

Course Requirements and Syllabus

REQUIREMENTS:

1) Two short writing assignments (approx. 5-7 pp. each); 2) either a final paper or an exam, to be decided; 3) class participation.

BOOKS AND READINGS:

The Passover Haggadah, ed. Nahum Glatzer (Schocken); available at the Penn Book Center (Walnut St.). Henceforth referred to as Haggadah.

Baruch M. Bokser, The Origins of the Seder (California, 1984), available as a bulkpack at Campus Copy. Henceforth referred to as Bokser.

Except for readings from the Haggadah and from Bokser, all other assignments will be in a Bulkpack, also available at Campus Copy.

1) Jan. 13-- Introduction

I. Passover before the Seder: Biblical and Early Postbiblical Evidence

2) Jan. 15-- Survey of the Haggadah

Read through entirety of the Haggadah and prepare an outline of its structure.

Biblical Passages:

Exod. 12-13; 34: 18-21 (please read with commentaries on page)

3) Jan. 20-- Lev. 23:4-8

Numb. 9:1-15; 28:16-25

Deut. 16:1-8

Joshua 5:10-11

2 Kings 23:21

Ezek. 45:21

Ezra 6:19-22

II Chron. 30:1-27; 35:1-19

Bokser, pp. 1-19

4) Jan. 22-- Early Postbiblical/2nd Temple Period Evidence

Jubilees. Chap. 49

Selections from Philo

Josephus, Antiquities III.x.5 (bracketed section on page)

Bokser, pp. 19-28.

Please look up Jubilees, Philo, and Josephus in the Encyclopaedia Judaica for basic background.

II. Rabbinic Accounts of the Seder and Their Context

5, 6, 7) Jan. 27, 29; Feb. 3-- Mishnah and Tosefta

Mishnah Pesahim 10. In class, we will use H. Albeck's edition; but please compare that text to the one in Kehati's edition, also in bulkpack.

For English translation and commentary, Bokser, pp. 29-49.  
Gordon J. Bahr, "The Seder of Passover and the Eucharistic Words," Novum Testamentum 12 (1970): 473-94.

Tosefta Pesahim 10. For translation and commentary, see Bokser above.

For background on both Mishnah and Tosefta, read the essays in The Literature of the Sages, ed. S. Safrai (in the bulkpack after the Talmud sections):

"The Mishna..." by A. Goldberg, pp. 211- 62

"The Tosefta..." by A. Goldberg, pp. 283-301

8, 9) Feb. 5, 10-- The Symposium and the Seder

Plutarch, Table-Talk (from Plutarch's Moralia, Vol. 8 [LCL, 1927], pp. 5-23; 337-65.

S. Stein, "The Influence of Symposia Literature on the Literary Form of the Pesah Haggadah," Journal of Jewish Studies 7 (1957): 13-44

Jacob Neusner, "The Rabbinical Traditions about the Pharisees," from Politics to Piety (1973), pp. 81-90.

Bokser, 50-100.

10-14) Feb. 12, 17, 19, 24, 26-- The Two Talmudim

N.B. For the Yerushalmi, I have xeroxed both the Krotozhin ed. and the Venice 1523 ed.. The bulkpack also has Bokser's English trans. of the Yerushalmi.

For the Bavli, we will use the Steinsaltz text in class, but I have also xeroxed the Vilna ed. and provided you with the Soncino translation.

For background on the Yerushalmi and the Bavli, see The Literature of the Sages: "The Palestinian Talmud" by A. Goldberg, pp. 303-22

"The Babylonian Talmud" by A. Goldberg, pp. 323-55

I. Mishnah 10:1-- on Reclining and the Four Cups

Yerushalmi 37b, 11 lines up- 38a, 13 lines down

II. Mishnah 10:4-- on Questions and Answers

Yerushalmi 37d, lines 15-36

Mekhilta Bo 18 on Exod. 13:16/Deut. 6:20 (Lauterbach ed., I: 166-167) (in the bulkpack, the pages are after the Soncino English trans. of the Bavli)

Bavli 116a

III. Mishnah 10:5-- Rabban Gamliel

Bavli 116a (very bottom) -b (entire page)

IV. Mishnah 10:7-- Afikomen

Yerushalmi 37d (section of 5 lines about 3/4 down the page)

Bavli 119b-120a

15-16) March 3,5-- Early Christianity and Passover

Mark 14: 1-52

Matthew 26:1-46

Luke 22:1-53

John 11:55; 12:1; 13:1-38

I Corinthians 5:7-8

Melito of Sardis, "The Homily on the Passion," English. trans. and ed.

C. Bonner) (Philadelphia, 1940)

17-18) March 17-19-- The Midrash on Deuteronomy 26 and Rabbinic Memory

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Haggadah, pp. 38-56

Louis Finkelstein, "The Oldest Midrash..." Harvard Theological Review 31 (1938): 291-317

L. Hoffman, "Sacred Myths," from Beyond the Text (Notre Dame, 19 ), pp. 75-115

S.T. Lachs, "Two Related Arameans," Journal for the Study of Judaism 17 (1986): 65-69

Y. H. Yerushalmi, Zakhor (Seattle, 1982), Chap. 1, pp.5-26.

Josef Stern, "Gesture and Symbol," in Contemporary Jewish Religious Thought, ed.

A.A. Cohen and P.Mendes-Flohr (New York, 1987), pp. 275-83.

### III. The Haggadah as a Book

19-20) March 24-26-- The Earliest Haggadot (9th-12th C.)

Dropsie Genizah Haggadah (from D. Goldschmidt, Haggadah shel Pesah (Jerusalem 1981), p. 73-84

Siddur Rav Saadia Gaon, pp. 134-14

Maimonides, Mishneh Torah, Zemanim, Chap. 7; and Nusah Hahaggadah

Rashi's Seder from Mahzor Vitri Vol. 1, pp. 281-83, 295-98

21-22) March 31, April 2-- Medieval Illuminated Haggadot

Evelyn M. Cohen, "The Decoration of Medieval Hebrew Manuscripts," in A Sign and a Witness, ed. L.S. Gold (New York, 1988), pp. 47-60.

B. Narkiss, The Golden Haggadah (London, 19), pp. 7-11; 55-67.

M. Friedman, "The Four Sons of the Haggadah and the Ages of Man," Journal of Jewish Art 11 (1985): 16-40.

23-24) April 7, 9-- Haggadah Commentaries

Don Yitzhak Abravanel, Zevah Pesah, pp. 3-5 (Intro.); pp. 140-41; 141-42.

25) April 14-- The Printed Haggadah

Y.H. Yerushalmi, Haggadah and History (Philadelphia, 1975), pp. 13- 85.

26) April 16-- Modernist Haggadot

H. Friedberg, "The Unwritten Message-- Visual Commentary in Twentieth Century Haggadah Illustration," Journal of Jewish Art 16 (1990-91): 157-71.

Readings TBA

27) April 21-- Revisionist Haggadot

Holocaust Haggadot

Kibbutz Haggadot

Feminist, New Left, Vegetarian Haggadot

28) April 23-- The Last Class