

תשע"ז MACHAL BET
Seminar Research Course

Tuesdays 9:45 AM-11:15 AM and Thursdays 9:40-11:10 AM

מנחות: Mrs. Bracha Sendic and Mrs. Avigail Teller

Course: Students will research topics and present them in a colloquium setting. The program will be under the direct guidance of the staff members who will be actively present at all sessions.

Goals: Second year Michlalah students are expected to have acquired fundamental skills in using and analyzing primary texts. This course will take the student to the next level in interpretation, analysis and coherence of presentation.

Process: Students will be required to have each stage of their work (as below) approved by the מנחות. Preferably, research will be done in pairs of חברות. Each student will write her paper independently. Expedient use of class time will allow papers to be completed during the scheduled hours. It is hoped that a representative selection of outstanding Avodot can be printed at the end of the year.

General Principles- Mentored-research and preparation is essential and thus attendance is an inherent and necessary expectation. Students will have introductory sessions explaining the goals of the course, and specific direction in:

A. Principles of preparing Avodot which will include, among other topics:

1. Choosing a topic
2. Search strategies
3. Independent research
4. Identifying the thesis of the source
5. Comparative analysis of various sources
6. Submission style

B. הדרכה in the use of the Library which will include, among other topics:

1. The organization of the Library's collection
2. Use of the computerized library listings
3. Use of search and retrieval systems

C. The semester will have four to five research themes, each theme lasting for a period of about 4 weeks.

The themes will be Machashava, Halacha and Parshanut. All students will focus on the specified theme during the same four-week period.

Stages of Preparation and Submission

- Choice of approved topic
- Choice of major sources for research
- Learning of Sources
- Compilation of initial findings
- Completion of learning the Sources
- Summary of the major points of the Avoda
 - ❖ Introduction of Topic
 - ❖ Statement of the focus
 - ❖ Sources
 - ❖ Analysis of each source
 - ❖ Comparison of the sources
 - ❖ Conclusion
- Submission of Avoda according to this format:
 - ❖ Title



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- ❖ Thesis Statement: clearly stating what you hope the paper will demonstrate.
- ❖ Sources: cited accurately and exactly. For example, if you are quoting a Gemara, you must state the masechta, daf, and amud.
- ❖ Occasional quotation of key passages (not entire paragraphs), word for word, from the sources you use.
- ❖ Explication of sources when necessary
- ❖ Analysis and comparison between multiple sources
- ❖ Conclusion: summarize the ideas presented and demonstrate that the thesis was realized.

D. Principles of Oral Avodah Presentation-Second Semester

- ❖ Academic Presentations
- ❖ Opening
- ❖ Statement of Goals
- ❖ Cohesiveness of Presentation
- ❖ Source Sheet (see below)
- ❖ Mastery of Sources Presented
- ❖ Balance of Source Citation and Reading
- ❖ Explanation and Analysis of Sources
- ❖ Summary
- ❖ Timing

Grading

Presentation of the Avodot:

- 15-20 minute oral presentation.
- Your grade will be based upon the above categories as well as attendance

Source Sheets

The Source Sheet presented to the class will have carefully chosen quotations that precisely focus on the point being made. It will include sources from Chazal, from Rambam, Shulchan Aruch, Mishnah Brurah and *Shu'tim*



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