

LaHaV Course Catalog

A curriculum is more than just a good course - it's an integrated approach to education that provides structure for both learners and teachers. At LaHaV, we've developed spiraled curricula that introduce foundational concepts, build critical skills, and enable students to transfer their knowledge to new areas of learning and experience.

For Gemara, Tanakh, Jewish Philosophy, and Israel Education, we're combining the best of educational theory with the richness of Jewish tradition to create meaningful, impactful, and relevant Jewish learning.





Talmud I: Introduction to Jewish Law

This introductory course focuses on the foundational principles that guide Jewish law, including *lo bashamayim hi* – creativity and independence, *eilu v'eilu* – diversity and dissent, *shelo yehe k'shteit torot* – unity, and *halakha l'moshe misinai* – tradition and transmission. In addition, the course focuses on the sources of rabbinic authority and types of rabbinic legislative activity, culminating in an examination of leniency within Jewish law.



Talmud II: Authority, Acceptance, and Decision Making in Jewish Law

This course continues to build upon the foundations developed in Talmud I, providing students with in-depth examination of some of the legal mechanisms used by the rabbis to legislate Jewish law along with heightened textual and conceptual complexity. This course explores the roles of *minhag*, *sevara*, judicial independence, precedent in *halakha*, while also introducing students to several classic *sugyot* and further advancing the technical skills developed in the Talmud I course.



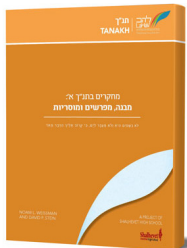
Talmud III: Case Studies: Women and Community / Religious Zionism

This course applies the concepts and skills from Talmud I and II to contemporary communal issues that *halakha* has responded to, including the role of women in *halakha* and the religious implications of the founding of the State of Israel. With a focus on the categories of *mitzvot aseh she-hazman grama* – time bound commandments that women are exempted from, the obligation of women in prayer and *megillah*, the ordination of women, as well as halakhic issues relating to *aliyah*, *shemitta*, *kedushat ha-aretz* the establishment of *Yom Ha'aztmá'ut*, this course is designed to demonstrate how *halakha* has responded to issues within the modern world.



Talmud IV: Case Studies: Hilkhhot Shabbat

This course serves as the capstone to our 4-year curriculum, applying the principles and mechanisms of *halakha* to in-depth study of the laws of Shabbat. Students explore the nature and purpose of Shabbat, along with the sources of the Shabbat prohibitions and the categories of *Avot*, *Toladot*, *melakha she'eina tzricha l'gufa*, *pesik reisha*, *mitasek*, *davar she'eino mitkavein*, and *issurei derabanan*. With a focus on conceptual understanding and practical rulings, students apply their knowledge of halakhic decision making to the leniencies and stringencies involved in contemporary shabbat observance, including the use of electricity, operation of motor vehicles and treating sickness and medical emergencies on Shabbat.



Tanakh I: Structure, Parshanut and Morality

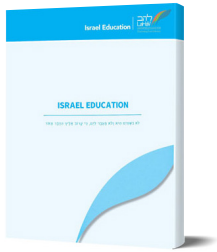
Our Tanakh courses adopt the same methodology as our groundbreaking approach to Talmud: Instead of studying a single book or story, we weave together narratives that introduce students to the fundamental ideas, disputes and values that shape the study of Tanakh. Our introductory course begins by exploring the process of canonization through an analysis of sefer Kohelet, along with the nature of nevuah through an examination of the thought of the Rambam and the commentary of select parshanim. The course then explores the differences between peshat and midrash through a detailed analysis of several narratives, including parshat Noach, the sin of the Golden Calf, and Moshe's hitting of the rock, followed by a detailed examination and comparison of the exegetical approaches of Rashi, Rashbam, Ibn Ezra, Ramban, and Rambam. The course then concludes by utilizing these insights in an exploration of morality throughout Tanakh, with emphasis on the narratives of Sodom, Akeidat Yitzchak, Slavery and Amalek.



Advanced Tanakh II: Faith, Authorship and Criticism

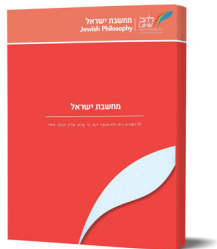
Our advanced study of Tanakh continues with this capstone course, applying many of the lessons from Tanakh I to a detailed examination of one of the most difficult theological questions of the modern period – Biblical Authorship. Orthodox responses to Biblical Criticism require a combination of Biblical text, midrashic interpretation, linguistic subtlety and comparative analysis – all of which are explored in this course. This course seeks not only to develop traditional responses to Biblical Criticism, but also to deepen our students' faith and ability to grapple with complex textual and theological questions. From a detailed examination of the stories of creation, Noach's flood, and Yosef and his brothers to comparative analysis of Biblical stories with Ancient Near East law and literature, this course spans the thought of Chazal and the Rishonim - as well as modern thinkers such as Umberto Cassuto, Rav Soloveitchik, Joshua Berman and others - as we weave together text, tradition and critical analysis to explore Jewish faith and tradition in light of modern scholarship.

MACHSHEVET YISRAEL



Israel Education

This groundbreaking course teaches students how to be passionate about Israel while developing the breadth of knowledge and perspectives to enable engagement on any issue related to Israeli history, politics, or civic society. Students investigate major regional developments of the modern era including the foundations of political Islam, pan-Arabism, modern Zionism, religious Zionism, Palestinian nationalism, the peace process, American foreign policy in the Middle East, Israel's relationship with the UN, and American campus life.



Machshevet Yisrael

The newest addition to our course catalog offers an in-depth exploration of essential topics within the field of Jewish Philosophy. Drawing from contemporary thinkers such as Rabbi Joseph Soloveitchik, Rabbi Eliezer Berkowitz, and Yeshaya Leibowitz, as well as Rabbis Norman Lamm, Aharon Lichtenstein, Shimshon R. Hirsch, and many others, this course offers an essential treatment of some of the most pressing issues that our students are thinking about today. Course topics include an examination of what it means to believe in God, the purpose and efficacy of prayer, the concept of "Chosenness" in Jewish tradition, as well as Religious Zionism and Messianism, among others. This course builds and spirals upon many of the issues that students explore in our Talmud and Tanakh courses, but can be taught as a stand-alone as well.