 **Date:** August 2014

Course Name:

**Topics in Jewish Law - Halacha**

**Type of course:** Lecture

**Year of Studies:**2014-2015 **Semester:** Fall & Spring  **Hours/credits**: 2

**Course Description:**

The objective of the class is to go through the major practical Mitzvot/Halachot that a person is obligated in each day. We will first discuss the background and philosophy behind the Mitzvah before delving into the practical application of how to.

**Detailed Lesson plan:**

Week 1 and 2 – Intro to Halacha and the Laws of Keriat Shema:

These lectures will give a brief overview of what Halacha is, where it is derived from, and how it is ever evolving as well as a brief history of the major Halachic works and time periods. We will then discuss the Shema, where it is found in the Oral Torah, its importance to Jewish faith, and the main Halachot involved in the fulfillment of the Mitzvah.

Week 3 - The Laws of Waking Up in the Morning –

This lecture will begin with the first Halacha in the Shulchan Aruch of how to wake up; we will be discussing Modeh Ani, washing hands, getting dressed, and other Halachot pertaining to the start of your day.

Week 4 – Laws of Kippah

This lecture will discuss the obligation to cover your head and if there even is one, when and where, and some practical modern day questions.

Week 5 – Test 1 and Laws of Tzizit and Tefillin

We will demonstrate how to put on the Tzizit and Tefillin, what can make them unkosher, different customs, and their place in Tefillah.

Week 6 and 7– Laws of Prayer

These lectures will go through the Siddur including the major parts of the prayer service for Shaharit, Minha, and Maariv (Arvit) with focus placed on the Amida.

Week 8 – Laws of Hanuka

This lecture will go through all the practical laws of candle lighting, menorah placement, additions to prayer, and the background behind the fun customs.

Week 9 – Basic Laws of Food Blessings

This lecture will discuss the basic laws of which Beracha goes on which food (In semester 2 we will delve into more complicated scenarios).

Week 10 and 11- Test 2 and Laws Ben Adam Lechavero, Between Man and Man

These lectures will look at numerous laws between man and his friend, e.g. honoring your parents, roommate questions, lost objects, making noise at different hours of the day, eating etiquette, guest etiquette, how to host, stealing, Genevat Daat, Lashon Hara, visiting the sick, animal cruelty, embarrassing others, business ethics, and anything else time will allow.

Final Week - Cumulative Final

**Grading:**

Attendance - 20 % (you can miss 2 classes)

Test 1 - 20 %

Test 2 – 20 %

Final – 40 %

**Required textbooks, other textbooks**

**Required material for the final**