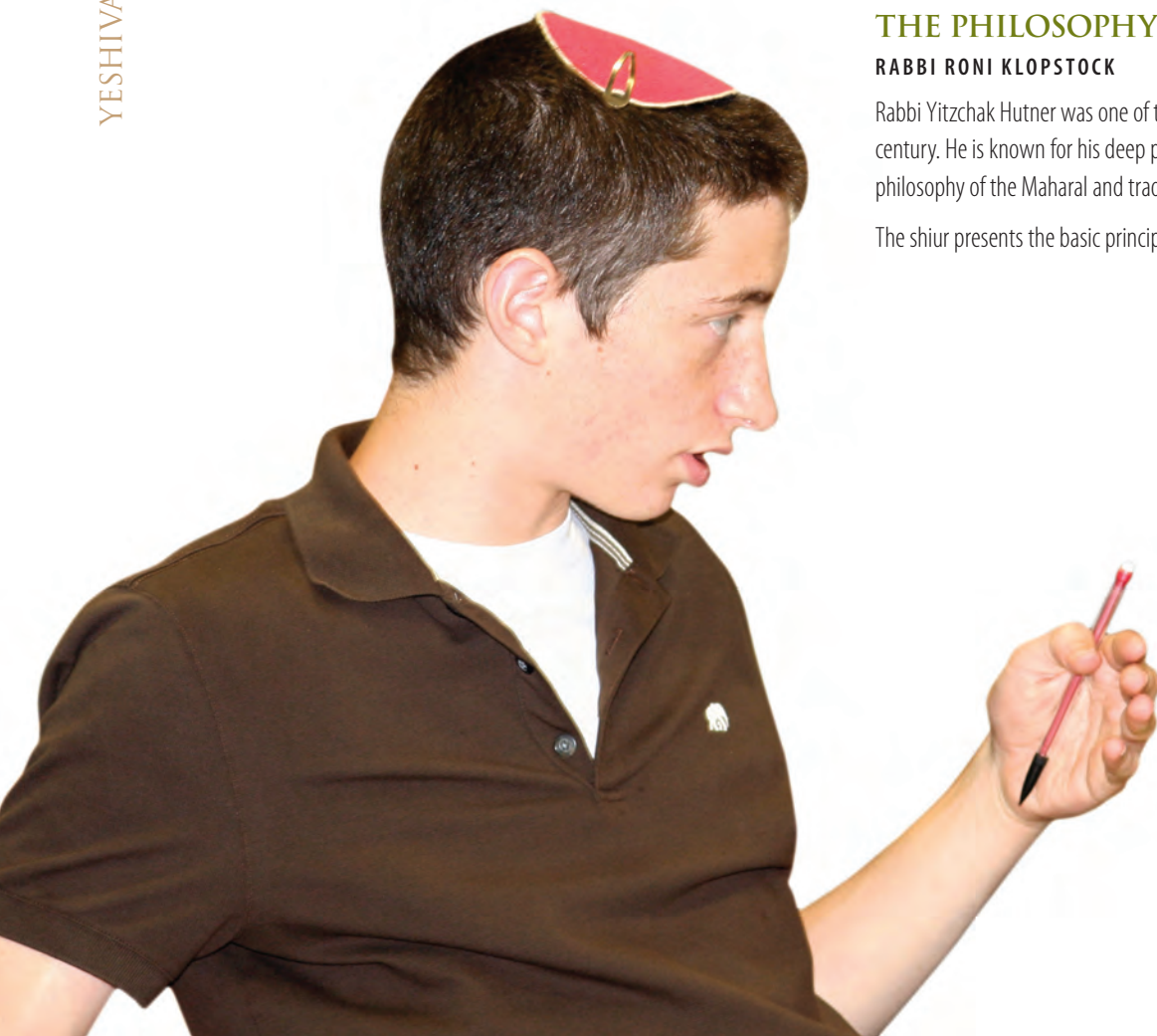
The shiur focuses on the central themes of the sefer and their implications for b'nei yeshiva.

### THE PHILOSOPHY OF RABBI HUTNER

**RABBI RONI KLOPSTOCK**

Rabbi Yitzchak Hutner was one of the major roshei yeshiva of the 20th century. He is known for his deep philosophical ideas/essays built off the philosophy of the Maharal and traditions of the beit midrash of the Gr"a.

The shiur presents the basic principles of Rabbi Hutner's philosophy.





RABBI DAVID MILSTON

## D) CHASSIDUT

### WORLD OF CHASSIDUT

**RABBI ARI HELLER**

This shiur provides a gateway to the vast world of Chassidut. "Yisrael, Hakadosh Boruch Hu, and the Torah are one (Zohar)." Who am I? What is my neshama's mission in this world? How am I meant to achieve this mission – practically? What does it mean to be "one" with G-d? How do I develop my intimate relationship with G-d in a real way? How does the Talmud Torah that I am so engrossed in on a daily basis fit into the equation? The shiur deals with chassidut's answers to these questions and more.

### INTRODUCTION TO CHASSIDIC THOUGHT

**RABBI ZVI LESHEM**

This shiur analyzes a wide variety of Chassidic texts written by the greatest Chassidic masters including the Ba'al Shem Tov, Rebbe Elimelech of Lyshansk, Rebbe Levi Yitzchak of Berditchev, Rebbe Nachman, the Ishbitzer, and the Piaseczner.

The shiur focuses on core issues in Chassidic thought and practice such as faith, prayer, study, kavana and teshuva, as well as Chassidic insights into the various chagim and approaches to parshanut.

### RABBI NACHMAN MIBRESLOV'S STORIES AND PHILOSOPHY

**RABBI REUVEN TARAGIN**

Rabbi Nachman MiBreslov was the great-grandson of the Ba'al Shem Tov (the founder of chassidut) and the founder of Breslov Chassidut. He used stories as a medium to relay his message about the simple truths of life and the need to focus on the positive.

This shiur uses Rabbi Nachman's other writings to reveal and explain the messages of his stories.

### SEFER HATANYA

**RABBI GEDALIAH LIEBERMAN**

Sefer Hatanya is the cornerstone sefer of Chabad (Lubavitch) Chassidut. This shiur teaches the basic themes of the sefer which analyzes the nature of the Jewish soul as a basis for understanding our mission in this world.

### B'NEI YISSACHAR

**RABBI ELI DEUTSCH**

The B'nei Yissacher is unique in that it is considered central by all the different Chassidic sects. It is known for its deep symbolic concepts.

This shiur studies pieces that raise thought provoking ideas related to each parshat hashavua.

### NETIVOT SHALOM

**RABBI DAVID MILSTON**

The previous Slonimer Rebbe wrote on a variety of subjects, including faith in G-d, t'fila, parshat hashavua, Chagim, and recent events in Jewish history such as the Holocaust. Most importantly, he opened the world of Chassidut to those without chassidic background by simplifying complex issues and explaining them in a way that is both fascinating and inspiring to every student.

The shiur studies the rebbe's essays while also drawing on other sources from the world of chassidut.



## E) MUSSAR

Mussar is essential to our ability to reach higher ethical and moral standards. Each evening first year talmidim spend a half hour learning mussar with an older talmid. The yeshiva has a topical curriculum that covers the most central mussar issues faced by post high school boys.

In addition, we offer a number of shiurim dedicated to mussar sefarim and themes.

### AVODAT HAMIDOT

**RABBI YEHUDA OVADIA**

This shiur focuses on the different midot a ben torah is meant to develop and teaches how each of them can be developed properly.

### MESILAT YESHARIM

**RABBI DAVID MILSTON**

The twenty-seven perakim of Mesilat Yesharim are a compendium of wisdom and real understanding of life.

The shiur covers the first section of the sefer which deals with topics like z'hirut, z'rizut, and n'kiut. By intense study and introspection, the shiur shoes the author's suggested path to a fulfilling and meaningful life.

### LEARNING FROM OUR GEDOLIM

**RABBI CHANUCH TELLER**

"Gadol shimusha yoteir m'limuda – " one learns more from the lives of the gedolim than from the learning of Torah.

This shiur, given by the world renowned magid, exposes talmidim to the personalities of the paramount gedolim of the last one hundred years.

Story-rich and directional- intensive, each talk imbues a profound understanding of the goals, unique challenges, and life lessons taught by each gadol.

## AISH KODESH

**RABBI ZVI LESHEM**

Aish Kodesh consists of the derashot of the Piaseczna Rebbe who was martyred in the Warsaw Ghetto. It covers topics such as evil, suffering, faith and doubt, meaning amidst radical absurdity, and anti- Semitism.

While learning the sefer, the shiur also deals with the question of whether the Holocaust can be understood as Divine punishment. In this context it also compares Aish Kodesh to the writings of other Holocaust theologians.

The shiur helps talmidim emerge with a stronger commitment to faith which helps confront life's challenges and difficulties.



RABBI ARI CUTLER

## IYUN T'FILA

**RABBI ARI CUTLER**

This shiur improves t'fila by relating to three of its aspects:

- a) the philosophy of t'fila – How does t'fila work? The shiur studies many of the writings of Rabbi Soloveitchik, Rabbi Kook, and others on the topic.
- b) the meaning of t'filot – The shiur analyzes many t'filot, including shema, shemoneh esreh, and birkot hashachar, in order to improve understanding of the tefilot.
- c) hilchot t'fila – The shiur covers halachot starting from the Gemara through the contemporary responsa literature.

## MIDNIGHT MUSSAR

**RAMIM**

Thursday night mishmar is highlighted by a (post)midnight sicha from one of the yeshiva's ramim followed by a Thursday night preview of the Shabbat cholent.



RABBI DAN KATZ

## F) TORAT ERETZ YISRAEL

We live during a special period of Jewish history during which much of Am Yisrael has had the privilege of returning to Eretz Yisrael and living under Jewish sovereignty.

Great rabbonim of the twentieth century, such as Rabbi Kook and Rabbi Soloveitchik, began explaining the hashkafic significance of this reality. We offer a number of shiurim that present these writings from multiple perspectives.

### OROT HATORAH

**RABBI BARUCH WIEDER – ROSH YESHIVA**

In Orot HaTorah, Rabbi Kook teaches how to intensify one's personal learning and his influence on his learning environment.

The Rosh Yeshiva uses the shiur to expose talmidim to the hashkafa of Rabbi Kook who taught how one's learning of Torah should be part of his connection to Am Yisrael and Eretz Yisrael.

### TORAT ERETZ YISRAEL

**RABBI DAN KATZ**

This shiur studies the major beliefs of and issues facing Religious Zionism by addressing both the halachic and hashkafic topics faced by the State of Israel.

Through a diverse set of sources and articles, the shiur helps appreciate an ideology many identify with without fully understanding.

Topics covered include: the roots of Religious Zionism, atchalta d'geula, land for peace, army service vs. Yeshiva learning, and Torah v'avoda.

### TORAT ERETZ YISRAEL

**R' YITZI KEMPINSKI**

Learning Torah in Eretz Yisrael adds a dimension to both concepts. This shiur helps understand this interface by studying the writings of Rabbi Kook and Torat Eretz Yisrael in general.

This shiur enhances the experience of learning Torah in Eretz Yisrael as talmidim deepen their understanding of the uniqueness of Torat Eretz Yisrael.

### LIGHTS OF RELIGIOUS ZIONISM

**RABBI ARI HELLER**

Rabbi Kook's "Orot" (Lights) teaches how to see the world through spiritual lenses by "lighting up" all the details and relating to them as pieces in the puzzle of Hashem's master-plan.

"Orot Hamilchama" is the section of Orot that focuses on the inner dimensions of war by showing its alignment with the spiritual war that began with creation and will ultimately culminate with the ultimate geula of Am Yisrael in Eretz Yisrael.

The shiur completes the sefer inside which familiarizes talmidim with Rabbi Kook's writing style and uses this section of the sefer as a window into understanding the Religious Zionist hashkafa. The discussions focus both on the philosophical perspective as well as the practical application of the ideas to our generation.



RABBI JESSE HORN

## HALACHA

Halachic observance is the most basic expression of our commitment to Hashem's Will. We are often unaware of the halachot we need to observe and lacking the skills needed to determine them.

Hakotel has halacha seder after shacharit. We recommend using our suggested curriculum which covers the most commonly confronted areas of halacha.

In addition, we recommend attending a core shiur where these and other areas are addressed by one of our rabbonim (either Ashkenazic or Sephardic).

Those interested in learning these areas in more depth or other areas of halacha are encouraged to attend one or more of the additional shiurim offered.

### A) CORE

#### ASHKENAZIC PRACTICAL HALACHA

**RABBI JESSE HORN/ RABBI ARI CUTLER/  
RABBI DOVI FISCHER**

This shiur, jam-packed with information, provides intensive study in a broad range of fundamental halachic topics.

The topics are presented from the Gemara through the Rishonim and the Poskim. Topics include: Chagim, Shabbat, kashrut, tefila and b'rachot, issues between men and women, and t'ruma and ma'aserot.



RABBI DOVI FISCHER

#### SEPHARDIC PRACTICAL HALACHA

**RABBI AHARON MOREH**

Sephardic halachic decisions differ in many important ways from Ashkenazic ones. This shiur, offered by one of our Sephardic rabbis, teaches halacha from a Sephardic perspective according to the Sephardic tradition.





RABBI AHARON MOREH, SEPHARDIC HALACHA

## B) ELECTIVES

### HILCHOT SHABBAT

**RABBI DAN KATZ**

This shiur offers a broad survey of halachic topics including in Hilchot Shabbat. It begins by focusing on the mitzvot asei during Elul, continues with the 39 melachot during Zman Choref, and finishes with topics such as muktza and amira leAkum in Kayitz.

### CONTEMPORARY HASHKAFIC TOPICS

**RABBI SHLOMO BRODY**

What significance does Judaism attribute to secular studies? When are organ donations permissible? How does Halacha respond to technological developments and social revolutions?

This shiur explores different Halachic topics that have explicit ideological and philosophical implications. It uses extensive sources to show how Halacha helps develop a Jewish worldview.

Topics covered include Judaism & science, medical ethics, gender issues, Torah u-madda, and interaction with non-Jews. Particular attention is paid to the development of halacha and the halachic process.

### KOHANIM: TODAY AND TOMORROW

**RABBI DAN KATZ**

This shiur is recommended for all Kohanim in yeshiva! The shiur will begin by covering topics which are relevant to Kohanim today: birkat Kohanim, issues relating to tumat hameit, and who one can/cannot marry. The shiur continues with the various concepts and procedures Kohanim need to know about serving in the Beit Hamikdash. May we be zoche to once again see Kohanim ba'avodatam. And, may you be prepared to be one of them.

## HALACHA/ETHICS IN THE WORKPLACE

**DR. CARL HOCHHAUSER**

Halacha is meant to be observed not only in the Beit Midrash, but also in the workplace. This shiur focuses on the challenges of keeping halacha at work and interacting with the "outside world" in general. The shiur relates to professions like medicine, psychology, law, and education.

It addresses questions that are both general and specific including:

- May you shake hands with a female client?
- What if your patient asks you to end their life?
- Can you appear in a court that is not a halachic beit din?
- Are you allowed to punish students who cheat on tests?
- What do you do if the company goes out for dinner to a non-kosher restaurant?
- May you take coffee from a non-kosher cafeteria?
- May you be alone in the office with a female client?
- May one perform cosmetic surgery?

### HILCHOT MEDINA

**R' AVI LIFSHITZ**

We live in historical times, in the first unified Jewish sovereignty in Israel since the times of David and Shlomo. With the creation of the state, we have the opportunity to experience a whole new application of Halacha to modern society.

This shiur covers halachot that pertain to different areas of governance, security and society. The goals of the shiur are to observe the application of timeless Halacha to modern situations and to appreciate the complexity of establishing a Halachic State.





