

# Academic Syllabus

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Monday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> and Tuesday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>

## **Seminar Topic: Creation and Redemption**

Faculty                      Kenneth Seeskin (*Northwestern University*)

### Day 1: Lecture

- Maimonides, *Guide of the Perplexed*, translated by Shlomo Pines (Chicago and London: University of Chicago Press, 1974), Book 2:
  - Chapter 13, pp.281-285
  - Chapter 14, pp. 285-289
  - Chapter 17, pp. 294-298
  - Chapter 18, pp. 299-302
  - Chapter 19, pp. 302-312
  - Chapter 24, pp. 322-327
  - Chapter 25, pp. 327-330
  - Chapter 29, pp. 344-346
- Genesis 1:1-5

### Day 2: Text Study

- We will examine the three views of creation discussed by Maimonides in the *Guide of the Perplexed*: Plato, Aristotle, and Moses in light of Genesis 1.
- *Guide* 2:24, pp. 322-327, 2:25, pp. 327-330, 2:29, pp. 344-346.

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Wednesday, August 4<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, August 5<sup>th</sup>

## **Seminar Topic: Love and Death**

Faculty                      Michael Fishbane (*University of Chicago*)

### Day 1: Lecture

- Michael Fishbane, "Contemplation of Death in Jewish Piety," *The Exegetical Imagination* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1998), pp. 136-150.
- Hebrew, Sifre Deuteronomy, ed. of Louis Finkelstein (New York: Jewish Theological Seminary, 1969), pp. 54-56.

- English trans. of Sifre Deut. from *The Classical Midrash*, tr. Reuven Hammer (New York: Paulist Press, 1995), pp. 312-313.
- *Mekilta de-Rabbi Ishmael*, ed. and tr. Jacob Lauterbach (Philadelphia: Jewish Publication Society, 1933 pb 1969), pp. 26-27.
- Babylonian Talmud, *Baba Bathra*, traditional ed.
- Babylonian Talmud, *Baba Bathra*, English translation, London, Soncino, 1933 (from Nezikin II), pp. 86-87.
- RM Rilke, "The Death of Moses," *Uncollected Poems*, tr. Edward Snow (New York: North Point Press, 1996), pp. 111.
- Judah Halevi, "For the Day of Atonement," from *Penguin Book of Hebrew Verse*, ed., and tr. by T. Carmi, (New York: Penguin, 1981), pp. 336-337.
- Hebrew, ("hetzitz va-meit") from HN Bialik, *Kol Kitvei HN bialik* (Tel-Aviv: Devir, 1962).
- English tr. "Peeked and Died," from *The Heart and the Fountain*, by Joseph Dan (Oxford: 2002), pp. 253-254.

#### Day 2: Text Study

- Maimonides, *Guide of the Perplexed*, tr. S. Pines, (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1963), pp. 621-628.

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Friday, August 6th

#### **Seminar Topic: Justice and Injustice**

Faculty                      Joseph Weiler (*New York University School of Law*)

Morning Session

#### **Primary Sources:**

- Genesis, chapters 1-3.

#### **Secondary Sources:**

*All participants must kindly read the following text:*

- Immanuel Kant, "Conjectural Beginning of Human History," in *On History: Immanuel Kant* (ed. Lewis White Beck; trans. Lewis White Beck, Robert E. Anchor and Emil L. Fackenheim; Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill, 1977), pp. 53-68.

All participants must kindly read **one** of the following texts. **Note-These texts are not printed in the course pack, but are available online:**

- Stephen A. Geller, “The Garden of the Self,” in *Sacred Enigmas: Literary Religion in the Hebrew Bible* (London and New York: Routledge, 1996), pp. 157-67.
- Leon R. Kass, “Chapter 1: Awesome Beginnings: Man, Heaven, and the Created Order,” in *The Beginning of Wisdom: Reading Genesis* (New York: Free Press, 2003), pp. 25-53.
- Leon R. Kass, “Chapter 2: The Follies of Freedom and Reason: The Story of the Garden of Eden (I),” in *The Beginning of Wisdom: Reading Genesis* (New York: Free Press, 2003), pp. 54-97.
- Moshe Greenberg, “Reflections on the Story of the Garden of Eden: Genesis 2:4-3:24,” in *Educational Deliberations: Studies in Education Dedicated to Shlomo (Seymour) Fox* (ed. M. Nisan and O. Schremer; Jerusalem: Keter, 2005), pp. 71-75.
- Yochanan Muffs, *The Personhood of God: Biblical Theology, Human Faith and Divine Image* (forwarded by David Hartman; Woodstock: Jewish Lights, 2005), pp. 159-78.
- Shalom M. Paul, *Studies in the Book of the Covenant in the Light of Cuneiform and Biblical Law* (VTSup 18; Leiden: Brill, 1970), pp. 1-10, 27-42.
- Moshe Greenberg, “Some Postulates of Biblical Criminal Law,” in *Essential Papers on Israel and Ancient Near East* (ed. Frederick E. Greenspahn; New York: New York University Press, 1991), pp. 333-52.
- Moshe Greenberg, “Mankind, Israel and the Nations in the Hebraic Heritage,” in *No Man Is Alien: Essays on the Unity of Mankind* (ed. J. Robert Nelson; Leiden: Brill, 1971), pp. 15-40.

Afternoon Session

**Primary Sources:**

- Genesis, chapters 37-50.

**Secondary Sources:**

Please read **one** of the following. **Note-These texts are not printed in the course pack, but are available online:**

- Gordon Tucker, “Jacob’s Terrible Burden: In the Shadow of the Text,” in *Abraham & Family: New Insights into the Patriarchal Narratives* (ed. Hershel Shanks; Washington, D.C.: Biblical Archaeology Society, 2000), pp. 145-58.
- Uriel Simon, *Seek Peace and Pursue It: Topical Issues in the Light of the Bible* (in Hebrew; Tel Aviv: Yediot Ahronot, 2002), ch. 3; English translation (reprinted in this coursepack) is available at: [http://www.lookstein.org/articles/Joseph\\_booklet.pdf](http://www.lookstein.org/articles/Joseph_booklet.pdf)
- Alan M Dershowitz, “Joseph Is Framed – and Then Frames His Brothers” in *The Genesis of Justice: Ten Stories of Biblical Injustice That Led to the Ten Commandments and Modern Law* (New York: Warner Books, 2000), pp. 183-99.

Sunday, August 8<sup>th</sup> and Monday, August 9<sup>th</sup>

**Seminar Topic: Law and Authority**

Faculty Eric Lawee (*York University*)

Day 1: Lecture

- Menachem Elon, *Jewish Law: History, Sources, Principles*, trans. B. Auerbach and M. J. Sykes, 4 vols. (Philadelphia, 1994), pp. 232-255, 261-263.
- Law and Authority Lecture Outline.
- Excerpts from various sources (assembled by Eric Lawee).

Day 2: Text Study

- Excerpts from Deuteronomy and Maimonides’ *Guide of the Perplexed* (assembled by Eric Lawee).

Tuesday, August 10<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, August 11<sup>th</sup>

**Seminar Topic: God and Politics**

Faculty Clifford Orwin (*University of Toronto*)

Day 1 and Day 2:

**Required Reading:**

- *The Book of Esther*, with commentary by Rabbi A.J. Rosenberg (New York: Judaica Press, 1992).

- *The Book of Esther*, with commentary by Adele Berlin (Philadelphia: Jewish Publication Society, 2001). **Introduction Only**

**Optional Reading:**

- Clifford Orwin, “The Piety of Esther,” in Andrea Radasanu, ed., *The Pious Sex. Essays on Women and Religion in the History of Political Thought*. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, pp. 15-34.
- *The Book of Esther*, with commentary by Adele Berlin (Philadelphia: Jewish Publication Society, 2001). **Full Commentary and Translation (not included in course pack)**