

The Graduate Program in Advanced Talmudic Studies

The Graduate Program in Advanced Talmudic Studies program consists of the Masters in Biblical and Talmudic Interpretation.

School Regulations

Regulations pertaining to the Masters in Biblical and Talmudic Interpretation alone are given here. Students in the graduate programs will also be subject to any provisions not stated here that are applicable to all Yeshiva University students.

Changes in Regulations

The university reserves the right to change tuition, fees, course offerings, regulations, and admission and graduation requirements at any time without prior notice. Students should consult www.yu.edu/catalog for changes. This catalog is binding for all students. However, students continue a course of study in effect at the time they enrolled provided that no more than the normal period is taken to complete the program.

Accreditation

Yeshiva University is accredited by the Commission on Higher Education Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools.

Admission Requirements

B.A. degree with a major or concentration in Bible, Talmud or a field of Jewish Studies. Applicants must be able to read classical Jewish texts in the original Hebrew. Without these qualifications, a student will not be able to be trained in the basics and nuances of the fields being studied. Qualified students will be accepted without regard with respect to race, color or creed.

Deferring Admission

Students may not defer from the program. If a student does not accept the admission, they must reapply and the application reviewed again.

Evaluation

By selectivity admitting students, the program seeks to be able to insure a high level of completion rates. All students who complete the program will be required to pass a comprehensive examination based on their coursework and additional readings. The program will monitor any teaching positions or assignments that graduates receive. Faculty performance is typically monitored at the university by yearly administrative and student evaluation processes.

Academic Standing

GPATS students must receive a grade of C or higher but the overall GPA must be a 3.0 to satisfy the requirements for graduation. A student that receives below a C in any required course must repeat the course in order to fulfill the requirements of graduation. The first grade is not removed from the transcript.

Academic Probation and Dismissal

Any GPATS student that falls below a 3.0 GPA in any semester will be placed on academic probation. If in the next semester the student is enrolled the student does not achieve a 3.0 GPA, they will be dismissed from the program. If the student fails to meet the ___ credit requirement for graduation, they will be dismissed from the program. A GPATS student that receives a failing grade in one semester will be placed on academic probation. Another failing grade in any subsequent semester can result in dismissal from the program. Two failing grades in one semester will result in automatic dismissal from the program. Future registrations from all graduate students placed on academic probation must be reviewed and approved by the Directors of the program.

Maintenance of Matriculation

Students in the graduate programs are expected to complete their respective program by enrolling in successive semesters. GPATS students must register at least part time. This part time graduate program will constitute ___ credits and full time will constitute ___ or more credits. Any student that does not enroll in their next required semester must complete a Leave of Absence form provided by the Office of Registrar.

Any student in the Masters in Biblical and Talmudic Interpretation program that wishes to enroll for less than ____ credits must first get approval from the Director of the program. Masters in Biblical and Talmudic Interpretation will only be allowed a maximum of one year leave from the program.

Masters in Biblical and Talmudic Interpretation students must maintain consistent registration for every semester within their admissions cohort. On a case by case basis, the Director will determine if a student can take a leave of absence. The student must provide documentation for the reason for the leave. Determination will be based on factors such as the semester in question, the student's academic standing and availability of space in the preceding cohort.

Academic Integrity

Masters in Biblical and Talmudic Interpretation students are expected to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity. All work student submit must be their own. All outside sources used in coursework and assignments must be properly cited. Academic dishonesty included but is not limited to plagiarism, cheating on an exam, passing off another's work as your own or any time of falsification. Anyone found to be in violation of this academic integrity policy will be brought before the Academic Review Committee, which will review the alleged violation and can impose sanctions based upon the seriousness of their findings. Those sanctions can include dismissal from the program.

Late Registration

Continuing students will be notified by the program Director when registration for the next semester opens. GPATS students will have until the end of the Drop/Add period of the next semester to complete registration. After those dates, registration will close and if a student has not registered by that date, they will be subject to a late registration fee of \$250.

Attendance Policy

Each Professor in the Graduate programs determines the attendance policy for their course and it is the student's responsibility to know and understand the policy. It is expected that students attend class regularly. If a student has a specific reason why they will miss a significant number of classes, they must alert the Professor as well as the program Director immediately.

Withdrawal Policy and Refunds

The Masters in Biblical and Talmudic Interpretation program follows the withdrawal and refund policy of Yeshiva University. GPATS students must attend all classes offered in every semester and can only withdraw if they are withdrawing for the semester or separating from the university; GPATS students are permitted to drop individual classes. Any student that wishes to withdraw either in full or from individual classes must alert the program Director of their intent to do so. Students will be responsible for making sure they have successfully completed the withdrawal process through MYYU as this activity will be used to determine what refunds, if any, are owed. The University refund policy is as follows:

A student who withdraws at the end of the first week of classes receives a 100% refund.

A student who withdraws at the end of the second week of classes receives a 75% refund.

A student who withdraws at the end of the third week of classes receives a 50% refund.

A student who withdraws at the end of the fourth week of classes receives a 25% refund.

No refunds are given after the fourth week. Fees are not refundable. Any appeals to the refund policy should be made directly to the Office of Student Finance.

GPATS students can drop a class without a "W" up to the tenth week of class, but must still alert the program Director that they intend to drop the class so that they can be adequately advised on how their program may be affected.

Leave of Absence

Students in the Masters in Biblical and Talmudic Interpretation program who intend to take a leave for a semester and then return, must alert the program director of that intent and must also file a Leave of Absence form with the Office of the Registrar. If a Leave Form is not filed then readmission may be denied. Leaves of Absence are granted for a maximum of two semesters.

Financial Holds

At the beginning of each semester the Office of Student Accounts will send a bill to each student for the tuition and fees owed for the current semester. It is the duty of each student to ensure that they receive the bill, that the amount is correct and that payment is received. Bills are mailed to the permanent address on file and the student is responsible for making sure all information is up to date. Students can also always check their account status by logging into their MYYU account at any time. Any student that carries a balance from one semester to the next will have a hold placed on their account and they will not be able to register for the current semester until that hold is removed. If the hold is not removed by the last day a student can add a course with permission, then the student will not be allowed to register for the upcoming semester. If the hold is not cleared by the next consecutive semester that the student was due to register the student will be withdrawn from the program. Masters in Biblical and Talmudic Interpretation students who miss a semester due to a hold will not be permitted to return to the program until the following year.

Exam Policy

Students will be expected to take their exams when scheduled. If a student cannot take an exam at the scheduled time due to serious illness or extreme circumstances they must contact the Masters in Biblical and Talmudic Interpretation program director and the Professor immediately in writing and provide documentation. Together the Director of the program and professor will determine if the student will be allowed to take the exam at another time. If permission is granted, the student has up to six weeks after the end of the semester to take the exam.

Incomplete Grades

A grade of Incomplete (INC) will be given when; due to extraordinary circumstances a student is not able to complete an exam or an assignment. The student must have obtained permission from the Professor prior to the exam or assignment due date. All work must be submitted six weeks after the end of the semester or the grade will change from an INC to an F.

Appealing Grades

Professors have sole discretion on establishing standards of performance and judgments on the quality of students' performance that are fair and reasonable. Grades determined in this manner are final and not subject to review. If a student believes that they received a final grade inconsistent with this policy, they have up to 10 days after receiving the final grade to request a meeting with the Professor to discuss how their grade was determined. If after that individual meeting the student is still not satisfied, or if the Professor refuses to meet with the student, then the student can put their appeal in writing to the Professor and Director of the program. The Director will have the duty to review the appeal and if they determine that the grade given is justified, their decision is final. However, if the Director finds merit to the appeal, then the Director will meet with the Professor to review how the final grade was determined. At any time in this process, the Director can consult with another Professor qualified to teach the course to review the grade. If after independent review it was proven that the grade given was not appropriate, then together the Professor and the Director will determine the students' new grade.

Transfer Credits

Masters in Biblical and Talmudic Interpretation program can transfer up to 12 credits from another program. Students must provide the Director of the program the following: an official copy of their transcript, course descriptions and syllabi for any course they wish to be considered for transfer credit. The director of the program will determine if the credits are transferrable.

Repeat Grades

Masters in Biblical and Talmudic Interpretation program students who get below a C must retake that course in the next semester the course become available. GPATS students who receive an F in any class will be allowed to retake that class by permission of the Director only. The first grade will remain on the transcript and both grades will be computed in the cumulative GPA. Students cannot retake a course that they have received a grade of C or higher.

Internships

Masters in Biblical and Talmudic Interpretation program students will be allowed to apply for internships for credit in the fall or spring semesters. Students must complete the Internship Application and get approval from the Director of the program. Any student that wishes to have an internship for credit must complete the application by the fourth week of classes in that semester. Masters in Biblical and Talmudic Interpretation program student will be charged

that academic years per credit charge for every internship credit they obtain, with every 100 hours equaling one credit.

Disability Accommodations

Students who need accommodations for exams must register with the Office of Disability Services. They must provide documentation from a qualified practitioner that describes the nature of the disability, the functional limitation associated with the disability, severity of these limitation and recommended reasonable accommodations. Once accommodations have been determined, the student is responsible for alerting the Professor at the start of the semester. Accommodations need to be made one week before any exam. For final exams, students must request accommodations with the Office of Disability Services. These procedures need to be followed every semester a student is enrolled.

Graduation

Masters in Biblical and Talmudic Interpretation program students can graduate in May, September or January. GPATS students will be considered candidates for graduation in September. The commencement ceremony for all candidates will take place in May. All students who are eligible for graduation must complete an Application for Graduation available in the Office of the Registrar and pay a fee of \$150. Students who are candidates for graduation in January must complete the form and pay the fee by November 1st; May candidates by March 1st and September graduates by June 1st. Final approval for graduation is given by the Office of the Registrar once the degree requirements have been met.

Records and Transcripts

Students may generate free, unofficial, transcripts in the Office of the Registrar or online at www.yu.edu/myyu. Current or former students who want official transcripts of their records should visit www.yu.edu/transcript. The site includes information about fees, regulations, and procedures governing the issuance of official transcripts.

A transcript is not issued without the student's written request or as provided by the law. The issuance of transcripts, and generally the release of any information about a student, is subject to the provisions of the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974. Yeshiva University has adopted regulations to implement the act. A copy of these regulations is available upon written request, accompanied by a self-addressed stamped envelope to the Office of the Registrar.

No official transcript will be issued for a student unless the student's financial record with the university is completely clear.

Official records of students are sent only in the form of a complete transcript. No partial records are sent, nor are records listing only courses without grades.

Students who believe there is an error in their academic record (e.g., grade, average, credit value, or course) must promptly contact the Office of the Registrar.

Use of the University's Name

No student or student organization may use the name of the University or any of its components in print for any purpose, including identification, without the written permission from the Office of Communications and Public Affairs.

Privacy

In accordance with the provisions of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, as amended (Section 438 of the General Educational Provisions Act, 20 USC 1232g), also known as "FERPA," Yeshiva University has adopted certain policies to protect the privacy rights of its students with respect to their education records. FERPA affords students certain rights of access to their education record. FERPA also limits the persons to whom the university may disclose a student's education records and permits certain disclosure without the student's written permission. Please visit the Office of the Registrar or its website to obtain the Yeshiva University FERPA Policy Statement.

Program Description

The GPATS program requires every student to take foundational course in both biblical and Talmudic interpretation as well as an array of advanced courses/seminars centered in either of these areas. Elective courses in Jewish

education (to further enhance teaching skills) will be available at Yeshiva University's Azrieli Graduate School of Jewish Education and Administration.

Students who major in Biblical Interpretation will typically take ten 3-credit courses for the degree, 6 credits (2 courses) in introductory-level courses and 24 credits (8 courses) in elective courses. They may be permitted to take up to two 4-credit courses in Talmudic Interpretation in place of two elective courses.

Students who major in Talmudic Interpretation will typically take 8 courses for the degree, 6 credits (2 courses) in introductory-level courses and six 4-credit courses in advanced Talmudic interpretation. They may be permitted to take up to two 3-credit courses in Biblical interpretation in place of one course in Talmudic interpretation (for a total of nine courses).

Resources

The Libraries at Yeshiva University are perfectly positioned to support the proposed graduate programs in Talmud and Bible. The Hedi Steinberg Library located at Stern College for Women where the programs will take place holds 38,000 Jewish Studies volumes and 122 paper journal subscriptions in the field. The Library staff are all versed in the Hebrew language; and in the subject matter. The Head Librarian is, in fact, an expert in research resources for Bible and has lectured on the subject at various conferences. The Library offers students twenty computers for research purposes (all with Hebrew English keyboards.)

The resources of the Hedi Steinberg Library are augmented by the collections of the Mendel Gottesman Library of Hebraica/Judaica, a world-class research library in Jewish Studies, located at the University's Wilf Campus. The Mendel Gottesman Library holds 276,000 volumes in Jewish Studies and maintains 917 paper journal subscriptions. The expertise of the Library staff is recognized and respected in the field. The University provides daily van service to transport students between campuses so that students in the programs who require more advanced research materials may access the Mendel Gottesman Library. In fact, many of the students choose to reside in the vicinity of the Wilf Campus. In addition, there is an active interlibrary loan service between the Libraries and materials are sent from campus to campus on a daily basis.

The Libraries maintain comprehensive collections of electronic resources, including online databases, e-journals and e-books, as well as collections on CD ROM, in support of the Jewish Studies disciplines.

Course Description

Prerequisite Courses

Biblical Interpretation- 6 credits of introductory-level courses; 18-24 credits of elective courses in Biblical Interpretation. Up to 8 of the elective credits may be taken in Talmudic Interpretation (With permission of the Director, up to 6 elective credits may be taken at the Azrieli Graduate School in the areas of Teaching Jewish Studies.)

Talmudic Interpretation - 6 credits of introductory-level courses; 18-24 credits of elective courses in Talmudic Interpretation. Up to 8 of the elective credits may be taken in Biblical Interpretation (With permission of the Director, up to 6 elective credits may be taken at the Azrieli Graduate School in the areas of Teaching Jewish Studies.)

Required Courses

2101 The Biblical Canon and Its Study:

This course will begin by exploring the issues of authorship and textual transmission of the Bible as seen through Rabbinic sources. It will then shift to the history of the interpretation of Tanakh, beginning with the Classical period (Targumim, Midrash Hazal, Dead Sea Scrolls) and continuing with an introduction to the methodology of the major medieval commentators (Rashi, Ibn Ezra, Ramban, etc.)

In addition to preparation of primary texts and secondary source readings, students will be required to take a midterm and final exams. They will also be required to produce a 15-20 page research paper on a theme of Biblical interpretation. The topic must have approval of the instructor.

2102 Modes and Methods of Biblical Interpretation in the Medieval and Modern Period:

This course is a survey of the medieval Biblical exegetes of northern France and those of Provence and Spain. Emphasis will be placed on exegetical methodology and hermeneutical rules of interpretation. The relationship between *peshat* and *derash* and *peshat* and *halakha* will be analyzed. The historical and cultural contexts will be studied as well.

In addition to preparation of primary texts and secondary source readings, students will be required to take a midterm and final. They will also be required to produce a 15-20 page research paper on a theme of Biblical interpretation. Topic must have approval of the instructor.

3105 History of the Oral Law in Ashkenaz through the Early Modern Period:

The first in a two part courses which will survey major interpretive trends in the medieval and early modern periods, during which several seminal methods of Talmudic and rabbinic interpretation were developed. Key texts will be prepared by the students for discussion in class, and the readings will consist of modern scholarly treatments of Jewish and general intellectual history, as relevant. Focus areas include medieval Ashkenaz (Franco-Germany) and Eastern Europe through the early modern period.

In addition to preparation of primary texts and secondary source readings, students will be required to take a midterm and final. They will also be required to produce a 15-20 page research paper on a theme of Talmudic interpretation. Students of Talmudic interpretation will also prepare an oral presentation for the class on a topic to be chosen with consent of the instructor.

3106 History of the Oral Law in Provence and Spain through the Spanish Expulsion:

The second in a two part courses which will survey major interpretive trends in the medieval and early modern periods, during which several seminal methods of Talmudic and rabbinic interpretation were developed. Key texts will be prepared by the students for discussion in class, and the readings will consist of modern scholarly treatments of Jewish and general intellectual history, as relevant. Focus areas include the medieval Provence and Spain, through the Spanish expulsion and up until the development of the Shulhan Arukh.

In addition to preparation of primary texts and secondary source readings, students will be required to take a midterm and final. They will also be required to produce a 15-20 page research paper on a theme of Talmudic interpretation. Students of Talmudic interpretation will also prepare an oral presentation for the class on a topic to be chosen with consent of the instructor.

Elective Courses

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5024 Kiddushin

5027 Yevamot

5031 Bava Kamma

5034 Bava Mezia
5037 Bava Batra
5039 Sanhedrin
5041 Hullin
5045 Niddah