Examination HJ1: Rabbinic Thought and Theology in Late Antiquity (Professor Fishbane)

General Examination for Non-Specialists

I. Primary Texts (these texts are to be prepared in translation, with select texts in Hebrew for History of Judaism students)

A. Mishnah
(translations of Danby or Neusner)

Berakhot ch. 1-9; Shabbat ch. 1-2; Pesahim ch. 1, 9-10; Yoma ch. 10; Sukkah ch. 1, 3-4; Rosh Hashana, ch. 1, 4; 
Taanit ch. 1-2; Megillah ch. 1-2, 4; Kiddushin ch. 1; Baba Qama ch. 1, 3; Baba Metzia ch. 1; Baba Batra ch. 8-9; 
Sanhedrin ch. 1,4; Abodah Zarah ch. 1, Abot ch. 1-4.

B. Midrash

Tannaitic Period
2. Sifre Deuteronomy (Yale Judaica series; Hammer trans.), selections related to Deuteronomy 6; 15-16; 32.

Amoraic Period
1. Genesis Rabba (Soncino trans.), selections related to Genesis 1; 3; 12; 15; 22; 28; 32
2. Leviticus Rabba (Soncino trans.), selections related to Leviticus 1; 12; 23.
3. Pesikta de-Rab Kahana (Braude and Kapstein trans., JPS ed.), choose 3 chapters.
4. Song of Songs Rabba (Soncino trans.), proem; selections related to Songs 1:1-3; 3:1; 8:1.
5. Midrash on Psalms (Yale Judaica series; Braude trans.), selections related to Ps. 1; 9; 19.
6. Tanhuma, Genesis commentary (townsend trans.), selections based on Gen. 1, 22.
7. Fathers According to Rabbi Nathan (Yale Judaica series, Goldin trans.), selections.

C. Talmudic Literature

Selections to be chosen related to Mishnah selections and to selected theological passages.

D. Liturgy

1. Selections from Daily and Festival and High Holiday Prayerbooks

Secondary Literature:

Budick and Hartmann, eds. Midrash and Literature. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1986. (selections; essays by Fishbane; Stern; Kugel; Heinemann)
Fraenkel, J. *Darkhei Ha-Aggadah ve-Ha-Midrash.* Yad La-Talmud, 1991 (selections)
Menn, E. *Judah and Tamar (Genesis 38) in Ancient Jewish Exegesis: Studies in Literary Form and Hermeneutics.* 1997 (recommended).
Rubenstein, J. *Talmudic Stories: Narrative Art, Composition, and Culture.* Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1999
Zuna, Leopold, Ha-Dershot be-Yidrael (Hebrew translation of German original). Jerusalem: Mosad Bialik, 19xx (selections)

Examination for Area Specialists in Late Antiquity
I. Primary Texts. All texts listed above to be done in the original languages and from critical editions where these exist. In addition, students are responsible for passages dealt with in the literature studied. A selection of primary passages are to be mastered for a sight translation, exegesis, and analysis.
Candidates are expected to add further selections to the Midrashic Literature noted above, as well as to select passages from Lamentations Rabba, Pesikta Rabbati, and Pirkei de-Rabbi Eliezer. Selections from Tosephta and Jeralem Talmud will be assigned.

II. Secondary Literature. All texts given above, plus those listed below. The sources in the two specially selected chapters to be analyzed from Urbach’s The Sages are to be prepared in the original language. Selections from Qumran tests and Heikhalot literature will be assigned.

III. Special books and articles will be added in accordance with the student’s particular area of interest.