



THE INSTITUTE
OF BIBLICAL
CULTURE

JCP 040: Rabbinic Literature from the Mishnah to the Geonim

Professor: David Z. Moster, PhD, Rabbi

Wednesdays, 7:30-9pm EST

Course Objective: Students will learn to navigate through Rabbinic texts, place them in their socio-historical context, and use them for biblical, historical, and/or religious purposes in a discerning and intelligent manner.

Synopsis: The course will cover the major genres of Rabbinic literature individually. There will be a recommended primary source assignment and a recommended secondary source assignment for each session. It is also recommended that students focus on one biblical text throughout the course and present their research in the final session.

Recommended Text: Strack and Stemberger, [*Introduction to the Talmud and Midrash*](#) (1996). All other readings will be provided.

Class 1 (10/17/18): The Mishnah

- Assignment 1: Ten mishnayot
- Assignment 2: Origin, structure, and contents of the Mishnah

Class 2 (10/31/18): The Tosefta; The Halakhic Midrashim

- Assignment 1: The Mekhilta of Rabbi Ishmael
- Assignment 2: Three Tannaim

Class 3 (11/14/18): The Exegetical & Homiletical Midrashim

- Assignment 1: Exodus Rabbah
- Assignment 2: Rabbinic Hermeneutics

Class 4 (11/28/18): The Yerushalmi (Jerusalem/Palestinian Talmud)

- Assignment 1: One Mishnah plus Talmud
- Assignment 2: Three Amoraim from the Land of Israel

Class 5 (12/12/18): The Bavli (Babylonian Talmud)

- Assignment 1: One sugya in the Talmud
- Assignment 2: The Schools of Babylonia

Class 6 (1/2/19): Targum; Late Rabbinic Works

- (no assignments)

Class 7 (1/9/19): Student Presentations