

**Examination HJ1: Rabbinic Thought and Theology in Late Antiquity** (Professor Fishbane)

General Examination for Non-Specialists

I. Primary Texts (these texts are to be prepared in translation, with select texts in Hebrew for History of Judaism students)

A. Mishnah

(translations of Danby or Neusner)

Berakhot ch. 1-9; Shabbat ch. 1-2; Pesachim ch. 1, 9-10; Yoma ch. 10; Sukkah ch. 1, 3-4; Rosh Hashana, ch. 1, 4;

Taanit ch. 1-2; Megillah ch. 1-2, 4; Kiddushin ch. 1; Baba Qama ch. 1, 3; Baba Metzia ch. 1; Baba Batra ch. 8-9;

Sanhedrin ch. 1,4; Abodah Zarah ch. 1, Abot ch. 1-4.

B. Midrash

Tannaitic Period

1. Mekhilta de-Rabbi Ishmael (J. Lauterbach edition and translation; Jewish Publication Society edition, 1933; 3 volumes reprinted) Read entire midrash, do close readings of Chs. 12; 15; 16; 19-20; 21.

2. Sifre Deuteronomy (Yale Judaica series; Hammer trans.), selections related to Deuteronomy 6; 15-16; 32.

Amoraic Period

1. Genesis Rabba (Soncino trans.), selections related to Genesis 1; 3; 12; 15; 22; 28; 32

2. Leviticus Rabba (Soncino trans.), selections related to Leviticus 1; 12; 23.

3. Pesikta de-Rab Kahana (Braude and Kapstein trans., JPS ed.), choose 3 chapters.

4. Song of Songs Rabba (Soncino trans.), proem; selections related to Songs 1:1-3; 3:1; 8:1.

5. Midrash on Psalms (Yale Judaica series; Braude trans.), selections related to Ps. 1; 9; 19.

6. Tanhuma, Genesis commentary (townsend trans.), selections based on Gen. 1, 22.

7. Fathers According to Rabbi Nathan (Yale Judaica series, Goldin trans.), selections.

C. Talmudic Literature

Selections to be chosen related to Mishnah selections and to selected theological passages.

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D. Liturgy

1. Selections from Daily and Festival and High Holiday Prayerbooks

2. Haftarot: See in M. Fishbane, *Haftarot: A Commentary*. JPS, 2002. Introduction and 5 selections.

Secondary Literature:

Alon, Gedaliah. *The Jews in their Land in the Talmudic Age*. Trans. and ed. Gershon Levi. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1990.

-----, *Intertextuality and the Reading of Midrash*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1990.

Boyarin, D. *Carnal Israel*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1993.

Budick and Hartmann, eds. *Midrash and Literature*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1986. (selections; essays

by Fishbane; Stern; Kugel; Heinemann)

Chernick, Michael. ed., *Essential Papers of the Talmud*. New York: New York University Press, 1994 (selections)

Cohen, Norman. "Structure and Editing in the Homiletic Midrashim." *AJS Review* 6, 1981.

Daube, David. "Rabbinic Methods of Interpretation and Hellenistic Rhetoric." *Hebrew Union College Annual* 22, 1949.

Elbogen, I. *Jewish Liturgy: A Comprehensive History*. Trans. R. Scheindlin. Philadelphia: Jewish Publication Society, 1993.

Fishbane, Michael. *The Exegetical Imagination: On Jewish Thought and Theology*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1998; ch. 1 –4.

\_\_\_\_\_. "Law, Story, and Interpretation: Reading Rabbinic Texts," in *The Jewish Political Tradition*, ed. By

Michael Walzer, et. Al. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2000, xxix-1v.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Biblical Myth and Rabbinic Mythmaking*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2003. Pt. 2

Fraade, Steven. *From Tradition to Commentary: Torah and its Interpretation in the Midrash Sifre to Deuteronomy*. Albany: State University of New York Press, 1991.

Fraenkel, J. *Darkhei Ha-Aggadah ve-Ha-Midrash*. Yad La-Talmud, 1991 (selections)

Goldberg, Arnold. "Form-Analysis of Midrashic Literature as a Method of Description." *Journal of Jewish Studies* 36, 1988

Gruenwald, J. *Apocalyptic and Merkavah Mysticism*. Leiden: E.J. Brill, 1980

Halbertal, M. *Mahapehot Parshaniyot Behithavutan*. Jerusalem: Magnes Press, 1998. (selections)

Halpern, D. *Faces of the Chariot*. Tuebingen: Mohr (Seibeck), 1988 (selections).

Halivni, David Weiss. *Midrash, Mishna, and Gemara*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1986.

Harris, J. *How Do We Know This? Midrash and the Fragmentation of Modern Judaism*. Albany: SUNY Press, 1995. Ch. 1-3.

Heinemann, J. "The Proem in the Aggadic Midrashim," *Scripta Hierosolymitana* 22. Jerusalem: Magnes Press, 1971.

Hirshman, Marc, *Revivory of enius. Jewish and Christian Biblical Interpretation in late Antiquity*. Albany: State University of New York Press, 1996.

Kugel, J. *In Potiphar's House*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1994.

Lieberman, S. "Rabbinic Interpretation of Scripture," and "The Publication of the *Mishnah*." *Hellenism in Jewish Palestine*. New York: Jewish Theological Seminary Press, 1962. 68-82; 83-99.

Menn, E. *Judah and Tamar (Genesis 38) in Ancient Jewish Exegesis: Studies in Literary Form and Hermeneutics*. 1997 (recommended).

Mulder, M.J. *Mikra*. Fortress: Philadelphia, 1988. (selections)

Rubenstein, J. *Talmudic Stories: Narrative Art, Composition, and Culture*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1999

Saebø, Magne, ed. *Hebrew Bible / Old Testament: The History of its Interpretation in Antiquity*. Vanderhoeck & Ruprecht, 1996. Ch. 7-8 (essays by Harris, Kraemer, Kalmin).

Safrai, Shmuel, ed., *The Literature of the Sages*, Part 1. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1987.

Samely, Alexander, *Rabbinic Intrepreation of Scriptures in the Mishnah*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002.

Schaefer, Peter, *The Hidden and Manifest God. Some Themes in Early Jewwish Mysticism*. Albany: Sttate University of New York Press, 1992.

Schwartz, S., *Imperialism and Jewish Society. 200 B.C.E. to 640 C.E.* Princeton University Press, 2001.

Stern, D. *Midrash and Theory*. Northwestern University Press, 1996. Ch. 1.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Parables in Midrash*. Harvard University Press, 1994.

Strack, H.L. and Stemberger, G. *Introduction to the Talmud and Midrash*. Trans. and ed. Markus Bockmuehl. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1992.

Urbach, E. *The Sages: Their Concepts and Beliefs*. Trans. Israel Abrahams. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1975. (Entire book; two chapters to be emphasized).

Zuna, Leopold, *Ha-Dershot be-Yidrael* (Hebrew translation of German original). Jerusalem: Mosad Bialik, 19xx (selections)

Examination for Area Specialists in Late Antiquity

I. Primary Texts. All texts listed above to be done in the original languages and from critical editions where these exist. In addition, students are responsible for passages dealt with in the literature studied. A selection of primary passages are to be mastered for a sight translation, exegesis, and analysis.

Candidates are expected to add further selections to the Midrashic Literature noted above, as well as to select passages from Lamentations Rabba, Pesikta Rabbati, and Pirkei de-Rabbi Eliezer. Selections from Tosephta and Jeralem Talmud will be assigned.

II. Secondary Literature. All texts given above, plus those listed below. The sources in the two specially selected chapters to be analyzed from Urbach's *The Sages* are to be prepared in the original language.

Selections from Qumran texts and Heikhalot literature will be assigned.

III. Special books and articles will be added in accordance with the student's particular area of interest.