

**Hebrew College Rabbinical School**  
**Shemot Core Course**  
**Fall, 2008/5769**  
**BIBLE 200**

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**Goals of the Course:**

1. To improve your skills in reading and understanding the book of Shemot and midrashim and medieval commentaries on Shemot.
2. To develop a deeper understanding of the style and literary forms of biblical narrative, midrash, and medieval commentaries.
3. To explore the theological, political, social, and psychological issues that are central to the book of Shemot.
4. To develop ways of thinking about the contemporary relevance of the book of Shemot that can be the basis for teaching and for composing *derashot*.

**Required Texts:**

*Tanakh*  
*Torat Hayyim Shemot*  
M. Mirkin, *Shemot Rabbah*  
Carol Meyers, *Exodus* (New Cambridge Bible Commentary)

## Course Requirements:

For each class, you will be assigned a biblical text and selections from one or more of the following: Shemot Rabbah and commentaries by Rashi, Ibn Ezra, and Ramban. You will be expected to be able to translate these assigned texts. In class, students will share the questions, observations, and insights that emerged from hevruta study, which will form the basis for our class discussions. We will also devote one class session to reading contemporary Israeli poems based on Shemot and discussing how each poet relates to the biblical text.

A weekly quiz.

A class each student leads (30 minutes) on a textual question in **Shemot, chapters 1-10**. Prepare a hand-out with rabbinic sources (midrash and/or medieval commentaries) in Hebrew and in English translation and lead a discussion on how the rabbinic sources approach the textual question.

A take-home final exam.

## Course Schedule:

(Selections of midrash and of commentaries will be assigned a week in advance.)

Mon., Oct. 27	Shemot (1:1-22)
Wed., Oct. 29	Shemot (2:1-25)
Mon., Nov. 3	Shemot (3:1-22)
Wed., Nov. 5	Shemot (4:1-31)
Mon., Nov. 10	Shemot (5:1-6:1)
Wed., Nov. 12	Va'era (6: 2-30)
Mon., Nov. 17	Va'era (7:1-29)
Wed., Nov. 19	Va'era (8:1-28)
Mon., Nov. 24	Va'era (9:1-35)
Wed., Nov. 26	Bo (10:1-29)
Mon. Dec. 1	Student classes
Wed., Dec. 3	Student classes
Mon., Dec. 8	Bo (11:1-10; 12:1-13)
Mon., Dec. 10	Bo (12:14-36)
Mon., Dec. 15	Bo (12:37-51;13:1-16)
Wed., Dec. 17	Beshalah (14:1-31)
Mon., Dec. 22	Israeli poetry on the Exodus story

The take-home final is due by Tues, Dec. 23.