

File 40

December 7, 1965

Dr. Hyman B. Grinstein  
Teacher's Institute for Men  
Yeshiva University  
Amsterdam Avenue & 186th Street  
New York, New York

Dear Dr. Grinstein:

I have discussed with you a number of times the problem of my two classes at T.I. and have done some soul-searching myself these past few weeks.

Of the two courses I give, the first one (i.e. the one for seniors) is usually more difficult and more advanced.. It is the one into which I put my greatest energies and efforts. Yet, I am always most disappointed by the results. First, it is a required course, and hence I have many students who are not really interested in the subject matter. Second, since this is essentially a senior class, quite a number of students are absent from four to six lectures during the second semester when they are student-teaching. This is normally disruptive of class work, but especially so in a course for which there are no textbooks available.

My preference is that this senior class be declared an elective, and not be a required course. Furthermore, I would want to have my other course, i.e., Philo 51-52, declared a prerequisite or at least a co-requisite for the advanced course. Frankly, if it were possible I would also want to limit enrollment in the advanced course to those with whom I can confer beforehand. The reason for this, in addition to the above, is that I am profoundly disturbed to find the lackadaisical spirit that prevails amongst so many students, and that lead me to feelings of disappointment and frustration in my own efforts at teaching.

I beg of you to consider the above and, when you can find the time, perhaps we can discuss it at some greater length.

Warmest personal regards,