

Summer Institute 2018

Faculty Elective III

Wednesday, Aug. 22, 9:15 AM

Vagina Monologues Meet the Talmud (for women and people who identify as female)
with **Rabbi Aviva Richman**

<p>Fantastic. Was very grateful for the women-only space, and I had an amazing time in this class. I was wondering, though, about the biological focus of the session, meaning, the session was open to all women-identified folks, but focused on the vagina. If someone who was woman-identified but who did not have a vagina was there, I wonder what that would have been like.</p>
<p>It was fantastic. Learned a totally new way of reading and seeing text.</p>
<p>I love Aviva Richman and this was no exception. It was SO GREAT to have a space to have this conversation (or any conversation) with women only, but I feel there should have been a parallel offering during that time slot for men to process their own experience together as men. Anyway, I thought this was fun and creative and different while still being text-rich. Really outside the box (no pun intended?).</p>
<p>This session was excellent! It gave me new insights into how to relate to our texts and how to mesh secular and Rabbinic teaching. It felt like something I could continue to explore on my own.</p>
<p>Fun and refreshing. I keep thinking about the poem with all the names for female anatomy, which took some words I have found demeaning in their original context and transformed them into something beautiful and empowering. Gave me some helpful new tools to deal with tough texts generally.</p>
<p>I thought it was a really creative way of interacting with text - was both informative and empowering.</p>
<p>AWESOME. Much to consider, great modeling for HOW to teach this material and lots of love and trust in the room.</p>
<p>Aviva provided a fascinating project and I really appreciated how she combined the two. This was an elective whose value is just in watching it happen, watching her show us how to think about commentary as an act done between sacred and secular texts. So in some ways the content was less interesting than working through the process. And, not to be that person, but I would have appreciated more of a conversation about Eve Ensler's own troubled relationship with gender essentialism, given that we were using her to comment on the Talmud.</p>
<p>I loved how she juxtaposed secular and religious text, and included creative writing elements. Fantastic session!</p>
<p>This elective was totally out of my comfort zone, and I appreciated being pushed to discuss and consider my own thoughts on the topic. I enjoyed its presentation and the group dynamic due to the size and safe space that was created.</p>
<p>This was a very powerful session. I appreciate the way in which Aviva was able to balance playfulness and seriousness.</p>

Interesting experiment. I was one of the few unfamiliar with the vagina monologues, and so the language was new to me. Felt like a very strong, females space.