

February 12, 1976

FOR MY NOTES:

The form I have followed for this academic year of 1975-6 is to give my lectures at the beginning of the first semester, and thereafter to have them do the various kinds of work. What we finally settled on was for each one to attempt a kind of satire written by C.S. Lewis in the Screwtape Letters, and then I assigned one research project over the whole year, and one Hasbarah paper for each semester.

For the second semester, I invited as many guest lecturers as I could, people who had or were working on books in the field. For the second semester, I had invited Meir Schiller (a young Hasid working on a book), Emanuel Rackman, Joseph Telushkin, David Bleich, and possibly Yaakov Jacobs of the Jewish Life.

Note the following items that ought to be revised or added to the course:

1. Instead of Hasbarah, be open and use the word, "apologetics."
2. In writing about Apologetics, reference should be made to some of the greatest Christian Apologists, such as C.S. Lewis, G.K. Chesterton, Belloc, Arnold Lunn (the Catholic).
3. Perhaps I should concentrate more, especially during the first semester, on what others have done. Perhaps assign readings in C.S. Lewis, or Xerox parts of him, from his other works in addition to the Screwtape Letters. The same holds true for three other writers mentioned above. I also should use some of the Orthodox and even non-Orthodox Jewish writers, and criticize their works objectively (include Avigdor Miller, who fails to criticize modern civilization, but just ridicules it instead).
4. The major works of the above apologists are as follows:
 - a) the problem of pain; mere Christianity (these first two are probably his best); the great divorce; the pilgrim's regress (the last two are in the nature of fantasies); and the Screwtape Letters.
 - b) Chesterton: Orthodoxy (a real classic); St. Francis of Assisi.
 - c) Belloc: The French Revolution.
 - d) Lunn: Now I See (his best work); Is Christianity True?

Books by the above can be obtained, if unavailable in New York, from A.J. Prossier in Chicago.