



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

HOW WILL YOU SPEND THEM?

TAKE 10 MINUTES NOW TO LEARN ABOUT

**AMUDIM**





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

In a world with 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, empowering each student to bring her own voice to Torah learning
- Seamless harmonization of traditional and modern scholarship
- A derekh ha-limmud, the necessary toolbox for lifelong independent Torah study
- The Land of Israel itself as a Beit Midrash, with classes regularly taking place off-campus— at the Bible Lands Museum, Bar-Ilan campus, National Library and in the Old City
- Weekly seminars with leading representatives of the Jewish intelligentsia in Israel
- Honest conversation about essential issues, such as:
  - The Existence of God • Free Will • The Afterlife • Evil and Suffering
  - Rabbinic Authority • Judaism and Postmodernity
- One-of-a-kind tiyulim, internships, and extracurriculars that bring the values of Amudim into real life
- A warm thoughtful environment that inspires steadfast Shmirat ha-Mitzvot and love of Torah



חֲכָמוֹת בְּנֵתָה בֵּיתָה חֲצֵבָה עֲמוּדֵיָה שְׁבָעָה

LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR 7 PILLARS





Explore Jewish ideas with nuance, depth and intellectual honesty.

## 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 sedarim 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, auidal 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

### MORNING SEDER

Each day at Amudim begins with traditional morning seder in Tanakh, Talmud and Halakhah, during which time our Beit Midrash resonates with a kol Torah, as students study be-havruta in preparation for an in-depth shiur.

### JERUSALEM MONDAYS

Jerusalem serves as the backdrop for all Monday afternoon classes, the centerpiece of which is "Tanakh at the Bible Lands Museum." Additional classes in Hassidut, Hebrew literature, Jewish history and Safrut are held at the museum, National Library of Israel and in the Old City.

### THEORIES OF GOD

Does God exist? Is it epistemologically justified to believe that God exists? These two questions are addressed in this class 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.

### THE MIDRASHA AT BAR-ILAN

One day each week, we study in the largest Beit Midrash for women in the world, where leading scholars and rabbis blend traditional Talmud Torah with modern scholarship.

### BODY, BEAUTY, GENDER AND DRESS

What does it mean to be beautiful and who determines it? What or who determines how people dress? In this class, we consider the 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.

### 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 "Iomdus," Nechama Leibowitz, "Torat Eretz Yisrael," academia and more.

### BUILD-A-SHIUR WORKSHOP

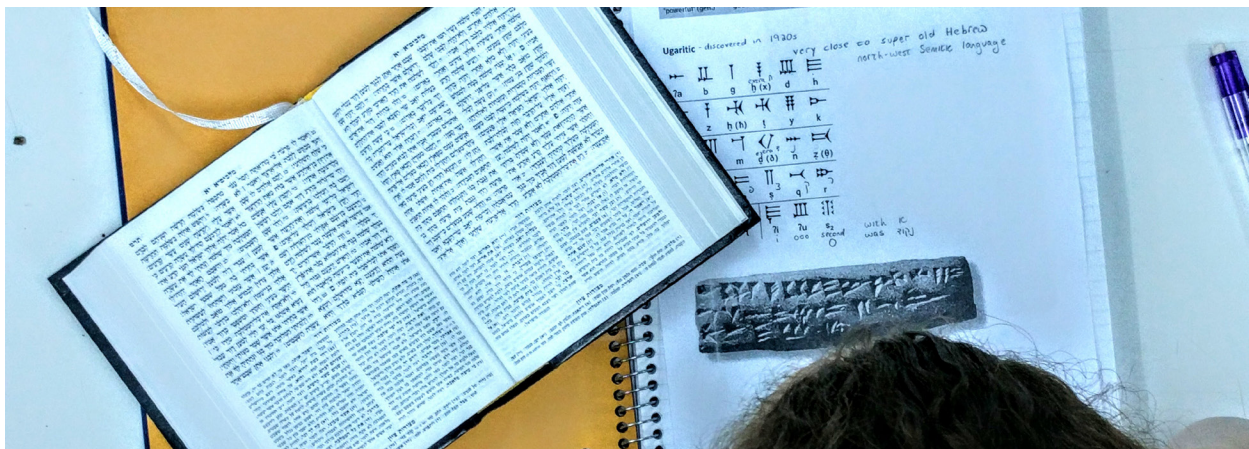
With an eye towards empowering students to deliver shiurim themselves, this night seder workshop focuses on the anatomy of a shiur, how mekorot work together to illuminate a subject, the research process and shiur-building and delivery.

### GEMARA FOR THINKERS

A companion to our course "Thinking for Gemara," this class trains students to uncover the universal tools of logic embedded in the Gemara's rhetoric, analyses and dialectics. Students come to understand the Gemara's methodology, learn how to ask the correct questions, organize the various arguments, derive a sevara, and ultimately approach any area of knowledge in an intelligent manner.

### WEEK-IN-REVIEW

This special hour is geared toward reflection upon texts, concepts, arguments, and ideas that students have encountered over the course of their week at Amudim. This time allows students to consider and articulate which ideas spoke to them, their personal positions on matters, and how the disparate aspects of their learning fit into the larger tapestry of their intellectual and spiritual Jewish identities.





# A WEEK AT AMUDIM

|            | SUNDAY                                       |             | MONDAY  |  | TUESDAY                |                       | WEDNESDAY   |                           | THURSDAY  |  |
|------------|--|-------------|---|--|------------------------|-----------------------|---|---------------------------|---|--|
| 9:00-10:00 | Amudim & Yesodot                             | 9:00-9:30   | Va'ad   | 9:00-10:15   | Theories of God        | 9:00-11:00            | Halakhah Seder and Shiur OR Intellectual Jewish History | 9:00-9:45                 | Read This!<br><i>A Collection of Must-Reads</i> |  |
| 10:00-1:00 | Gemara Seder and Shiur                       | 9:30-11:30  | Halakhah Seder and Shiur OR Intellectual Jewish History |  |                        | 11:00-12:00           | Hasa'a To Bar-Ilan                                      | 9:45-11:45                | Gemara Seder and Shiur                          |  |
| 1:00-3:00  | LUNCH & BREAK                                | 11:30-12:30 | LUNCH   | 10:15-10:30  | BREAK                  | 12:00-4:00            | The Midrashta at Bar Ilan                               | 11:45-12:30               | Hilutz Atzamot                                  |  |
| 3:00-4:15  | Tanakh Seder OR Malbim on Shir HaShirim      | 12:30-1:15  | Hasa'a to Jerusalem                                     | 10:30-1:30   | Gemara Seder and Shiur |                       |   | 12:30-2:30                | LUNCH & BREAK                                   |  |
| 4:15-4:30  | MINḤA  | 1:15-2:30   | Texts in Context: Tanakh at the Museum                  | 1:30   | LUNCH                  |                       |   | 2:30-3:00                 | Sihah   |  |
| 4:30-5:45  | Halakhic Methodology OR Nahmanidean Exegesis | 2:30-3:45   | Museum Track<br>Intro to Hasidic Thought                | Library Track<br>2:30-3:00<br>Walk to National Library | 1:30-7:00              |                       |   | Internships and Hitnadvut | 3:00-4:15                                       | Tanakh Beit Midrash                          |
| 5:45-7:00  | Logic OR History of the Siddur               | 3:45-4:00   | BREAK   | 3:00-4:00<br>Jewish-Christian Polemics                 | 7:00-8:00              |                       |   | DINNER                    | 4:00-5:30                                       | History of Halakhah                          |
| 7:00-8:00  | DINNER                                       | 4:00-5:00   | Body, Beauty, Gender & Dress                            | 4:00-4:15<br>BREAK                                     | 8:00-9:00              | Israel & the Mid-East | 5:30-6:30   | Hasa'a to Modi'in         | 4:30-5:30                                       | Maimonidean Thought                          |
| 8:00-9:00  | Homiletics & Hermeneutics OR Hilkhot Shabbat | 5:00-5:30   | Walk to Library   | 4:15-5:30<br>Midrash Agnon                             | 9:00-10:00             | Night Seder           | 6:30-8:00   | DINNER                    | 5:30-5:45                                       | BREAK  |
| 9:00-10:00 | Night Seder                                  | 5:30-5:40   | MINḤA   |  |                        |                       | 6:30-8:00   | DINNER                    | 5:45-7:00                                       | Contemporary Halakhah OR Tanakh for Thinkers |
|            |  | 5:40-6:45   | Safrut  |  |                        |                       | 8:00-10:00  | Amudim Seminar & Learning | 7:00-8:00                                       | DINNER                                       |
|            |  | 6:45-7:30   | Optional Hasa'a   |  |                        |                       | 8:00-10:00  |                           | 8:00-10:00                                      | Shiur Klali & Night Seder                    |





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.

## FACULTY AND STAFF



**DR. JULIE GOLDSTEIN**  
Rosh HaMidrasha, Director

Dr. Julie Goldstein's teaching experience includes NYU, Ma'ayanot High School, JLIC at UCLA, and nearly two decades of Jewish communal and adult education lectures. Dr. Goldstein received an MA in Jewish philosophy at YU and a joint PhD in medieval history and Judaic Studies at NYU. In 2013-14, she was a Golda Meir postdoctoral fellow at The Hebrew University and a research fellow at The Global Research Institute at Tel Aviv University. Dr. Goldstein has received a number of awards, including fellowships from Cardozo's Center for Jewish Law and Civilization and The Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture. She lives in Beit Shemesh with her husband, Rabbi Uri Goldstein, and five children.



**RABBI DARRELL GINSBERG**  
Director

Rabbi Darrell Ginsberg is the Rosh Yeshiva of Yeshivat Migdal HaTorah. After attending Columbia University, Yeshiva University and the joint DMD-MBA program at Nova Southeastern, he was Chief Resident at NY Presbyterian. He received his semikhah from Yeshivat Bnei Torah, was magid shiur at Yeshiva Gedola of West Hempstead, rebbe at Rambam Mesivta, and is a primary contributor to Ner Maaravi, a widely read weekly compendium of divrei Torah. In addition to his shiurim in Migdal, Rabbi Ginsberg delivers popular shiurim for adults throughout Israel, including the women's beit midrash program of Modi'in. Additionally he maintains a limited practice in dentistry.



**RABBI JONATHAN DUKER**  
Mashgiah Ruhani & Director of Special Programming

Rabbi Jonathan Duker earned his BA and MA in Jewish History from YU and received his rabbinical ordination from Rabbi Zalman Nehemia Goldberg and Yeshivat Chovevei Torah. He is a lecturer of Jewish Thought and Talmud for Matan in Beit Shemesh and the author of *The Spirits Behind the Law: The Talmudic Scholars* (Urim Publications). Rabbi Duker lives in Beit Shemesh with his wife Susan and their four children.



**RUTH HASIN**  
Menahalet

Ruth Hasin is completing her B.Ed at Herzog College, specializing in Jewish Philosophy and Torah Sheba'al Peh. Ruth grew up in Hashmonaim, studied for two years at Migdal Oz and served for two years in the IDF Spokesperson's Unit. She is a graduate of the prestigious LEAD leadership-training program in Israel, and served for two years as the coordinator of the Midreshet Afikim summer program at Nishmat. Ruth brings her rich experience in informal education with young and teenage girls to help create a comfortable and supportive environment of Torah learning for the women at Amudim.



**CHANNAH  
LOCKSHIN BOB**  
Ra"m  
Judaica Collection, The  
National Library of Israel



**R. AARON BUECHLER**  
Sha'alvim Semikha  
Kollel, Sha'alvim Na'aleh  
Program



**TOVA EASTMAN**  
Founder, Ignite  
Fitness for Women



**DR. HANNAH  
HASHKES**  
Fellow, Susi Bradfield  
Women's Institute for  
Halakhic Leadership



**RACHEL HERSHBERG**  
Eshkolot Fellow, Matan



**LEAH HERZOG**  
Shoelet u-Meishiva,  
Coordinator of Tanakh  
Beit Midrash, Formerly  
Ma'ayanot High School



**R. DOV LAIMON**  
Sofer St'am and Teacher  
of Scribal Arts, Pardes



**MATTHEW LIPMAN**  
Jerusalem U



**R. PROF. MARTIN  
LOCKSHIN**  
Prof. Emeritus at  
York University



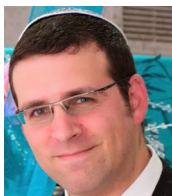
**AVRAHAM POUPKO**  
Lead Software Architect,  
Synamedia;  
Popular Torah Teacher



**SHARON RA'ANAN**  
Matan



**RAB. DR. JENNIE  
ROSENFELD**  
Spiritual Leader Ohr Torah  
Stone, Efrat



**R. YONATAN  
ROSENSWEIG**  
Rav, Kehillat Netzach  
Menashe, Ra"m,  
Midreshet Lindenbaum



**R. JEFFREY SAKS**  
Founder of ATID,  
Editor of *Tradition*



**NAOMI SCHRAGER**  
Ra"m, Educational  
Director at Lookstein



**SARAH SHARMAN-  
MOSER**  
Yoetzet Halakhah,  
Matan Eshkolot Alum



**R. DR. ELIEZER SHORE**  
The Hebrew University



**KELILA SLONIM**  
Student Life Coordinator,  
Matan Eshkolot Alum



**SHONNY SOLOW**  
Former Dean  
of Machon Gold



**AVIVA STERMAN**  
Yoetzet Halakhah



**R. PROF. JEFFREY  
WOOLF**  
Bar Ilan University



**R. JOSHUA YUTER**  
Applications Developer,  
Former Rabbi of Stanton  
St. Shul



**R. JONATHAN ZIRING**  
Ra"m at Yeshivat Migdal  
HaTorah

## THE AMUDIM SEMINAR

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



**RAB. RACHELI  
FRANKEL**  
Director of the Hilkhata  
Institute, Matan



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



**R. DR. YOEL  
FINKELMAN**  
Curator, Judaica  
Collection in the  
National Library



**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.



## SAFRUT SEMINAR

In what is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, our students study the halakhot and art of safrut with a professional sofer Stam.

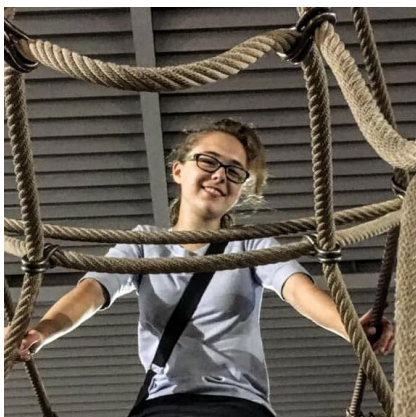


## CHILUTZ ATZAMOT

Fostering healthy mind, body and spirit, weekly Chilutz Atzamot sessions take you out of the Beit Midrash and into the gym, offering boot camps and classes in Zumba, HIIT (High Intensity Interval Training) and other combinations of exercise. "Think Higher" and work to your potential in every aspect of the Amudim experience!

## 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.



"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

"We spend our days doing 'frum academia,' exploring literally any topic and ultimately the world with a Jewish lens—through Gemara, Tanakh, philosophy, logic, art, history, literature—and whatever we can pull out of the encyclopedic brains of our teachers. I finally feel like I'm becoming a well-rounded person."

—Zoie, Atlanta



## INTROSPECTION

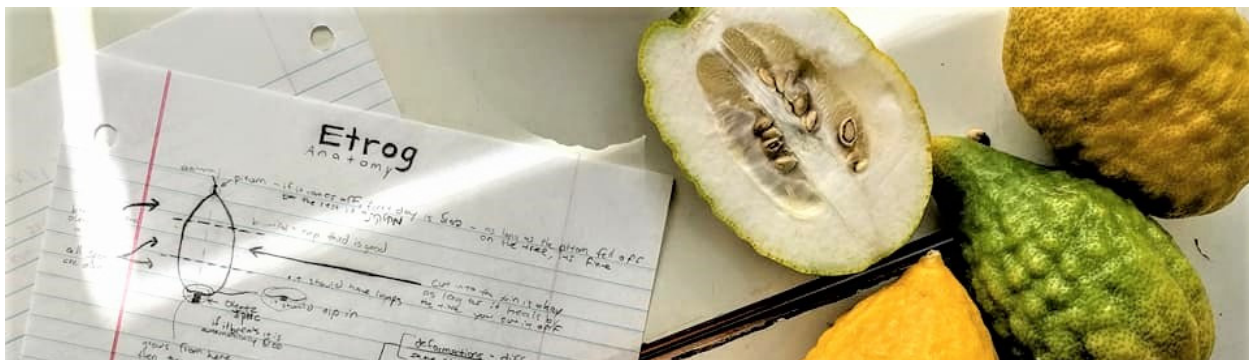
Amudim's mission to teach a Torat Chayim and nurture a Torah personality is geared at helping each student internalize and process what she is learning and understand how it can be incorporated into her life.

## SHABBATOT AND HAGIM THE WAY THEY WERE MEANT TO BE

At Amudim, many of the hagim— Rosh Hashana, 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 Rabbeim and 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 get the most out of Shabbat in Israel as well.

- IN SHABBATOT: Once every three weeks, the entire midrasha spends Shabbat together in Modi'in.
- 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 cities throughout Israel, encountering and interacting with people from walks of life other than our own.





The Amudim experience fosters healthy mind, body and spirit, providing opportunities for exploration, recreation, and physical fitness.

## CAMPUS

Modi'in is one of the fastest growing and beautiful cities in Israel today. Over the course of the last two decades, Modi'in has grown into a major modern metropolis, boasting a large diverse population (including a significant English-speaking contingent), wide array of retail businesses, a major mall, movie-theater, kosher restaurants, fitness centers, entertainment and medical facilities.



### MODI'IN AMENITIES:

- 24 Hour City Security
- Parks
- Malls and Movie Theaters
- Kosher Restaurants
- Top Medical Facilities
- Sports Facilities
- Pools, Gyms, Tennis
- Public Transportation
- 15 miles from Jerusalem
- 15 miles from Tel Aviv



## 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, spacious bedrooms, outdoor space and a kitchen, even though all meals are provided by our private gourmet chef.

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.



### EVERY APARTMENT HAS:

- Living Rooms
- Bedrooms
- Balconies
- Dining Rooms
- Full Kitchen
- Air-Conditioning
- Refrigerator and Microwave
- Laundry Machines
- High-Speed WIFI
- Computers





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!







# AMUDIM

## THINK HIGHER

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