Each semester, RRC invites adults from the local community to take classes alongside our rabbinical students, and many have welcomed the challenge. Some students work through our trademark core of historical courses; others take single workshops and classes or dive deep into advanced Hebrew.

If you are interested, please contact us at 215 576 0800, ext 310, or email Dawn Murray, dmurray@rrc.edu.

**ADVANCED BIBLICAL TEXT: PSALMS**
**Instructor:** S. Tamar Kamionkowski, Ph.D.
**Mondays:** 1:30–3:20 p.m.

The poetry in the book of Psalms evokes faith, grief, despair and joy. In this class, we will read selected psalms, focusing on those that have been incorporated into traditional Jewish liturgy. We will examine these psalms within the framework of ancient Near Eastern poetry and ritual, as well as traditional Jewish interpretation and contemporary interpretation.

**ADVANCED MODERN TEXT: THE MIDDAH OF HESED (VIRTUE OF LOVING KINDNESS)**
**Instructor:** Rabbi Jacob Staub, Ph.D.
**Tuesdays:** 9:30–11:20 a.m.

**Course Notes:** Prerequisite: ability to read and translate unvocalized Hebrew Texts

How can we better practice loving kindness? In this course, we will study portions of the chapter on Hesed in “Alei Shur,” the classic Mussar text by Rav Shlomo Wolbe, the Berlin-born Orthodox rabbi who died a decade ago. The chapter takes the form of an instruction manual for a Mussar vaad, (circle of Mussar students) practicing the middah, or virtue, of hesed, loving kindness. As we read the text, we will undertake the spiritual exercises (kabbalot) that Rav Wolbe assigns the vaad.

**FEES:**
Courses taken on a non-credit basis: $500 per course.
Courses taken for credit: $300 registration fee per semester, plus $2850 for each two-hour weekly course and $5700 for each four-hour weekly course.

Special pricing is available for Jewish professionals. Contact Rabbi Roni Handler, rhandler@rrc.edu for more information.
ADVANCED RABBINIC TEXT: FEAST YOUR EYES – TRACTATE HAGIGA
Instructor: Rabbi Mira Wasserman, Ph.D.
Mondays 1:30–4:20 p.m.

Come and learn in the RRC Beit Midrash! This course offers Beit Midrash-style immersive engagement with tractate Hagiga — a short, rich tractate from the Babylonian Talmud, in which many central themes of Jewish learning crystallize. We will begin with an examination of passages from the “Mishna” and “Tosefta,” and then spend the bulk of the semester studying select sugyot in the Babylonian Talmud. The bulk of students’ preparations will occur in hevrutah during the scheduled class time, with an additional three hours of weekly preparation outside of class.

BIBLICAL CORE: CIVILIZATION
Instructor: Elsie Stern, Ph.D.
Mondays 10:30 a.m. –12:20 p.m. and Wednesdays 9:30–11:20 a.m.

The Bible, and the Biblical period, form the bedrock of Jewish civilization. In this course, students will travel back in time to explore the history, literature and thought of the biblical period. Students will trace the evolution of the Bible and devote special attention to the emergence of a distinctive Israelite worldview in the context of the ancient Near East.

CONTEMPORARY CIVILIZATION SEMINAR/CONTEMPORARY JEWISH LANDSCAPE
Instructor: Rabbi David Teutsch, Ph.D.
Wednesdays 9:30–11:20 a.m.

Jewish populations are growing increasingly diverse, and Jewish institutions are trying – sometimes successfully, sometimes less so – to adapt to shifting realities and needs. This seminar surveys the 21st-century community in terms of its demography, sociology, institutions, problems and prospects. Discussion will focus on methodological questions, the nature of the American Jewish community, and on the practical implications of the material studied. We likely won’t come away knowing where the Jewish world is headed, but we will gain a sharper understanding of what is driving the changes.

CONTEMPORARY ISRAELI CIVILIZATION SEMINAR
Instructor: Elliot Ratzman, Ph.D.
Tuesdays 4:05–5:55 p.m.

Israel is constantly in the news, but even the deepest reporting fails to convey the context, scope and complexity of this dynamic and challenged society. This seminar offers an opportunity to go beyond the headlines and explore the fabric of Israeli society, politics and history. We will focus on the Israel/Palestine conflict and on issues of pluralism and diversity within Israeli society.

CONTEMPORARY JEWISH THOUGHT 1
Instructor: Elliot Ratzman, Ph.D.
Mondays 8:30–10:20 a.m.

For centuries, Jewish theologians have tackled the most difficult issues regarding God, humanity, faith and the nature of evil. Events and developments of the 20th century presented unprecedented challenges and opportunities for traditional Jewish thought. In this course, we will explore how leading thinkers responded to the Holocaust and the creation of the state of Israel. We will also explore how they incorporated, adapted and sometimes resisted, innovative streams of thought including feminism, post-modernism and liberation theology.
LEADERSHIP
Instructor: Rabbi Mordechai Liebling
Thursdays 1:30–3:20 p.m.

What kind of leader are you? This experiential course, which is based in the teachings of transformational leadership, is designed to help you answer that question. Throughout the course, students will develop:
- clarity of students’ own personal mission
- spiritual, emotional and social intelligence skills
- the “soft arts” of organizing: listening, empathy and thoughtfulness
- skills for self-care

LIFECYCLE SHIUR
Instructor: Rabbi Mira Wasserman, Ph.D.
Thursdays 1:30–4:20 p.m.

Life cycle rituals help define and give meaning to the major events that mark our lives as humans and as Jews. In this course we will explore some of the seminal texts of Torah, Talmud and Codes that address, describe and serve as sources for traditional life-cycle rituals. Students will build a textual foundation for reconstructing Jewish life-cycle rituals to meet contemporary needs with integrity and understanding.

MEDIEVAL CORE - THOUGHT
Instructor: Joel Hecker, Ph.D.
Mondays 1:30–3:20 p.m.

This course introduces students to major trends and genres of medieval Jewish thought, including philosophy, mysticism and halakhah. While it can be taken as a stand-alone course, it also functions as a companion course to Medieval Core: Civilization.

INTERMEDIATE MODERN HEBREW 4
Instructor: Sharon Gershoni, Ph.D.
Wednesdays 4:05–5:55 p.m.

Ma Nishmah? This course is designed for students who will be going to Israel in the upcoming year, but it is open to those with intermediate Hebrew skills who want to progress to the next level. The course will focus on advancing students’ aural and written comprehension and oral and written expression.

INTRODUCTION TO JEWISH MYSTICISM
Instructor: Joel Hecker, Ph.D.
Mondays 10:30 a.m.–12:20 p.m.

What is Jewish Mysticism?

In this course, we will explore the meaning of Jewish mystical experience and practice from its dawn in the chariot vision of Ezekiel up until the early modern period. The course will focus on the Zohar, the central and canonical text of Jewish mysticism and will conclude with selections from the early modern kabbalists of Tsfat and Hassidim of Eastern Europe. In our exploration, we will consider the following questions: Who were the figures behind these texts? For what purposes and audiences were they written? How might they speak to religious seekers today?
SOCIAL JUSTICE: TORAH OF MONEY
Instructor: Rabbi Mordechai Liebling
Wednesdays 1:45–3:35 p.m.

The Talmud teaches, “One who wishes to acquire wisdom should study the way money works, for there is no greater area of Torah study than this. It is like an ever flowing stream...” Students will examine how money works in their own lives, in institutions they serve, in Jewish history and in the larger society. We will explore why financial resources are so interconnected with ethics and Torah. We will study traditional Jewish sources as well as current economic and financial teachings for practical and theoretical lessons. There will be an experiential component to the class.

TALMUD 1/TALMUD 2
Instructor: Rabbi Sarra Lev, Ph.D.
Tuesdays 1:45–3:35 p.m. and Thursdays 10:30- a.m. – 12:20 p.m.

There are good reasons why Talmud has been referred to as a sea and why it is usually studied in groups. The way Talmud is arranged – with members of different generations talking to one another – follows a unique logic that can be difficult to follow. Talmud 1 will be an introduction to how the Talmud works. It will survey a series of sugyot from different sections in the corpus and explore both what the rabbis talk about and how they talk about it. This is a skill building course, and it is designed to teach students how to “do” Talmud, and what it meant to the rabbis to “do Talmud.”

TANAKH 1
Instructor: S. Tamar Kamionkowski, Ph.D.
Tuesdays 1:45–3:35 p.m. and optional Bet Midrash Wednesdays 1:45–3:35 p.m.

Studying the Bible in Hebrew opens new windows of meaning in our sacred texts. In this course, student will develop the skills necessary to read key Torah texts in Hebrew and understand the richness and nuance of the texts in their original language.

TEACHING AND LEARNING PRACTICUM
Instructor: Rabbi Fredi Cooper, Ed.D.
Mondays 9:30 a.m.–12:20 p.m.

Jewish educators bring an infinite variety of passions, areas of expertise, teaching styles and skills to the table. But how do those riches get translated into a curriculum that can be followed or replicated? This course will provide the basis for understanding how to develop a strong curriculum. The course will provide didactic material that will cover some of the most essential methodology in the area of curriculum development. We will spend time exploring the scope of such methods as 4MAT, Understanding by Design, Project Based Education, Constructivist Education, Habits of the Mind. Additionally we will review Developmental Psychology in an effort to understand the needs of learners at each stage of development. Based upon this background material we will then “develop” a personal curriculum method culling the best practices from what we have explored to best suit your style of teaching.