

Unit:	Instructor:	Lesson Number:	Lesson Name:	Level:	Duration:
Jewish Art / Printmaking	Will Montgomery	PM-HB-1	Printmaking in Hebrew: Personal Values in Text and Image	Adaptable for teens through adults	Minimum 2 workshops, ideally 3 workshops. Best at 2 to 3 hours per session.

Overview:

This lesson introduces students to basic silkscreen printmaking using Hebrew text. Students will brainstorm words or short phrases in Hebrew that express a personal value, political belief, spiritual idea, or simply something funny, intimate, or true to them. They will then learn how to design, build, and print their own hand-made screens, resulting in text-based prints that are both visually striking and personally meaningful.

The lesson is meant to make Hebrew feel active, expressive, personal, and contemporary. Students will explore Hebrew words that are specifically interesting to them, then physically draw it, print it, and share it with the group and their communities. My exemplar phrase is "love is hard work" in Hebrew, but the content can range widely depending on the age group and setting. The goal is to help students see Hebrew not only as a sacred, academic, or foreign language, but also as a medium for artmaking, identity, humor, politics, and self-expression which is available to them.

This can function at different levels of engagement. At the most basic level, it can be a short two-session workshop introducing students to silkscreen and Hebrew text-based image making. If there is interest in building this into a broader religious art education offering, I would also be happy to set up a few simple but durable print stations that are easy to store and bring back out for future use. In that expanded version, students could learn not only to print, but to make and reuse their own mesh screens as part of a recurring printmaking/religious art ed program.

Demos / New Skills:

Students of all ages will learn the basic structure of a silkscreen and how a screen functions as a printable stencil. They will be introduced to simple screen construction, image planning, and text-based composition. They will learn how to use screen filler, drawing fluid, masking methods, and hand-drawn design transfer to create printable images. They will also learn basic printing technique with a squeegee, including ink application, pressure, registration, and repeat printing.

Alongside the technical demo, students will practice thinking about language as form. They will discuss how the scale, spacing, density, and shape of Hebrew letters affect the feeling of a piece, and how a phrase can read differently depending on how it is drawn, printed, and presented.

Hands On:

Students will brainstorm possible Hebrew words or phrases that matter to them, sketch compositions, and choose one to develop into a final screen. Depending on the structure of the workshop, they will either make their own screens from start to finish or work with partially prepared screens to focus more time on composition and printing. Each student will produce at least one final text-based print and, in the fuller version, may make several prints exploring variation in color, placement, or paper.

Learning Outcomes:

Students will be able to:

- describe the basic process of hand-made silkscreen printmaking.
- translate a Hebrew word or phrase into a visual composition.
- create and print a simple screen-based design.
- discuss how text functions not just linguistically but visually and emotionally.
- reflect on the relationship between personal values, language, artistic form, and Hebrew.

Printmaking in Hebrew

Personal Values in Text and Image

הדפס בעברית

Hedpes b'ivrit

Assessment :

Students will be assessed through participation, design development, completion of a screen and/or final print, and contribution to group discussion. Success in the lesson is not based on technical perfection. It is based on thoughtful engagement with process, willingness to experiment, and the ability to reflect on what a phrase communicates once it becomes visual and material.

Itinerary:

Option A: Condensed 2-Workshop Version

Workshop 1:

- Introduction to silkscreen printmaking and examples of text-based prints
- Discussion of Hebrew phrases, values, tone, and possible content
- Brainstorming and sketching individual designs
- Introduction to screen structure and stencil logic
- Begin preparing screens and transferring designs

Workshop 2:

- Complete screen preparation
- Printing demo
- Students print final works
- Cleanup and informal reflection

Option B: Ideal 3-Workshop Version

Workshop 1:

- Introduction to silkscreen printmaking
- Examples of text-based print works and Hebrew-language exemplars
- Brainstorming Hebrew phrases that express a value, belief, joke, feeling, or idea
- Sketching and composition planning
- Begin screen construction and discuss how designs will be transferred

Workshop 2:

- Finalize phrase selection and composition
- Transfer designs onto screens using filler, drawing fluid, and masking methods
- Prepare screens for printing
- Test simple layouts and discuss color, repetition, and scale

Workshop 3:

- Printing demo and guided printing session
- Students produce final prints
- Group critique / discussion of the printed works
- Conversation about how language changes when it becomes an image
- Cleanup and closing reflection

Materials & Set-Up Needs:

- 15 11 x 17 wooden frames
- 2 yards Silkscreen mesh
- Screen filler
- Drawing fluid
- Masking tape
- Duct tape
- Paper for sketching and final printing
- Newsprint or scrap paper for test prints
- Water-based screenprinting ink
- Squeegees
- Table coverings
- Buckets or containers for water
- Sponges and cleanup rags
- Access to sinks
- Pencils, markers, rulers
- Hebrew alphabet reference sheets and phrase examples
- Drying area or drying rack
- (Optional) A few simple hinged print stations to hold screens in place while printing

If desired, I can build a few basic hinged stations that would make setup much smoother and more repeatable. These can be simple, inexpensive, functional units that store easily and allow the temple to have a long-term minimal printmaking setup.

Illinois Standards:

VA:Cr1.2.II, VA:Cr2.1.II, VA:Cr2.2.II,
VA:Cr3.1.II, VA:Re7.1.II, VA:Re8.1.II,
VA:Re9.2.II, VA:Cn10.1.II, VA:Cn11.1.II

*Accommodations, alternative metrics, and modes of instruction available on request for accessibility.

Exemplars & Reference Samples:



Cut paper stencil



Coated screen



Printed in gold ink



Printed with splatter



Printed with gradient