



**YOU HAVE 525,600
MINUTES IN ISRAEL.**

HOW WILL YOU SPEND THEM?

TAKE 10 MINUTES NOW TO LEARN ABOUT

AMUDIM





LOOK BEYOND THE “WHAT” EXPLORE THE “WHYS” AND “HOWS”

In a world which allows for unprecedented encounters and exchange on a global scale, Amudim is a cutting-edge Shana ba-Aretz experience that opens exciting intellectual and spiritual horizons by offering:

- An innovative style which empowers each student to bring her own voice to Torah learning.
- Seamless harmonization of traditional and modern scholarship.
- A strong focus on methodology - a toolbox for lifelong independent Torah study.
- The Land of Israel itself as a Beit Midrash, with weekly classes taking place off-campus - at museums, Israeli colleges, Jerusalem sites, and more.
- Special weekly seminars which introduce students to the eclectic world of Jewish scholarship that exists exclusively in Israel.
- Honest conversation about essential and existential issues such as the existence of God and free will, the afterlife, problem of evil, composition of Torah texts, and interaction between Judaism and modern values.
- One-of-a-kind tiyulim, internships, and extracurriculars that bring our values to life.
- A warm thoughtful environment that inspires steadfast Shmirat ha-Mitzvot and love of Torah.

“The longer I’m at Amudim, the more I realize how much more there is to know. We use both sources and our own minds to draw conclusions. I came to Amudim knowing how to think, but here I’m learning how to think well.”

—Avigayil, Woodmere



A NEW APPROACH TO LEARNING

With the understanding that students today enter a classroom with much broader exposure to information and appetite for knowledge than they did even a decade ago, Amudim offers a new way of learning that speaks to modern expectations and sensibilities and ultimately leads to significant and sustainable growth in Torah. Amudim's approach is:

EXPANSIVE

Catering to the most inquiring minds, Amudim, in addition to traditional sederim and shiurim, offers out-of-the-box courses and activities led by world renowned scholars and artists, geared toward in-depth exploration of fundamental questions of religion and Torah and an appreciation for the thought processes and complex negotiations that have taken place within Jewish thought and culture throughout the ages.

EVIDENCE-BASED

Learning at Amudim is based on the premise that the Jewish religious experience begins and ends with text, and that all conclusions must be textually-justified. Utilizing classical sefarim, visual, audial and other types of texts, the process of interpretation stands at the core of how we learn. In this way, Amudim students are simultaneously empowered to advance their own understandings while situating themselves within the mesorah.

META

It is one thing to read a Rashi; it is another to read it in historical context, compare and contrast it to other texts, ascertain how the ideas in it unfolded over time, analyze authorial decisions and, in general, dialogue with it. Amudim's classes take a higher perspective, looking beyond the content of Jewish texts to processes: How do these texts work and how are they meant to be understood?

STUDENT-CENTERED

Amudim promotes independent thought and decision-making, asking students to interact personally with texts, even on tiyulim—constantly observing, summarizing, inferring, critiquing, questioning and challenging. Teachers are facilitators rather than knowledge-dispensers, and with an eye towards experiential learning, students are asked to engage in peer-review, intellectual exchange and team-teaching.





There is a lot of creativity to learning at Amudim, as students formulate their own interpretations, draw comparisons, apply theory and uncover meaning.

SAMPLE OF COURSES

SEDER AND SHIUR

Each day at Amudim is structured around traditional sedarim in Talmud, Tanakh, and Halakhah, during which time our Beit Midrash resonates with a kol Torah, as students study be-havruta in anticipation of an in-depth, analytical shiur.

THEORIES OF GOD

Does God exist? Is it epistemologically justified to believe that God exists? These questions are addressed through analyses of teleological, cosmological and ontological approaches to the existence of God. Examining Jewish and non-Jewish philosophical approaches to the topic, students are introduced to arguments based on evidence, the absence of evidence, practicality, rationality and faith.

SCIENCE AND RELIGION

Focusing on rabbinic responses to the theory of evolution, we ask what the fields of science and religion, both of which make claims regarding knowledge and experience, can tell us about truth.

HEBREW IMMERSION

As part of our commitment to strong textual learning and engagement with the larger Jewish world, Amudim offers classes that hone and advance students' Hebrew language skills, at both textual and conversational levels.

BODY, BEAUTY AND DRESS

In this class, we consider the halakhic, historical, psychological, social, political and legal ramifications of beauty and dress across cultures, and specifically within the Jewish context. Students articulate their own positions regarding dress.

INTRO TO KABBALAH

For millenia, the Jewish mystical tradition has been a highly guarded, orally transmitted body of esoteric knowledge. This course presents both an introduction to the principles of Jewish mysticism as they have developed over the centuries, as well as the way in which Kabbalah has entered into diverse forms of contemporary spirituality.

AMUDIM AND YESODOT

Learn how to learn. This class introduces the variegated devices and processes used today in the study of Tanakh, Talmud and Halakhah and that are available to the modern lamdanit, including the approaches of "lomdus," Nechama Leibowitz, "Torat Eretz Yisrael," academia and more.

JEWISH ETHICS

Together we explore: What is the relationship between religion and ethics? Does Judaism recognize an ethic beyond the Torah? How has a Jewish ethical attitude developed from Tanakh onward? How may we contend with halakhot that ostensibly conflict with our moral sensibilities?

JEWISH ART: THEORY AND PRACTICE

Aiming to both evaluate the concept of midrash and apply it creatively, this two-part course focuses on how midrash works and contains a hands-on component wherein students study proportions, anatomy, and the values of classical aesthetic in order to produce what we call "Visual Midrash".

PHILOSOPHY OF PRAYER

This special hour is devoted to reflecting upon big questions such as: What is the goal of tefilah? Do we expect to change God's mind with our prayers? What is the purpose of a standardized text for tefilah?



INNOVATION

With one foot firmly planted in the world of Torah and mitzvot, and the other in the dynamic and eclectic world of Jewish scholarship in Israel, each member of the Amudim faculty has a wealth of knowledge and experience and is uniquely poised to look at Torah from multiple angles, address big questions at the forefront of students' minds, press students to "think higher" and facilitate independent thought.

A WEEK AT AMUDIM

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
8-9 Tefillah & Breakfast	8-9 Tefillah & Breakfast	8-9 Tefillah & Breakfast	8-9 Tefillah & Breakfast	8-9 Tefillah & Breakfast
9-12 Gemara Seder & Shiur <i>(Rab. Balinsky & Rab. Zimmerman)</i>	9-12 Halakhah Seder & Shiur <i>(R. Nitzanim)</i>	9-12 Gemara Seder & Shiur <i>(Rab. Balinsky & Rab. Zimmerman)</i>	9-12 Tanakh Seder & Shiur <i>(Rab. Fischer)</i>	9-12 Gemara Seder & Shiur <i>(Rab. Balinsky & Rab. Zimmerman)</i>
12-1 Theories of God <i>(Dr. Goldstein)</i> Women in Judaism <i>(Rab. Zimmerman)</i>	12-1 Lunch & Break	12-1 Amudim & Yesodot <i>(Dr. Goldstein)</i> God's Guide to God <i>(Rab. Balinsky)</i>	12-12:40 Hiltz Atzamot: Krav Maga <i>(Coach Alexander)</i>	12-1 Akedah Through the Ages <i>(Dr. Goldstein)</i> Hassidut on the Parsha <i>(Rab. Balinsky)</i>
1-3 Lunch & Break	1-3 Torat Hayim A <ul style="list-style-type: none">Toldot YerushalayimJewish Cinematography & FilmmakingDrawing the Biblical PortraitDiscourses of Dress 1Museum Tanakh	1-3 Lunch & Break	12:40-1 Announcements	1-3 Lunch & Break
3-4 Intro to Aggadah: Talmudic Heroines, Part 1 <i>(G. Fine)</i>	3-5 Torat Hayim B <ul style="list-style-type: none">Toldot YerushalayimJewish Cinematography & FilmmakingIntro to MidrashDiscourses of Dress 2Museum Tanakh	3-3:30 Va'ad	1-5:30 Lunch & Internships	3-4:15 Midrash Agnon <i>(R. Saks)</i> Psychology & Tanakh <i>(Rab. Herzog)</i>
4-4:10 Minha		3:30-4:30 Phil. of R. Soloveitchik: Lonely Man of Faith <i>(R. Saks)</i> Sefer Mishlei <i>(B. Reich)</i>		4:15-4:30 Minha
4:10-5 Intro to Aggadah: Talmudic Heroines, Part 2 <i>(G. Fine)</i>		4:30-4:40 Minha		4:30-5:45 Pirkei Avot for Thinkers <i>(R. Goldstein)</i>
5-5:10 Break		4:40-6 Re-Reading Sefer Bereishit <i>(R. Dr. Harbater)</i>	5:30-5:40 Minha	5:45-6 Break
5:10-6:10 Modern Orthodox Thought <i>(R. Dr. Wexler)</i>	5-7 Torat Hayim C <ul style="list-style-type: none">Hands-On HebrewKinesthetic Kashrut	6-6:10 Break	5:40-7 Intro to Kabbalah <i>(R. Dr. Shore)</i> Religious Zionism <i>(R. Fine)</i>	6-7 Haburot <i>(R. Gopin & Bogrot)</i>
6:10-7 Build-A-Shiur/Ind. Research <i>(R. Yuter)</i>		6:10-7 Israel & the Middle East <i>(M. Lipman)</i> Spirituality & Torah Study <i>(R. Winter)</i>	7-8 Dinner	7-8 Dinner
7-8 Dinner		7-8 Dinner	8-10 The Amudim Seminar	8-9 Night Seder - Bekiut <i>(R. Metzger)</i>
8-9 Philosophy of Rav Kook <i>(R. Schwartz)</i> Night Seder	Optional Beit Midrash	8-9 Night Seder - Bekiut <i>(R. Metzger)</i>	Night Seder	9-10 Inyanei de-Yoma <i>(R. Metzger)</i> Night Seder
9-10 The Meaning of Shabbat <i>(R. Schwartz)</i> Night Seder		9-10 Inyanei de-Yoma <i>(R. Metzger)</i> Night Seder		10-11+ Mishmar



FACULTY AND STAFF



INSPIRATION

With love and care for their talmidot and the firm belief that every student deserves to live a life of profundity, Amudim teachers forge deep personal relationships, whether through formal and informal discussions or by having students over for Shabbat, guiding them to uncover their own sense of meaning within Torah and Judaism.



DR. JULIE GOLDSTEIN

Rosh HaMidrasha, Director

Dr. Julie Goldstein has over two decades of teaching experience at both the high school and college level. She received an MA in Jewish Philosophy at YU, a joint PHD in medieval history and Judaic Studies at NYU, and has won numerous awards and fellowships for her scholarship and teaching. She lives in Beit Shemesh with her husband and five children.



BRIE REICH

Director of Student Life

Brie Reich brings over a decade and a half of Jewish educational experience to her work at Amudim. Her work includes teaching on Michtele NCSY, kallah education, coordinating local youth programming, and working as a rakezet and teacher at Tiferet. She lives in Beit Shemesh with her family.



RABBANIT LEORA BALINSKY

Ra"m, Mashgiha Ruhanit

Leora Balinsky-Glauber is an alumna of Barnard College, Migdal Oz, the Drisha Summer Kollel, and the Center for Modern Torah Leadership's Summer Beit Midrash. She is pursuing an MSW from Tel Aviv University, and is a certified kallah teacher from the Eden Center. She lives with her husband and son in Rehavia.



R. URI GOLDSTEIN

Rav HaMidrasha

In addition to his role at Amudim, R. Uri Goldstein is the director of the overseas program at Yeshivat Hakotel. He received semikha from YU and was rabbi in Fair Lawn, NJ while also teaching at Frisch and Ma'ayanot high schools. Along with Dr. Goldstein, R. Goldstein founded the Jewish Learning Initiative on Campus at UCLA. The Goldsteins live with their children in Beit Shemesh.

TORAT HAYIM

Mini courses that combine hands-on experiences with thoughtful, intellectual, and spiritual exploration.

Jerusalem History
In-Situ



R. JEFF SCHRAGER
Tour Guide and Teacher

Museum
Tanakh



BIBLE LANDS
MUSEUM

Safrut:
The Scribal Arts



R. DOV LAIMON
Sofer St"am, Pardes

Jewish Filmmaking
and Cinematography



MAALEH FILM
SCHOOL

The Jewish Biblical
Portrait: Fine Art



EFRAT SHANI
Rinascimento Studio

Creative Writing
Workshop



RACHEL SHARANSKY
DANZIGER
Matan



RABBANIT SHIRA ZIMMERMAN
Gemara Ra"m



RABBANIT PESHA FISCHER
Tanakh Morning Seder



R. MATTHEW NITZANIM
Halakha Morning Seder



R. CHAIM METZGER
Night Seder Rav



NEDIVA BUECHLER
Menahelit



RIVI FRANKEL
Rosh Tiyulim



RIVKA GOPIN
Coordinator of
Campus Life



ORNA ALEXANDER



R. DAVID FINE



GILA FINE



R. DR. DAVID HARBATER



RABBANIT LEAH HERZOG



R. YONATAN ROSENSWIG



R. JEFFREY SAKS



NAOMI SCHRAGER



R. ARI ZE'EV SCHWARTZ



R. DR. ELIEZER SHORE



R. DR. AHARON WEXLER



R. ARI WINTER



R. JOSH YUTER

THE AMUDIM SEMINAR

A weekly encounter with creative and dynamic thinkers from the incomparable world of Jewish intellectual life in Israel. Presenters have included:



ILANA KURSHAN
Author, *If All the Seas Were Ink*



R. DR. JOSHUA BERMAN
Bible Department,
Bar-Ilan University



R. PROF. JEFFREY WOLF
Bar Ilan University



R. YOSEF HADANE
Chief Rabbi,
Ethiopian-Israeli
Community



SIVAN RAHAV MEIR
Israeli Journalist and
Lecturer



R. YOSEF ZVI RIMON
World-Renowned
Posek and Author

INDIVIDUALITY

Our students' most important asset is...
Themselves! At Amudim, diversity is celebrated as students carve their own paths, make Torah their own and pursue interests outside the classroom.



INTERNSHIPS AND HITNADVUT

Each week, our students are paired with a professional who is making a difference in Israeli society and working in fields of interest to them. Taking time for Jewish communal service or to contribute to Israeli society puts the knowledge, skills and values acquired at Amudim in dialogue with the world outside of its walls.



HILUTZ ATZAMOT

Fostering healthy mind, body and spirit, weekly Hiltz Atzamot sessions take you out of the Beit Midrash and into the great outdoors, offering boot camps and classes in Krav Maga and boxing. "Think Higher" and work to your potential in every aspect of the Amudim experience!

THEME WEEKS

Throughout the year, Amudim devotes specific weeks to discussion and examination of challenging contemporary issues such as rabbinic authority, one versus multiple truths, gender and sexuality, women's leadership, and Israel and aliyah.



INTROSPECTION

Amudim's mission to nurture a Torah personality is geared toward helping each student internalize and process what she is learning and understand how it can be incorporated into her life.

SHABBATOT AND HAGIM THE WAY THEY WERE MEANT TO BE

At Amudim, many of the hagim—Yom Kippur, Simhat Torah, Hanukah, Purim, Yom Ha'atzmaut, Yom Yerushalayim, and Shavuot—are celebrated together, allowing students to experience beauty, flavor and intensity of hag in Israel while being joined by teachers who deliver special shiurim, participate in panel discussions or lead student-centered activities and hagigot throughout the day.

Three different types of Shabbat schedules allow students to make the most out of Shabbat in Israel.

- **IN SHABBATOT:** Once every 3-4 weeks, the entire midrasha spends Shabbat together in Jerusalem.
- **OUT SHABBATOT:** "Free" Shabbatot where students are encouraged to visit friends and relatives or explore new places in Israel for Shabbat and to recharge their batteries.
- **SHABBATONIM:** The entire midrasha spends Shabbat together in locations throughout Israel, encountering and interacting with people from walks of life other than our own.



CAMPUS

Our Beit Midrash, library, classrooms, and eating areas are located in a charming, vintage home with an authentically Jerusalem feel and a large private outdoor space, nestled among trees, parks, and many local attractions in the German Colony/Katamon area. Our neighborhood is renowned as a dynamic and vibrant center of Jewish life and learning, and with the Old City within walking distance, easy access to other locations where Amudim classes are held, internship locations and other hotspots, Amudim students have the opportunity to be part of life in modern Jerusalem.



DORM APARTMENTS

Instead of common dorm life, students are provided a home to live in all year round. With staff on premises, students live in beautifully furnished apartments with dining and living rooms, outdoor space and a kitchen, even though the Midrasha provides 3 meals a day.

Sharing a home and experiences of daily living, students form deep bonds with each other. At the end of a day, students can unwind with a ride on one of our bikes, or on the couch with friends, playing games or sharing a cup of tea or a laugh.

Students feel that they have a home during breaks, at night and on Shabbat. Having a home in Israel rather than a bunk in a dorm gives our students a sense of belonging and security.

LOCAL ATTRACTIONS:

- The Old City
- First Station
- Emek Refaim
- Beautiful Parks
- Bike Paths
- Cultural Centers
- PM's and President's Houses
- Museums and Libraries
- Top Medical Facilities
- And more...



EVERY APARTMENT HAS:

- Living Room, Bedrooms
- Outdoor Space
- Dining Room
- Kitchen
- Air-Conditioning
- Refrigerator and Microwave
- Laundry Machines
- Bicycles
- A Sukkah



Amudim inspires students to value the Land of Israel's spiritual dimensions, the roles it plays in Jewish history and Jewish identity, and to truly experience contemporary life in Israel.

UNFORGETTABLE TIYULIM

Tiyulim at Amudim take students across the length and width of Israel and are well-orchestrated so that students get the most fun, excitement, exhilaration and meaning out of every step they take.

From the desert and beaches of Eilat to the lush mountains of the Golan to the subterranean archives at The Hebrew University, our Tiyulim are designed to provoke discussion of:

- The religious significance of the Land of Israel and the physical connection to our homeland.
- The role of sacrifice in Jewish texts and within our contemporary experience.
- Nature, beauty, science and religion.
- How historical conditions impact Jewish thought---past and present.
- Jewish sects and denominations and living in a fractured world.
- Ancient texts and their transmission through the ages.
- Politics, military service and Israel advocacy.

There is nothing like a tiyul ba-Aretz!





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