

OUTLINE OF PROPOSED COURSES
IN HASIDISM

- 1- Jud. St. 41: Should remain essentially as it is.
- 2- Jud. St. 75: "Introduction to Hasidic Literature."
Prerequisites: Jud. St. 41, and a working knowledge of Hebrew.

The purpose of this course is to acquaint the student first-hand with the primary sources of Hasidic literature. The goal should be to enable the student to make his way, unaided, through a simple passage encumbered, as most such passages are, with Biblical and Rabbinic allusions, Kabbalistic terms, peculiarly Hasidic exegesis, and often extravagant word-plays.

The progression of the course should not be necessarily chronological, but should rather follow a pattern of literary comprehensibility, beginning with simple passages and proceeding to the more complex and esoteric writings. Students should be expected to translate and annotate typical passages at each stage of the course.

The works that follow should be used selectively, bearing in mind the rationale mentioned above.

1. Besht: Tzavaat Ha-Rivash and Keter Shem Tov
2. R. Nahman of Brazlav: Likkutei Moharan and Sippurei Maasiyot
3. R. Moshe Hayyim Ephraim: Deggel Mahaneh Ephraim
4. R. Elimelech of Lizhensk: Noam Elimelekh
5. R. Levi Yitzhak of Berditchev: Kedushat Levi
6. R. Yaakov Yosef of Pollonoye: Toledot Yaakov Yosef, Tzofnat Paaneiah, and Ketonet Passim
7. R. Zadok of Lublin: Tzidkat ha-Tzaddik
8. R. Zevi Elimelech of Dinov: Benei Yisaskhor
9. The HaBaD literature: Tanya, Derekh Mitzvotekha, and some modern and contemporary maamarim.
10. R. Dov Ber (the Maggid of Mezeritch): Maggid Bevarav le'Yaakov and Likkutim Yekarim

Because this is essentially a course in literary skills, no extensive bibliography (other than the above mentioned primary sources) are necessary. Of course, students will have to use standard biblical, talmudic, midrashic, and kabbalistic reference works.

3. Jud. Studies - a graduate course on the 700 level: "Major Ideas of Hasidism"
Prerequisite: Jud. St. 75 and a working knowledge of modern as.

classical Hebrew.

This course is designed to acquaint the students with the major themes of Hasidic religious philosophy, using both original sources of Hasidic literature of the first three generations, and the contemporary scientific literature, which is mostly in Hebrew and English. The original and secondary sources should be studied in tandem, with an effort made to discern where major Hasidic thinkers agree with conventional rabbinic theology; where they diverge; the question of the relationship of Hasidic thought to Kabbalah and to Sabbatianism; and where individual Hasidic writers differed from each other. For contrast, reference should also be made to leading Mitnagdic writers.

TOPICS INCLUDE:

1. Immanence and Transcendence
2. Devekut and Religious Experience
3. "Worship through Corporeality"; "Greatness" and "Smallness"
4. Zaddikism; "Descent" and "Ascent"
5. "Sweetening of Judgments"
6. Prayer
7. "Alien Thoughts"; "Elevation of Characteristics"
8. Torah; study of Torah Lishmah
9. Mystical themes; Quietism
10. Love of God and Fear of God
11. Evil and Suffering. The Yetzer
12. Eschatology

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

A. Primary Sources:

1. Besht: Tzavaat Ha-rivash
2. Besht: Keter Shem Tov
3. Letters of the Besht
4. R. Menahem Mendel of Peremyslyany: Darkei Yesharim
5. R. Pinhas of Korecz - various minor writings
6. R. Yaakov Yosef of Pollonoye: Toledot Yaakov Yosef, Ketonet Passim, Tzofenat Paaneiah, Porat Yosef
7. R. Dov Ber (the great Maggid): Maggid Devarav le'Yaakov, Likkutim Yekarim
8. R. Menahem Mendel of Vitebsk: Peri ha-Aretz
9. R. Elimelech of Lizhensk: Noam Elimelech
10. R. Levi Yitzhak of Berditchev: Kedushat Levi
11. R. Shneur Zalman of Liadi: Tanya; Likkutei Torah; Torah Or
12. R. Moshe Hayyim Ephraim: Deggel Mahaneh Ephraim
13. R. Nahman of Brazlav: Likkutei Maharan
14. R. Hayyim of Volozhin: Nefesh ha-Hayyim

B. Secondary Sources:

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2. Balaban, Mejer: Le-Toldot ha-Tenuah ha-Frankit, Tel-Aviv, 1934 - 2 volumes
3. Ben-Sasson, Haim Hillel: "Israel Baal Shem Tov," Encyclopedia Judaica, Jerusalem-New York, 1971, Vol. IX, 1051-2.
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14. Heschel, Abraham J.: "Rabbi Nahman of Kosov, The Besht's Friend," Harry Austryn Wolfson Jubilee Volume, ed. Saul Lieberman, New York, Jerusalem 1965, III.
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17. Jacobs, Louis: Seeker of Unity, London, 1966
18. Jacobs, Louis: Hasidic Prayer, New York, 1973
19. Kahana, Abraham: Sefer ha-Hasidut, Warsaw, 1922
20. Katz, Jacob: Tradition and Crisis, New York, 1971
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22. Lamm, Norman: "Study and Prayer: Their Relative Value in Hasidism and Mitnagnism," Samuel K. Mirsky Memorial Volume. New York, 1970
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26. Rabinowitch, (Zeev) Wolf: Lithuanian Hasidism, Jerusalem, 1961
27. Rubinstein, Abraham: "A Possible New Fragment of Shivhey Habbesht," Tarbiz, Vol. XXXV, 1965 pp. 174-191
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