

NHC 2019 Course Proposal Submission Form

Submission Date	2018-12-26 23:50:29
Applicant #1 Full Name	
E-mail	
Preferred Phone Number	
Alternate Phone Number	
Address	
How many times have you attended the NHC Summer Institute?	10 or more times
Please provide a brief bio and description of your teaching style (intended for the Course Committee). If you have taught at the NHC or other retreats or events before, tell us what you most recently taught, where, and when, as well as what you took from the experience.	My teaching style is highly interactive, hevruta based, welcoming and warm. I taught at an Institute for the first time in 1983, co teaching with my spouse on "Nice Jewish Families"; most recently in 2016 on the relationship between Rachel and Leah around the wedding bed, and the uses of deception; in between I have taught about the midrash on the Song of the Sea; American Jewish demography; the Jacob cycle, understandings of Divine-human encounters in Tanach; and more. I am an amateur of Jewish texts, in the old sense of loving them and wanting to share that love with others. What I have taken away each time I have taught is how much Institute participants have to teach and learn from each other!
Please provide a brief bio (50-100 words) that will appear on the NHC website if your course is offered.	I am a retired academic - social psychology, group dynamics, Jewish demography and communal institutions; and I love Jewish learning of all sorts. I'm a long time NHC member and past chair of its board and have been coming to the Institute since 1983. I have lived in Newton MA since 1971 and helped co-found the Newton Center Minyan. I sing in Koleinu, Boston's non-audition Jewish community chorus; love to cook, bake, have Shabbat company, and help people connect with each other. Mother to four, grandmother to nine, and now, a great-grandmother (!).Most recently, I have begun serving as a spiritual director for rabbinical students at the Hebrew College.
Are you applying to present this course with another teacher?	No
Course Title	SING UNTO THE LORD: The Book of Psalms in Jewish History and Experience

Course overview (intended for the course committee)

The course will be highly interactive, combining text study (in Hebrew with multiple translations), hevruta study, discussion, and music. We will begin with a brief overview of the structure of the Book, some of its history, and its uses in our liturgy (with reference to other traditions scattered in several sessions). Most of our time will be devoted to specific psalms, using comparative literary analysis, music, (with gratitude for YouTube), study of their liturgical uses (I have a great YouTube recording of Psalm 114 which alternates Gregorian chant of the Latin with a very old Hebrew version) and related tools. The goals will be deepening our understanding of their poetry and increasing their availability to us as spiritual resources. I will invite participants to bring (and send us links to) musical settings they know.

Course description (100-200 words, to appear on the NHC website if your course is selected)

Sefer Tehillim, the Book of Psalms, is the longest book in Ketuvim, the third section of the Tanach, and possibly the most widely quoted and known. Its poetry offers prayer, praise, comfort, pleas for help, descriptions of holy experience, scripts for ceremonial occasions, even theology. Nearly a third of the psalms are used in their totality in our liturgy and another third are quoted in fragments; many Christian denominations use them in their liturgies as well. After a brief introduction to the book's structure and historical uses (did you know there are 5 books in it, corresponding to the 5 books of Torah?), we will dive into a selection of texts to deepen our understanding and appreciation of this treasure trove of religious possibilities. We will read them in the original with the help of a variety of English translations, hear musical settings for some, sing several that will be familiar from our davvening. and consider the ways this book can enrich our own spiritual lives.

Course Categories

Religious Life and Spirituality
Intermediate Text Study

Additional Information (prerequisites, books or materials to bring, materials fee, etc.)

Ability to follow a Hebrew text with the help of a translation
Bring a Tanach

Format

Regular course (Four 1.5 hour sessions)

Scheduling Preference

Afternoon

Which type of classroom layout would you prefer?

A room with desks and/or tables

Please list any other space requirements. We will do our best to accommodate all requests, but we appreciate your flexibility.

Apparatus for playing music from my computer

SESSION 1

Introduction to the Book of Psalms. How many, how they are divided up, what we know about when were they used and compiled.
The genres: wonder, awe and praise; seeking comfort or protection; yearning for the experience of God's presence; God in personal and communal history. With class participation, compiling the list of their use in liturgy (Shacharit, Kabbalat Shabbat, Hallel, returning the Torah to the ark, etc.) If time permits: Do they have any favorites (discussion)?

SESSION 2

The final six (145-150) with special attention to Ashrei and Hallelulya. Origin of the practice of recitation of this set from the Talmud. The movement from personal to communal to all of nature. Ashrei as the Psalm per excellence -so the Talmud suggests its daily recitation - and then a look at the other alphabetical psalms. Singing several musical versions of 150.

SESSION 3

Focus on Psalm 29 "Havu Ladonai", sung as the Torah is returned to the ark on Shabbat and Hagim. A magnificent invocation of the duty of all creatures, earthly and heavenly, to acknowledge God's power and majesty, as manifest in nature: earthquakes, floods, storms, eternally. Humans as directing the heavenly chorus - a prelude to our Kedusha. Other psalms that use this trope.

SESSION 4

One of the seeking-God or seeking-comfort Psalms. I am still looking for good musical settings. Possibilities include Ps 42 ("As a deer seeks water..."), Ps.27 ("The Lord is my Light"), Ps 23 ("The Lord is my shepherd") Students will be asked, as prior homework, to pick any Psalm that speaks to them, and to bring it into class. Sharing in small groups; discussion of the possibilities of Psalms for their own spiritual practice.

Would you like this course to include some form of a presentation or performance to the Institute community?

No

Please provide any other information that you think we should have when considering this proposal. (This may include links to blogs or web sites, videos, reviews, music, images) or other resources about you or that you feel would assist the committee in making its decision. You may also send additional documents or files to courses@havurah.org. Please reference this application in your message.

Here is the link to the Zamir recording of Btzet Yisrael MiMitzraim which partly inspired my study of the Psalms

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GwVXo5lzBwc>