



MAIMONIDES SCHOLARS PROGRAM at YALE UNIVERSITY

June 24 - July 8, 2018



MAIMONIDES FUND



A Jewish Summer at Yale

Who Should Apply? Current high school juniors and seniors at public and private schools

Location: Yale University

Program Dates: June 24 – July 8, 2018

Application Deadline: February 16, 2018



The Jewish Summer I Never Had

Dear Friend,

The Tikvah Fund has launched many new educational programs over the years, but none that resonate as personally for me as the new Maimonides Scholars Program. When I was 17, I knew almost nothing about Judaism. Education meant everything in our family, but our Jewish education was weak. I studied diligently for my Bar Mitzvah, but never grappled seriously with the texts, traditions, and exceptionalism of Jewish civilization. I was interested in ideas—philosophy, politics, economics, even theology—but I never knew that Judaism had enduring wisdom to offer on the good life and the good society. In short: I was the high school student back then that the Maimonides Scholars Program aims to reach today.



Based at Yale University, the Maimonides Scholars Program is an intensive, two-week intellectual and Jewish experience in late June and early July of summer 2018. Built around a series of seminars and conversations, the major topics will range from Jewish thought to political philosophy, from the spirit of American democracy to the meaning of Zionism, from current political debates to enduring moral problems. Our teachers and professors come from some of the great universities and think tanks in the world, and our students will form Jewish friendships that last a lifetime.

This is a remarkable opportunity. We hope you—or your son or daughter—will apply.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric Cohen".

Eric Cohen
Executive Director
The Tikvah Fund

All-Star Speakers and Faculty

Meet some of the most impressive Jewish leaders in the world.



Daniel Gordis

Defender of Israel. Author of the most important history of the Jewish State in a generation. An American rabbi who made Zionism his life's cause.



Rachel Sabath Beit-Halachmi

Rabbi and Ph.D. in philosophy. Published author and regular *Jerusalem Post* columnist. World-renowned Jewish educator.



Dara Horn

World-renowned, award-winning Jewish novelist. Harvard Ph.D. in Jewish literature. One of the most creative female voices in Jewish life today.



Danny Danon

Israel's ambassador to the United Nations. Former Member of Knesset. Author of a bold book on the Arab-Israeli conflict. A voice for moral clarity in world politics.



Dan Senor

Adviser to presidential candidates and one of the most prominent political strategists in the country. Author of *Start-Up Nation* about Israel's economic miracle.



Rabbi Meir Soloveichik

One of the leading Jewish intellectuals in the country. Prolific essayist. Rabbi of the oldest Jewish congregation in the United States.



David Schizer

Former Dean of Columbia Law School. Clerked for U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. Head of one of the largest Jewish organizations in America.



Bari Weiss

Pro-Israel student leader at Columbia University. Accomplished writer. Now a rising star of the *New York Times* editorial page.



George Rohr

Successful hedge fund manager with investments around the world. One of the founders of the Chabad on Campus program.



Seth Siegel

International marketing entrepreneur. Author of *Let There be Water* on how Israel can help solve the world's water crisis.



Zionism and the Meaning of Israel

Daniel Gordis



The establishment of the State of Israel is one of the most remarkable achievements of the modern era. Never before had a people dispersed throughout the world, deprived of sovereignty for millennia, returned to its ancient homeland to build a thriving country. Who were the leaders and thinkers that helped craft a modern Jewish nationalism for a people so long deprived of self-determination? What moved them? What were their political teachings and key disagreements?

This course is a four-part exploration of the writings, legacies, and debates of Zionism's early thinkers. We will study the teachings of Theodor Herzl, Micha Josef Berdichevsky, Ahad Ha'am, Isaac Jacob Reines, Abraham Isaac Kook, and other representatives of modern Jewish nationalist thought. In doing so, Dr. Gordis will help us see how the founding disagreements within Secular Zionism, Religious Zionism, and Ultra-Orthodoxy can shed light on the spirit of Jewish nationalism and the internal conflicts Israel still faces today.

Dr. Daniel Gordis is Senior Vice President and the Koret Distinguished Fellow at Shalem College in Jerusalem. The author of more than ten books, Gordis is a regular columnist for both the *Jerusalem Post* and for *Bloomberg View*. Gordis's newest book is a history of the State of Israel entitled *Israel: A Concise History of a Nation Reborn*, which received the 2016 National Jewish Book Award as "Book of the Year." Gordis's writing has appeared in magazines and newspapers including the *New York Times*, the *New Republic*, the *New York Times Magazine*, *Azure*, *Commentary*, and *Foreign Affairs*, and his books have received numerous awards. He previously won the National Jewish Book Award, in 2008, for *Saving Israel*, and two of his other books were finalists for the National Jewish Book Award.



Ethics and Economics

Samuel Gregg



Today, increasing numbers of people live in free market economies. Yet despite its great success in diminishing poverty and growing wealth in countries such as the United States, many remain very unsure of the market economy's social benefits. Others question its moral foundations. Defenses of the free market which extend beyond appeals to utility continue to be hard to find.

This course examines the moral and economic case for market economies by examining key texts that articulate moral and economic defenses of free market economies, including Adam Smith's *Wealth of Nations*, Michael Novak's *The Spirit of Democratic Capitalism*, and Wilhelm Röpke's *A Humane Economy*. As these texts are examined, some of the questions posed for discussion will be: What is meant by self-interest? How does it differ from greed? What is the historical record of the market economy vis-à-vis wealth and poverty? Is there something distinctive about American capitalism? What are the justifications for state intervention into the market economy?

Dr. Samuel Gregg is director of research at the Acton Institute for the Study of Religion and Liberty. He has a Doctor of Philosophy degree in moral philosophy and political economy from the University of Oxford and has written and spoken extensively on questions of political economy, economic history, and natural law theory. He is the author of several books, including *Morality, Law, and Public Policy* (2000), *Economic Thinking for the Theologically Minded* (2001), *On Ordered Liberty* (2003), his prize-winning *The Commercial Society* (2007), *Becoming Europe: Economic Decline, Culture, and How America Can Avoid a European Future* (2013), and *Tea Party Catholic: The Catholic Case for Limited Government, a Free Economy and Human Flourishing* (2013). Dr. Gregg regularly publishes in journals such as the *Harvard Journal of Law and Public Policy*; *Economic Affairs*; *Ethics and Public Policy*; *Foreign Affairs*; and his opinion-pieces appear in publications such as the *Wall Street Journal Europe*; *National Review*; *American Spectator*; and *Australian Financial Review*.



America and Israel: A Strategic Alliance

Michael Doran



For nearly seven tumultuous decades, the United States and the State of Israel have enjoyed a uniquely close relationship. The two nations are linked by bonds of sympathy and affection no less than shared security interests, intelligence sharing, and military cooperation. But how will the U.S.-Israel strategic relationship change over the coming years? In this seminar, we will examine the unfolding logic of the U.S.-Israel relationship as it has grown from the founding of Israel in 1948 through the Cold War, from Oslo to the intifadas, from 9/11 through the Obama and Trump years. With a firm grasp of this history, we will chart the possible paths ahead for the United States and the Jewish State.

Dr. Michael Doran is a Senior Fellow at the Hudson Institute in Washington, D.C. He received his Ph.D. in Near Eastern Studies from Princeton University and held numerous high-level positions in the administration of George W. Bush. He appears frequently on television and has published extensively in *Mosaic*, *Foreign Affairs*, the *American Interest*, the *Wall Street Journal*, the *Washington Post*, and the *New York Times*. His most recent book is *Ike's Gamble: America's Rise to Dominance in the Middle East*.



Liberty and Equality: The American Ideals

Darren Staloff

This course examines the two central ideals of the American political tradition, liberty and equality. The course tracks their original formulation in the founding of the United States and their evolution over time. It also interrogates the tensions between these ideals and how they have been resolved throughout the course of American political and social development. We will read selections from: The Declaration of Independence, the *Federalist Papers*, George Washington's Farewell Address, Frederick Douglas's *Narrative of the Life of an American Slave*, the Lincoln-Douglas debates, Franklin Roosevelt's "Commonwealth Club Address," and more.

Dr. Darren Staloff is Professor of History at the City College of New York and the Graduate Center of the City University of New York. He earned his B.A. from Columbia College and his M.A., M.Phil., and Ph.D. from Columbia University. Prior to taking his position at City College, Staloff served as a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Institute for Early American History and Culture in Williamsburg, Virginia. He also spent three years as a preceptor of Contemporary Civilization at Columbia University. Professor Staloff is the recipient of a National Endowment of Humanities Fellowship, the President's Fellowship at Columbia University, and the Harry J. Carman Scholar at Columbia University. Professor Staloff has published numerous papers and reviews on the subject of early American history and is the author of *The Making of an American Thinking Class: Intellectuals and Intelligentsia in Puritan Massachusetts* (1998) and *Hamilton, Adams, Jefferson: The Politics of Enlightenment and the American Founding* (2005).



Jewish Ideas: Ancient Foundations, Modern Questions

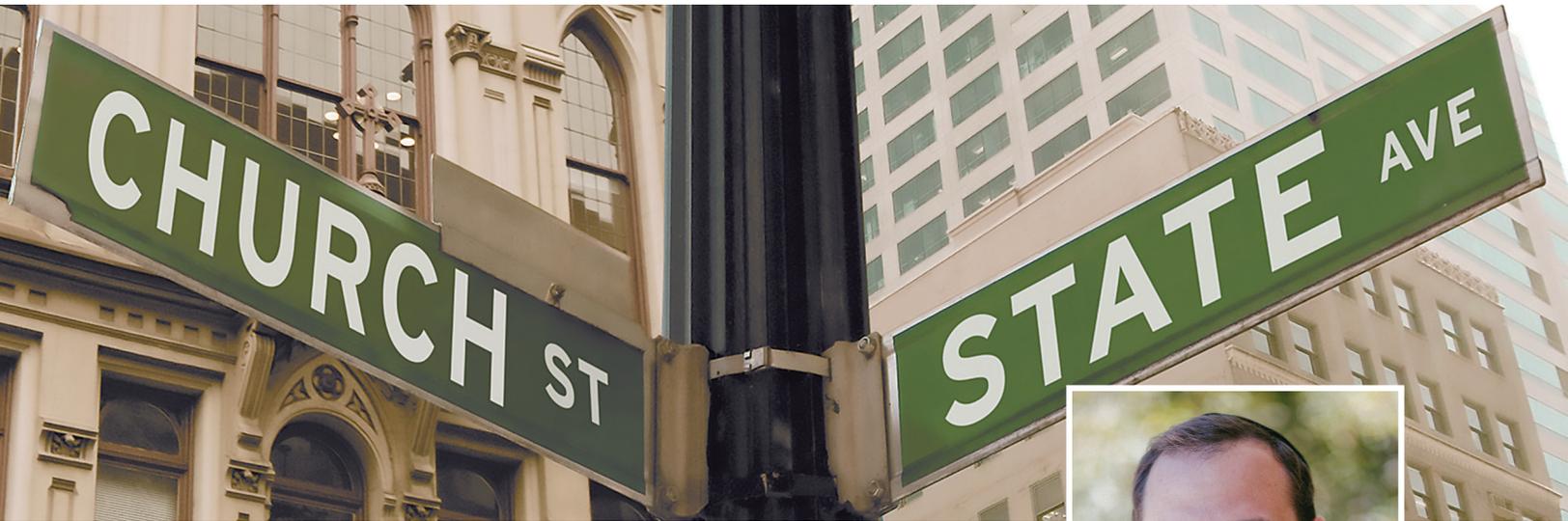
Ronna Burger

In this weeklong seminar, students will explore five key concepts that have shaped and sustained the Jewish people through its long and distinguished history: the nation, the family, the oneness or unity of God, Jewish uniqueness, and the idea of holiness. Readings will draw from both the foundational texts of Jewish civilization—including the Hebrew Bible, Talmud, and Maimonides—as well as works by modern Jewish thinkers like Joseph Soloveitchik, Abraham Joshua Heschel, and Leon Kass.

Students will be expected to be active participants, not passive observers, in a serious inquiry into the big ideas and profound debates that have captured the Jewish and Western imagination throughout the generations: What is a nation? What makes a people? What are the origins of the family? What does it mean for God to be one or for a people to be “chosen”? What is holiness and what role does it play in our lives?

Together, we will examine what some of the brightest minds of Jewish history—past and present—thought about these questions and interrogate our own assumptions and beliefs about these issues. What is at stake for us in these questions, and where will they lead us in the future?

Ronna Burger is Catherine & Henry J. Gaisman Chair in Philosophy and Sizeler Professor of Jewish Studies at Tulane University, where she has been teaching since 1980, after receiving her Ph.D. in Philosophy from the New School for Social Research Graduate Faculty. Her work has been supported by the Mellon, Humboldt, Earhart, and Carl Friedrich von Siemens Foundations as well as the National Endowment for the Humanities. Burger is the author of *Aristotle’s Dialogue with Socrates: On the Nicomachean Ethics* (2008), along with books on Plato’s *Phaedo* (1984, 1999) and *Phaedrus* (1980), and a monograph on the question of the holy in Plato’s *Euthyphro* (2015). Her published articles include “Maimonides on Knowledge of Good and Evil” and “Woman and Nature: the Female Drama of the Book of Genesis.” In recent years Burger has been teaching a series of courses on “Bible and Philosophy,” and has lectured at numerous college campuses on Adam and Eve, Rebekah, Joseph, Moses, and Esther.



Religion and American Law

Michael Avi Helfand

In an age of ever-growing religious diversity and political fracture, the United States is confronting a host of complex questions at the crossroads of faith, identity, and politics. Conflicts between religious beliefs and government policies have raised fundamental questions about the future of religious liberty in the United States. And the increasing intersection of religious affiliation, government expression, and institutional funding has reignited debates over the separation of church and state. The goal of this course is to explore the evolution of these clashes between law and religion, evaluating how we might apply the constitutional principles of religious liberty and non-establishment to contemporary and divisive church-state dilemmas.

Professor Michael (Avi) Helfand is an expert on religious law and religious liberty. A frequent author and lecturer, his work focuses on how U.S. law treats Jewish law, custom and practice. His articles have appeared in numerous law journals, including the *Yale Law Journal*, the *New York University Law Review*, and the *Duke Law Journal*, as well as in various public audience publications, including the *Los Angeles Times*, *USA Today*, the *National Law Journal*, the *Forward*, and the *Jewish Week*.

The Maimonides Experience at Yale



Shabbat and Jewish Life

The Maimonides Scholars program seeks to create an inclusive and vibrant space for students to explore the Jewish tradition and Jewish ritual. On Shabbat evening, students will attend a Kabbalat Shabbat service together as well as a Shabbat meal. On Saturday morning, students can choose between egalitarian, traditional, or learner's services. They can also opt for text study, private contemplation, or other spiritually directed activities. Our aim is to create a rich and meaningful Jewish experience that connects the students to Judaism and to each other.

Residential Experience

The Maimonides Scholars Program is about much more than what occurs in the classroom. We aim to create a close-knit and vibrant intellectual community in which students can benefit from the same kind of residential experience they will get in college. As such, all students will be housed on the Yale campus in one of the student dormitories. Students will eat meals together with each other and their professors at the Joseph Slifka Center for Jewish Life at Yale.



Experiential Learning

Outside of our regular seminars, students will participate in a July 4th policy lab and debate workshop on three key questions in American and Israeli politics. We will also venture out of the classroom for a day-trip to Newport, Rhode Island, where we will visit the historic Touro synagogue, one of the first built in America. Students will get a tour of the synagogue, participate in dramatic readings of Touro congregation's letter to Washington and Washington's famous response, and explore the Hebraic underpinnings of the American Founding. Our aim is to give students the experiences necessary for citizenship and leadership in the modern world.



The Tikvah Alumni Network

The Maimonides Scholars Program is part of a larger educational community created by Tikvah. It is a gateway to learning and leadership at college and beyond.

The alumni of Tikvah's summer programs are now student leaders at some of the preeminent colleges and universities in the country—including:

- Barnard College
- Brandeis University
- Columbia University
- Cornell University
- Harvard University
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- New York University
- Pomona College
- Princeton University
- Rutgers University
- Stanford University
- The George Washington University
- University of Chicago
- University of Maryland
- University of Michigan
- University of Pennsylvania
- Washington University in St. Louis
- Yale University

Staying Involved

Once in college, our alumni are invited to stay involved through a wide variety of special programs: reading groups on campus; internships and fellowships in Washington, D.C. and New York City; lectures and events at the Tikvah Centers in NYC and Jerusalem; webcasts and podcasts. They join a new world of ideas, start friendships that last a lifetime, and develop meaningful relationships with the nation's leading professors, businessmen, journalists, and rabbis who often become their mentors.

Apply Today!

The Maimonides Scholars Program is designed for current high school juniors and seniors from diverse Jewish backgrounds. We seek students from public and private high schools, who want to know more about Israel, Jewish history, Jewish ideas, and American democracy.

Cost: \$400, which includes books, room, and board. Full and partial need-based tuition scholarships are available. **No student will be turned away because of need.**

Number of Students Accepted: We will accept up to 60 students from around the country.

Application Deadline: February 16, 2018

More Questions?

Please contact: Kate Havard
Associate Director of Educational Programs
khavard@tikvahfund.org



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