

Philosophy 17  
Problems in Jewish Philosophy  
Fall 1972

Assignments, Reports, and Papers

1. All students must read N. Lamm, Faith and Doubt, Chap. I and Chap. III. Précis of Chap. I must be submitted by Midterm date, and that of Chap. III by last regular session of the semester.
2. Reports. One report by each student. Must be submitted by Midterm date.
  - a. Lev Shestov, Athens and Jerusalem
  - b. The Behaviorism debate; B.F. Skinner, Beyond Freedom and Dignity, and Noam Chomsky, New York Review of Books, December 30, 1971.
  - c. Faith as a Mitzvah in Maimonides:  
אמונה כמצוה, "אמונה והקשר", הוצאת מסדה, תל אביב, 80-104
  - d. Synopsis of: Mortimer Adler, et al: The Idea of Freedom, vol. I. (Institute for Philosophical Study)
  - e. The philosophical nature of Halakhic norms:
    1. Faith and Doubt Chap. IX
    2. אמונה והקשר, חלק א' - חלק ב' - חלק ג' - חלק ד' - חלק ה' - חלק ו' - חלק ז' - חלק ח' - חלק ט' - חלק י'
    3. אמונה והקשר, חלק א' - חלק ב' - חלק ג' - חלק ד' - חלק ה' - חלק ו' - חלק ז' - חלק ח' - חלק ט' - חלק י'
    4. אמונה והקשר, חלק א' - חלק ב' - חלק ג' - חלק ד' - חלק ה' - חלק ו' - חלק ז' - חלק ח' - חלק ט' - חלק י'
  - f. Kant on "character" - Critique of Pure Reason Part III, and Anthropology, Part II.
3. Research Papers. Examine following to determine views on "character." Does the thinker in question have a consistent and systematic view of character? If there is no single rule you can discern, can you determine if there are specific ethical notions or moral traits which are especially valued? Are there any problems in character, or in ethical philosophy, that the author takes up?
  - a. Hazon Ish. Primary: החתן אשכנז, חתן אשכנז, חתן אשכנז. Secondary: "האיש והאשה". There are also a number of other works that have recently appeared on the Hazon Ish.
  - b. R. Shneur Zalman of Ladi. The secondary sources will guide you to the primary sources. See Teitelbaum, "דברי אשכנז" (vol. II); "אור החיים" (א Chabad publication) - p. 113-122; and the growing literature of the movement.

- c. Saadia Gaon. Analyze carefully the אמרי אלה, Part X, and consult the various histories of Jewish philosophy for their observations.
- d. R. Abraham Maimonides - check through ה'אברהם בן הרמבם, ספר המדבר
- e. Rav Kook. The recently published "מאמר אלקי", Chap. II and Chap. III.
- f. R. Israel Salanter. Use Katz. "מלאכה האלהית" as your guide both to sources and for formulation.
- g. R. Hayyim of Volozhin. Read through his "דורות חיים", (commentary on אבות) and refer to my recently published "מורה נבוכים" (Mosad Harav Kook), Chap. I.