

Prospectus for Final Project

Prospectus due: Monday, April 9

**May be submitted in hard copy or by email (if the latter, I will comment electronically)

Final Project Description

(due Sunday, May 6 **via email)

For your final project, you will be writing your own line commentary on a selection of the Torah text—adding your own column to the Miqra’ot Gedolot daf, as it were. Like your predecessors, you’ll be interacting with the other commentaries on the page—three or more commentators. However, you are not merely interacting in the manner of a supercommentary, that is, commenting on the commentaries: this is your opportunity to synthesize the (complex and multivalent) commentarial tradition and add your own perspective.

Your commentary should be approximately 5 pages long. As such, you should select a portion of text suitable to the type of commentary you wish to write. As we’ve seen, line commentaries vary in their approach (from translation to essayistic) and your task is to select an identifiable approach that you wish to pursue. You might focus on language/grammar, context (peshat), midrashic-homiletical reasoning (derash), or elucidating philosophical or mystical meaning (sod). Depending on the approach and passage you choose, you might cover a few verses or a dozen. Keep in mind, though, that you are not writing an essay but a running line commentary.

Prospectus

In preparation for the final project, please select a Torah passage to comment on. In a few sentences, describe the passage, your interest in it (what types of questions do you have about the text?), and the approach you will take.

Next, select three (or more) commentators you’ll be working with. Summarize the specific comments you’ll be working with (“On verse X, Ibn Ezra says Y while Rashi says Z”).