



Shalom Carmy

Fall 2016

YESHIVA COLLEGE
16-19th CENTURY JEWISH INTELLECTUAL HISTORY

Course overview:

In this course we will use primary and secondary sources to examine Jewish intellectual thinkers and the 16th-19th century movements from which they emerged. The course will address and examine the philosophical ideas born from the context of this historical setting, and attempt to do justice to a variety of problems and personalities that these ideas inspired. The course materials and lectures will guide you through Eastern European thought to the West and back again, and will familiarize you with the continued development of Orthodox thought and the rise of non-Orthodox groups and views within Judaism.

Tentative Outline:

(Please keep track of weekly changes and updates to this outline)

Maharal of Prague: *Gvurot Hashem*: chs. 3-5. Carmy, "Learning from Maharal: a non-mystical approach"

Lurianic Kabbala and Sabbatianism:

1. Scholem: *Major Trends in Jewish Mysticism*, ch. 7
2. Alter: "Jewish Mysticism in Dispute" (*Commentary*, Sept. 1989, 53-59)
3. Rapoport-Albert, *Women in the Messianic Heresy of Sabbetai Zevi: 1666—1816*, ch. 9.

Spinoza:

1. *Theological Political Tractate*: chs. 17-19; 2)
2. Carlos Fraenkel, "Could Spinoza Have Presented the *Ethics* as the True Content of the Bible?" *Hakham Tsevi* §19.
3. Ruderman, *Early Modern Jewry*, 99-157 (chapters 3-4)

R. Yaakov Emden: Handout

Early Enlightenment:

1. Mendelssohn: *Jerusalem*;
2. Katz: *Out of the Ghetto*, ch.3. .



German Reform Philosophy & Ranak=Nahman Krochmal: Rotenstreich: *Jewish Philosophy in Modern Times* 120-148.

Reform:

Meyer: *Response to Modernity* chs. 2-3; *Judaism Within Modernity* 10-11

R. JD Bleich: Survey of recent halakhic periodical literature: A 19th century "agunah" problem and a 20th century application. (*Tradition* 38:2, 15-48)

R. Samson Rafael Hirsch: *Nineteen Letters* 1-2; 16-18.

Hasidut:

1. Tanya 1-4;
2. Handouts; Green, "Around the Maggid's table..." (in *The Heart of the Matter* 119-166)

Mitnaggedut:

1. R. Hayyim Volozhin: *Nefesh haHayyim*: I, 21-22; II, 10-13; III, 3,9; III*, 2-3; IV, 1-3;
2. Stampfer, "...Image of the Gaon of Vilna" (הגרי"א ובית מדרשו), ed. Hallamish et al) 39-70.
3. R. Yisrael Salanter: *Iggeret haMusar* in Pachter, *Kitve R. YS*

Required writing: Please propose topic to me before end of October--3000 words. This can either be the careful analysis of a primary text or a report on a body of scholarly literature you are reading.

Papers are due no later than final exam. Feel free to consult me, but get it done. **Other short assignments during term.**

Availability: YC: M;T; W; Th--5th Floor Library and other haunts.

E-mail: carmy@yu.edu

Feel free to reach me by phone 1-718-252-0496 (best time-- 10-11:30 P.M.) to discuss course material or any other constructive matters. The goal of our working together is our growth as thinking religious individuals.