



SHORESH

FOUNDATIONS PROGRAM

Course Catalog

A DIVISION OF OHR SOMAYACH INSTITUTIONS
TANENBAUM COLLEGE

Message from the Dean

Learning for living is certainly the mission statement of any respectable academic institution.

Ohr Somayach - Tanenbaum College has been providing such learning for graduates of high schools and universities throughout the world for close to four decades. The encouraging proof of the impact of the demanding course of study outlined in this course catalog is the success which our students have enjoyed in their advanced academic and professional careers.

No catalog, however, can describe the special atmosphere of campus life which shapes the personality while training the mind. We therefore ask you to view this course catalog as an invitation to enjoy the unique experience of our school.

Rabbi Mendel Weinbach

DEGREES AND CERTIFICATES

Ohr Somayach offers degree-granting programs which prepare students for positions in education and communal leadership. Students in these programs must fulfill the requirements with no less than a B (3.0) average:

UNDERGRADUATE DEGREES

To receive a Bachelors Degree 130 course credits must be successfully completed. Half of these courses must be in the 300 and 400 series. The credits must be earned over a period of no less than eight (8) semesters of which two (2) may be summer semesters.

The following degrees are available: **Bachelor of Judaic Studies (BTS)** **Bachelor Talmudic Law (BTL)**

Any of the above may be combined with a minor in Philosophy, Law or Education by completing at least 30 credits in any of these areas in the 300 and 400 series courses. A student may be required to write an original paper, at the discretion of the Dean, as an additional requirement to earn a Bachelor's degree. The subject matter will be chosen in conjunction with student and a teaching staff member and with the approval of the Dean or a department head.

TEACHERS CERTIFICATE

A Teachers Certificate may be earned by successfully completing the Ohr Lagolah Leadership Training Program. This certificate is authorized and issued by the Israel Ministry of Education.

This program is a course of studies offered over two years and is additional to the regular undergraduate or graduate courses. It is possible to participate in this program separately or concurrently with a student's regular program.

The certificate is recognized by Jewish educational organizations as an acceptable credential for employment as an educator in the Diaspora.

Teacher Certificate courses are indicated in the Course Catalog as E, S, PSY and CNSL.

GRADUATE DEGREES

The following graduate degrees are available: **Masters of Judaic Studies (MJS)** and **Masters of Talmudic Law (MTL)**

To earn any of the above graduate degrees a minimum of 16 courses must be successfully completed over a period of four semesters, one of which may be a summer semester.

POST GRADUATE DEGREE (DOCTORATE)

Post graduate degrees are available at the discretion of the Dean of Academic Affairs and approval of a department head.

A major thesis is required illustrating the student's understanding of all major texts of Talmudic, Halachic and/or philosophical nature. The topic must be approved by the Dean and a department head.

The student must display creativity and the ability to produce well grounded novellae.

CREDITS AND SEMESTERS

CREDITS EARNED per course are dependent on a) classroom hours per week, b) supervised independent study, c) a combination of above.

Credits per course are indicated in Course Descriptions. Extra credit for courses may be issued for special projects at the instructor's discretion.

COURSE NUMBERED with a double number e.g. 110-111 indicate that two semesters of course work are generally expected. However a student may take only the first or second semester with permission from the department head.

A DESIGNATION on a transcript of "a" and "b" added to an existing one semester course indicates that the course was extended to two semesters.

THERE ARE THREE SEMESTERS: Fall, Spring and Summer. Generally the Fall semester begins near September 1st and continues through December or beginning of January. Spring semester begins in the first week of January and continues through middle or end of May. Summer semester begins May/June and continues until July/August.

SUMMER SEMESTER may be divided into two sessions or taken as a full semester with full credit. Those students enrolled in a single session earn approximately half credit.

MINI-SEMESTERS are offered in the winter and summer as specially organized programs. Duration is usually 2-3 weeks. Credits earned are commensurate with the criteria indicated above in "Credits Earned". Course usually indicated as *Judaic Research Seminar*.

TRANSCRIPTS AND TRANSFER CREDITS

Transcripts of course study, credits earned and grades and degrees are sent to colleges and universities throughout the world. Although many universities have traditionally accepted credits from Ohr Somayach, we cannot guarantee such acceptance and therefore assume no responsibility. (See “Fees and Application”)

Credit for course work in other institutions is accepted by Ohr Somayach. These credits may be included as part of the requirements for matriculation. Ohr Somayach reserves the right to decide to and from which institutions credits will be transferred.

Credits from other institutions must be sent sealed directly from that institution and authorized as an official transcript or degree.

GENERAL COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Requirements for the various courses are generally set by the instructor of the course. This includes verbal and/or written examinations and mid-term and final-term papers. These may be waived at the discretion of the instructor.

Full attendance is required for all courses unless otherwise specified. This includes classroom sessions, tutorials and supervised independent study.

SHORESH

Grades and Codes

A	Excellent
A-	Superior Achievement
B+	Very good
B	Good
C	Passing
F	Insufficient
W	Withdrew
AUD	Audit

Quality Points

A	4.0
A-	3.7
B+	3.3
B	3.0
B-	2.7
C	2.0
F	no credit earned

COURSE NUMBERS AND LETTER DESIGNATION OF COURSE TITLES

Generally 100s through 400s are undergraduate courses. Generally 500s through 600s are graduate courses. Exceptions are indicated alongside titles of area of study.

Following are the letter and number equivalents:

B - Bible

H - History

JL - Jewish Law

T - Talmud

L - Language

P - Philosophy

100s - First level courses

200s - Second level courses

300s - Third level courses

400s - Fourth level courses

500s - Graduate First level courses

600s - Graduate Second level courses

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Bible 104-105- Tutorial- 3 credits p/semester

Senior tutor under the supervision of an instructor guides the student through the Pentateuch in the original Hebrew texts, concentrating on translation into English. Secondary emphasis is placed on understanding Rashi's commentaries.

Bible 106-107- Philosophical Issues in Biblical Commentary- 3 credits p/semester

In-depth lectures on the major points of each weekly Torah portion. Emphasis on the views of major commentators and motivating the student to probe independently.

Bible 200-201- Pentateuch- Rashi and Other Medieval Commentaries- 3 credits p/semester

In-depth examination of the material covered in Bible 102 (see Ohr Somayach Course Catalog), plus coverage of the entire Pentateuch. Supplementary commentaries from the medieval period will be examined.

Bible 300-301- Pentateuch- Weekly Portion- Overview – 3 credits p/semester

The Pentateuch is analyzed with particular emphasis placed on the medieval and post-medieval commentaries covering the weekly portion.

Bible 304-305- Pentateuch- Post Medieval and Contemporary Commentaries- 2 credits p/semester

A study of selected portions of the Pentateuch as analyzed by the post-medieval and contemporary commentaries, with particular emphasis on modern relevance.

History 100- History of the Jewish People- Overview- 1 credit

Development of the Jewish people from Abraham to the present, with particular attention to the Temple periods, redaction of the Mishna and Talmud, the Holocaust and the formation of the State of Israel.

Jewish Law 104-105- Basic Laws of Sabbath and/or Kashruth (Dietary Laws)- 3 credits p/semester

Introduction to, and practical application of, the major literature dealing with Sabbath and/or kashruth observance. Focus on roots of the law of Sabbath and/or kashruth observance, definition of the 39 categories of activities forbidden on the Sabbath, and practical application, how kashruth laws are derived from the Pentateuch, and the difference between Divine and rabbinic injunctions. Emphasis on practical application of the laws.

Talmud 100-101- Mishnaic Texts- 3 credits p/semester

Various chapters of the Mishna in the original Hebrew text. Excerpts from the six basic orders which comprise the Mishna. Emphasis on translation, comprehension and relationship to the Babylonian Talmud.

Talmud 102-103- Introduction to Talmud (Oral Law) and Methodology- 4 credits p/semester

Overview of the Talmud. Instruction in basic Aramaic language and Talmudic analyses through examination of sections from tractate of the Babylonian Talmud.

Language 100- Fundamentals of Hebrew Language- 3 credits

Phonetic reading, basic Hebrew vocabulary and primary writing skills.

Language 101-102- Elementary Modern Hebrew- 3 credits p/semester

Speaking, reading and comprehension skills. Textbooks and newspapers designed for the novice are utilized. Prerequisite: Basic reading and vocabulary skills.

Philosophy 100-101- Introduction to Judaism- 3 credits p/semester

Exploration of the philosophical underpinnings of Judaism, deism, monotheism, free will, integration of the Written and Oral Law, immutability of Torah Law, Divine revelation and ethics.

Philosophy 102-103- Issues in Jewish Thought- 3 credits p/semester

Free will, miracles, male/female relationships, man/G-d and fellow-man, meditation, Chassidut, mysticism, Jew/Gentile relationships and good and evil.

Download an application form or apply online at

www.ohr.edu/shoresh

For more information please contact

shoresh@ohr.edu

toll-free in north america

1-800-431-2272

In Israel call

02-581-0315

SHORESH

For Jewish Men of All Backgrounds