HIST 419C/JWST 469
Readings in Rabbinic Hebrew: The History and Development of the Liturgy

Requirements and Assignments

1. Attendance and participation: You are expected to attend every class prepared to read, translate and discuss the assigned material. (10%)

2. Two in-class translation tests based on material read for class. Tests will include text(s) to translate, and may include questions about grammar and vocabulary. (30% each, 60% total)

3. One ten-page paper. Paper can take one of two forms: (1) Annotated translation (effectively a commentary on a text you've translated dealing with translation issues, textual matters if relevant, and interpretive issues). (2) Research paper on a topic chosen in consultation with me. In both cases the paper should include a translation of a text of approximately 300 words (if you are doing a research paper, you may choose up to two texts totalling 300 words). (30%)

Suggested paper topics:
- Birkat ha-minim
- Qedushah, history and development
- Origins of synagogues
- Piyyut and the prose liturgy
- Piyyut and rabbinic sources
- Differences between Babylonian and Palestinian practice in liturgy
- Second-Temple period roots of rabbinic liturgy
- Liturgy and ancient Jewish mysticism (Hekhalot, Merkavah)

Select English Bibliography

Select Electronic Resources
http://kodesh.snut.k12.il/ Seachable rabbinic texts.
http://jnul.huji.ac.il/dl/talmud/ Talmud manuscripts. Many are available in facsimile in our Library.
Sol and Evelyn Henkind Talmud Text Databank (CD, in our Library)
Bar Ilan Judaic Library 11 (Talmud and Rabbinics, Responsa, Enziklopedia Talmudit) (CD, in our Library)
Readings

1. Text of the Liturgy: Shema and Blessing (morning, evening), Tefillah

2. Mishnah and Prayers
   (1) m. Berakhot 1–5, 9:5
       m. Rosh Hashanah 4:5–7
       m. Ta‘anit 2:1–5
   (2) m. Megillah 1:1–3, 2:1–5; 4:3–4
   (3) m. Yoma 7:1
       m. Tamid 5:1

3. Historical Background of Shema and Blessings?
   (1) Second Temple times?
       Josephus, Antiquities, 4.212–213
   (2) at night
       m. Berakhot 1:5, 2:2 (review)
       t. Berakhot 2:1
       y. Berakhot 1, 3d
       b. Berakhot 14b

4. Historical Background and Development of Tefillah?
   Ben Sira (Hebrew text), 51:1–35
   Apostolic Constitutions (Christian text, Greek), 7.33–38
   y. Berakhot 2, 4d–5a
   b. Berakhot 34a

5. ברכת התニー
   (1) Text from: Y. Luger, *ה深いות הנשמות לשלום על פי נognito התニー* (Jerusalem: Orhot, 2001)
   (2) Origins and issues:
       t. Berakhot 3:25
       b. Berakhot 28b–29a
       y. Berakhot 4, 8a
       y. Berakhot 5, 9c
       Justin, *Dialogue with Trypho*, 16.4, 47.4, 96.2

6. קדושה
   t. Berakhot 1:9
   y. Berakhot 5, 9c
   b. Berakhot 21a
   Pirqe R. Eliezer 4:1
   Masssekheth Soferim 16:12
Pirqoi b. Baboi, ed. Ginzberg, 555–556


7. פיוט: Aspects and Examples of Early Development

ספר המנהיג ל''אברכים ברבי נו''ן הירון''א'' מסמך מסמה
משה ישמח (with objections of אשכנז חכמי
Mishnah Yoma and קול באין אז''א
Station: Penn State Press, 2005.)