

# Professional Development Catalog

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The Lookstein Center,  
Bar-Ilan University



# **Professional Development from The Lookstein Center**

From one-off sessions to fully customized programs, The Lookstein Center's professional development approach is to combine theory and practice so educators can walk away with the knowledge, tools, and know-how needed to make instruction engaging and effective. Offerings cover foundational topics such as the application of pedagogic strategies to the teaching of Jewish texts, history, and values, as well as more advanced programs to help teachers experiment with different pedagogic approaches, build critical skills, and acquire new mindsets for the teaching of Jewish studies.

## ***Immersive Programs (page 2-3)***

Immersive programs are ongoing and transformative. They are designed to encourage continual pedagogical knowledge learning, reflective practice, collaboration with colleagues, and build skills for creating professional micro-communities. Graduates are poised to take on increasing positions of educational leadership in their schools and create cultures of ongoing, collaborative professional growth.

## ***Intensive Bootcamps (page 4)***

Bootcamps allow our learners to delve into a topic, discover new approaches, and develop teaching strategies through a collaborative learning process. Workshops are used to model relevant pedagogic approaches, while participants will have the opportunity to share, present, and learn from a cohort of peers.

## ***One off Trainings & Series (pages 5-8)***

Online sessions and workshops are available a la carte. Each standalone session (or series) is designed to pinpoint a specific skill or topic area, and will provide a directed approach that will enable you to implement strategies informed by theory and best practice. One-off training sessions and series cost \$275/hour for nonmember schools and \$200/hour for Lookstein Center member schools. If you are an individual educator interested in any of these offerings, please email us at [pd\\_inquiries@lookstein.org](mailto:pd_inquiries@lookstein.org).

## ***Customized Professional Development***

Customized sessions are a great way to tailor professional development to your school's specific needs. For more information about customizing one of the programs in this catalog, or to create a new program, please contact us at [pd\\_inquiries@lookstein.org](mailto:pd_inquiries@lookstein.org).

## *Immersive Programs*

**Teacher Leadership @The Lookstein Center** is for teachers who love and excel at their craft and are committed to ongoing improvement. It is for teachers who care about impacting their entire school community while remaining in the place that they love most, their classroom. Selected participants will emerge from the program ready to become catalysts for ongoing professional growth in their schools. The 18-month program integrates learning, practice, and the development and implementation of a school-specific initiative by each participant.

### **Program Components**

- Face-to-Face conferences
- Monthly webinars
- Individual coaching/support
- *Hevruta* learning
- Individual projects
- Peer support

### **Competencies**

- Understanding school culture
- Guiding participants to expand their educational toolboxes
- Collaboration-communication skills
- Coaching skills
- Creating a culture of meaningful, reflective, and ongoing learning
- Dealing with resistance to change (formal vs informal positions)
- Developing a leadership style

Please write to [pd@lookstein.org](mailto:pd@lookstein.org) for more information and for pricing.

## Instructional Coaching for Jewish Studies Teachers

Immersive, long-term professional development that is embedded in practice works.

The Lookstein Center's one-on-one instructional coaching model for teachers is designed to harness existing Jewish studies discipline-specific knowledge and strengths, pinpoint challenges, and support continued learning and reflective practice in the Jewish studies classroom.

### Teachers will benefit from:

- A customized coaching plan based on a comprehensive intake process
- A trusted mentor outside of their school community
- Individualized goal setting
- Opportunities for deep reflection and ongoing feedback
- Access to The Lookstein Center's coaching resource library
- Personalized recommendations for ongoing improvement

### Potential Focus Areas:

- Lesson planning
- Student engagement
- Class culture
- Personalization/Differentiation
- Gauging student progress
- Embedding meaning-making into Jewish studies

### Program:

Package #1: 14 meetings, 3 classroom observations, half year (academic) - \$2600

Package #2: 18 meetings, 4 classroom observations, full year (academic) - \$3150

Please write to [pd@lookstein.org](mailto:pd@lookstein.org) for more information and to get started.

## ***Intensive Bootcamps***

### **FACILITATING STUDENT-CENTERED TEXT STUDY**

Jewish text educators are tasked with the ongoing challenge of balancing skill development and content mastery on the one hand and creating meaningful Jewish learning experiences on the other. This delicate balance of seemingly opposing goals requires skill, proper planning, and support. In this series, we will explore a student-centered approach to Tanakh and Talmud/Rabbinics study where the skills and content learned will aid students in their personal construction of meaning. The bootcamp will explore various strategies for achieving our meaning making goals including historical, literary, analytical, and inquiry-based approaches.

Participants will have opportunities to network and collaborate with peers in the field, and will also have individual workshop time with the series presenters.

- Small group sessions
- Workshop/*Hevruta*
- Reflection and application
- Coaching

### **THE ESSENTIALS OF JEWISH HISTORY INSTRUCTION**

Memory is a critical part of our tradition, and also a powerful educational force as it provides an emotional, personal connection to the past. The academic study of history, on the other hand, is the reconstruction of the past based on factual evidence and primary sources. This bootcamp explores the relationship between memory and history, best practices in Jewish history instruction, and student-centered approaches. Hands-on workshops make up the bulk of the training program and give teachers the skills and tools they need in order to teach Jewish history in an engaging and creative way.

- Small group sessions
- Workshop/*Hevruta*
- Reflection and application
- Access to additional resources

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## Professional Development Series

### CONFRONTING ANTISEMITISM: EMPOWERING OUR STUDENTS & OURSELVES

Antisemitism is on the rise around the world, and Jewish tweens and teens are very aware of this troubling trend. Educators can help address the impact on their students' personal lives and on their identities as Jews in the modern world. This series aims to equip educators with the knowledge, tools, and skills needed to address rising antisemitism with their students.

Participants will learn and workshop classroom strategies for:

- Understanding, coping with, and responding to antisemitism
- Dealing with subtle antisemitism and with traumatic events
- Building student and communal resilience
- Empowering students

**TIME:** 4 hours

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### WHAT MAKES A KINGDOM: UNDERSTANDING AND TEACHING MAJOR THEMES IN *SEFER MELAKHIM*

This session explores overarching themes in the *Sefer Melakhim*, including the nature and functions of the kingdom; the importance of culture; and understanding the difference between *Malkhut Yehudah* and *Malkhut Yisrael*. The broad themes will be grounded in a careful understanding of multiple texts woven together into a narrative. These themes can be very valuable in shaping our understanding of the *sefer* and how we teach it.

**TIME:** 3 hours

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### HIGHER-LEVEL THINKING IN TANACH

This session will equip middle and high school Tanach educators to elevate student thinking, learning, and personal connection to text. Together we will explore moving the study of Tanach beyond translation; engaging students in the process of interacting with the texts they are learning; focused critical reading of *parshanim*; how to make *peshat* and *derash* meaningful categories for students.

**TIME:** 3 hours

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### CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT IN SEFER BEREISHIT

Much has been written about critiquing key characters in the Torah. In this series for 7th-12th grade *Humash* teachers, we will explore a different approach, one which understands that characters grow and develop. The sessions will examine three different central characters in *Bereishit* and demonstrate an approach that is deeply rooted in the texts and can serve as a powerful educational model.

**TIME:** 3 hours

### TEACHING LEADERSHIP IN *SEFER BAMIDBAR*

This session, for 7th-12th grade *Humash* teachers, will explore leadership in *Sefer Bamdibar*, particularly through the lens of Moshe's leadership. It will include a look at Moshe's challenges and successes, an exploration of some of the techniques he used as a leader and their impact, as well as an exploration of some of the major events described in the *sefer*— the complaints of the people for food and water, the incident of the scouts, the rebellion of Korah, and the request by two tribes to remain on the eastern banks of the Jordan. This text-based series will focus on a careful reading of the Torah texts (without commentary), with an eye towards helping students to become more astute learners of *Humash* as well as thinkers about broad themes.

**TIME:** 3 hours

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### DIGITAL TOOLS FOR BLOOM'S TAXONOMY

Effective teachers know how to design materials that ensure student learning, from the simple to the more complex. This session will delve into six digital tools, each matched with a category in the Taxonomy. For each tool, participants will see examples, watch how it's done, and receive how-to-videos to help them "do it at home."

- Knowledge and Comprehension: Edpuzzle and Quizlet
- Application, Analysis, and Evaluation: Padlet and Flipgrid
- Creation: Create Digital Projects and Products and The Google Apps Suite

**TIME:** 3 hours

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### MAKING JEWISH LEARNING MEANINGFUL

As Jewish Day School professionals, we know how important meaning-making is, and yet this is one of the hardest things to impart in our classrooms. In this session we will explore the fundamentals of meaning-making and look at different classroom practices that can help us make Jewish learning truly meaningful for students.

**TIME:** 2 hours

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### LEVERAGING JEWISH STUDIES ASSESSMENT

How can we use different kinds of assessment to gain deeper insight into how our students are learning and how successful we are as teachers? How can we turn assessment into an integral part of the Jewish studies learning process to enhance student learning? How can we transform assessment into an activity that students will want to do? In this series, for grade 7-12 Jewish studies teachers, we will explore practical approaches to transforming the role assessment plays in the learning cycle.

**TIME:** 3 hours

## One-Off Trainings

### PERSONALIZING INSTRUCTION AND ASSESSMENT

The move to include online and blended learning has opened up new possibilities in the move away from whole-class instruction. In this session, we will explore how to harness these new modalities to promote personalized learning. We will discuss the design of multiple pathways, goal setting, the role of digital materials, the shifting role of the teacher, and how to create and use the formative assessments that make it possible.

**TIME:** 1.5 hours

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### HOW TO USE *CREATING MEMORY: AN ARTS-BASED INITIATIVE IN HOLOCAUST EDUCATION*

'Creating Memory' is an arts-based program for Holocaust education, based on the successful Hebrew program *Yotzrim Zikaron*. Through the creative arts and exploration of relatable themes, students can connect to the Holocaust in new ways. This session will offer practical ideas and implementation techniques for Jewish day school and informal Jewish educators. Each mini-course is geared towards middle and high school educators across the globe. Every participant will receive a free copy of the 'Creating Memory' booklet.

**TIME:** 1.5 hours

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### READY, SET, ACTION! A WORKSHOP ON COLLABORATIVE FILM-MAKING WITH CHILDREN

Filmmaking is perfect for practicing collaboration, for cultivating student voice, confidence, and creativity, and for creating meaningful connections! Join The Lookstein Center team to learn about why collaborative filmmaking can be such a powerful classroom project, learn the step-by-step process from the planning stages to production and post-production, and get pro tips on making this a success in your classroom. The session is designed for 4th-8th grade teachers and will cover how to implement collaborative filmmaking in in-person, online, and hybrid classrooms.

**TIME:** 1.5 hours

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### TEACHING COLLABORATION WITH GOOGLE APPS

This session is a beginners' introduction to using Google Docs and Slides to facilitate student collaboration and increase student engagement in both in-person and online environments. Together, we will discuss **WHEN** and **WHY** to use each of these tools, and learn **HOW** to create and share Google Docs and Slides, how to manage permissions and structure documents, and how to use these tools to maximize your lesson's impact. Participants will be given the opportunity to workshop their new skills during the session.

**TIME:** 1.5 hours



### **CHOOSE YOUR OWN HOLIDAY: TEACHING AND CELEBRATING JEWISH HOLIDAYS USING EDTECH**

In this hands-on workshop, designed around a holiday of your choosing, we will explore a basic framework for holiday instruction and how it can be adapted easily to a virtual environment, using the tools Quizlet and Padlet. Participants will practice and implement these two tools and will leave the session with a peer-designed “toolbox” of ready-to-go holiday tools for their classrooms.

**TIME:** 1.5 hours

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### **INTRODUCTION TO BLENDED LEARNING**

This introduction to blended learning will show teachers how to “blend” digital learning skills with the in-classroom experience to maximize the success of each student. We will discuss instruction, skill building, practice, application, and assessment and the role that digital tools and traditional classroom modalities should play in each.

**TIME:** 1.5 hours

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### **MAKING IT MEANINGFUL: CREATING A PERSONALIZED SIDDUR WITH STUDENTS**

The “*Tfila* conundrum” continues to be a challenge for educators regardless of student age or demographics. And for our youngest learners, how they engage with *Tfila* at an early age can set the tone for their *Tfila* engagement down the line. How can we help our students both learn the technical aspects of *Tfila* while also finding meaning and personal connection in the actual *Tfila* process? In this session for 1st-6th grade educators, we will explore how the arts can be a powerful tool for engagement in *Tfila* and in the meaning-making process. We will share best practices and a prototype for the creation of a personalized *siddur* for young learners which can serve as a hands-on tool for *Tfila* engagement in the classroom, the synagogue, and beyond.

**TIME:** 1 hour

\*This session may be adapted for the High Holidays, using the creation of a personalized *machzor* to create meaning and engagement for learners with the *Tfilot* of the *Chagim*.



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