



Federation Midreshet June 2022 Session

Classes begin on Wednesday 6/1 and Thursday 6/2. Full vaccination required to attend in person

Cost per course: \$75. Registration deadline: May 25

Wednesdays, 9:30-10:45

J1. The 3 R's of Jewish Thought: Rashi, Rambam and Ramban

Join Rabbi Daniel Pernick in a journey to the 11th – 13th centuries, a period of incredible excitement, scholarship and physical danger for the Jews of western Europe. We will look at three of the most influential figures on Jewish life for the past millenium: Shlomo ben Yitzhak, Moshe ben Maimon and Moshe ben Nakhman, popularly known as Rashi, Rambam and Ramban.

Their impact on many areas of Jewish life was and remains enormous. We will discuss their similarities and their differences, while looking at the most critical moments of their careers. The choices they made can guide us in navigating our own Jewish journey through life.

4 sessions in person or online. Please specify preference when registering.

Instructor: Rabbi Daniel Pernick

Wednesdays, 11:00-12:15

J2. Magical and Mythical Creatures in Judaism

Unicorns and Dragons? Mermaids and Giants? The Bible, Talmud, and Midrash refer to many such strange creatures. The tabernacle is reported to have been made with unicorn hair. The Psalms speak of great sea serpents and the behemoth. Did these creatures really exist? Did the Sages think they were real?

This course examines a host of mythic and not so mythic creatures from both their Torah descriptions and modern zoological research, giving us a new perspective on the interface between science, myth, and Torah thought. We will look to understand what place these fantastic beasts held in Jewish tradition, and how the sages really thought about them, as well as how we can approach them ourselves.

4 sessions in person or online. Please specify preference when registering.

Instructor: Rabbi Daniel Graber

Thursdays, 9:30-10:45

J3. American Jewish Identity in 21st Century Film

What does the cinematic portrayal of Jews in American society say about our place in it? In this class, we will discuss and watch scenes from films made in the last twenty years that have characters with common American-Jewish stereotypes. Using Professor David Reznik's *New Jews?: American Jewish Identity in 21st Century Film* as our sourcebook, we will come to terms with the choices made by filmmakers in their portrayal of such stereotypes

We will ask why these stereotypes still exist and what they say about the acceptance of American Jews into the broader culture. We will then connect these ideas to the work of Isabel Wilkerson, whose book *Caste* has come to teach us profound lessons about the ways we organize our social structures.

4 sessions in person or online. Please specify preference when registering.

Instructor: Rabbi Brian Leiken

Instructor Bios

Rabbi Daniel Graber is in his third year as Assistant Rabbi of the New City Jewish Center where he fosters a caring community and engages adults in meaningful study. He received ordination from the Jewish Theological Seminary as well as a Masters of Arts in Jewish education from JTS's William Davidson School. Rabbi Graber has a passion for Jewish texts and finding relevance in them for modern readers.

Rabbi Brian Leiken has been the Senior Rabbi at Temple Beth Sholom since June of 2012. He is passionate about social justice, Jewish history, and the study of modern American Judaism. As the religious leader of Temple Beth Sholom, Rabbi Leiken has transitioned the temple into a relational synagogue, one that is built upon the inter and intra-relationships between the clergy and its members. He attended the Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion where he was ordained in May of 2007.

Rabbi Daniel Pernick was ordained at the Cincinnati campus of Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion in 1982. He has served as Rabbi of Beth Am Temple in Pearl River since 1985. Rabbi Pernick has made adult education and community outreach central features of his rabbinate. A past president of the Rockland Board of Rabbis and a two-time past president of the Pearl River Interfaith Council, Rabbi Pernick has been a campus minister and an adjunct faculty member at St. Thomas Aquinas College in Sparkill since 2002.



Federation Midreshet June 2022 Registration

Cost per course: \$75. Registration Deadline: May 25

Financial need scholarships and spouse discounts are available. For more information, contact Barry Kanarek at bkanarek@jewishrockland.org or (845)362-4200 ext 170.

To Register Directly Online, Go to jewishrockland.org/midreshet-june-2022

To register via mail, complete the following information and send with payment to Jewish Federation & Foundation, 450 W Nyack Rd, West Nyack 10994

Please register me for the following Federation Midreshet courses.

	<u>Course Name</u>	<u>Instructor</u>	<u>Tuition</u>
1.	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____

Tuition covers course-related expenses such as teacher salaries. Please consider a voluntary contribution to the Federation 2021-22 general campaign (thank you!): \$_____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____ E-mail: _____

Cell Phone _____

Please indicate your choice of payment:

___ Check enclosed, payable to Jewish Federation of Rockland County for \$ _____

___ Charge my credit card: ___ Visa ___ MC ___ AmEx

Acct. # _____ Exp. Date _____ CV Code _____

Questions? Contact Cantor Barry Kanarek at bkanarek@jewishrockland.org or (845)362-4200 ext 170.