Instructor: Ariel Feldman

Prerequisites: None.

Description of Content:
This course explores the origins and concepts of mystic thought within Early Judaism, frequently perceived as dominated by legal matters (Halakha). We will study a variety of texts concerned with visions of God, heavenly ascent, and communion with angels.

Class Procedures:
Lecture, discussion, student presentations.

Course Requirements:
1. Attendance and informed participation in the class sessions
2. Two written assignments, including one pre-class written assignment.
3. Final paper:
   a. For M.Div., M.T.S., and C.T.S. students: a 10-pages long research paper dealing with a topic or a source that was discussed in the class. The bibliography should include at least five items besides the primary sources (the bibliography will have to be approved by the instructor).
   b. ThM students: a 12-pages long research paper discussing a topic or an ancient text. The bibliography should include at least eight items besides the primary sources (the bibliography will have to be approved by the instructor).
   c. D.Min. and Ph.D. students: a 15-pages long research paper discussing a topic or a text (or a group of texts). The bibliography should include at least twelve items besides the primary sources (the bibliography will have to be approved by the instructor).

Texts:

Grading Procedures:
Class Participation: 15%
Written assignments: 25%
Final Paper: 60%