Course Description

It is a common assumption that halakhah delineates the legal arena of rabbinic literature, while the term aggadah encompasses theology, folklore and literature. This course problematizes this assumption by examining the relationships between law and narrative in rabbinic literature. We will read several talmudic stories closely and examine the relationship between the narrative and its legal context, demonstrating how this interweaving sheds new light on both law and story. Prerequisite: familiarity with rabbinic sources and ability to read Hebrew (all sources will be supplied in the original and in translation to English).

Course Goals

Understand the intersection of law and narrative in the Talmud.
Engage in close readings of Talmudic stories.

Grading

100% final exam.

Reading List

Will be published on the first day of class.