 **Date:** August 2014

Course Name and Number:

**Topics in Jewish Law - Halacha**

**Type of course:**

Lecture

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

**The courses objectives: (Overall Objectives/ Specific Objectives)**

The objective of the class is to go through the major practical daily Mitzvot/Halachot that a woman is obligated in during modern times. We will first discuss the background and philosophy behind the Mitzvah before delving into the practical application - when, where, how, etc. Special attention will be given to the differences lema’aseh between a woman and a man in the particular Mitzvah.

**Course Description:**

In each class we will begin with the source for the particular mitzvah, e.g. torah verse, rabbinic enactment. We will then look at how the Rishonim and Achronim view the Mitzvah Hashkafically and present a few approaches as to why we keep this mitzvah. Finally, the majority of the lecture will be dedicated to the technical laws found in the Rishonim, Shulchan aruch and Achronim about how to fulfill the Mitzvah.

**The Process of the Course:**

**(Teaching Methods, use of technology, Guest Speakers)** :

At the start of the lecture, an outline detailing the main Halachot will be passed out to each student. We will then go through the Halachot, explaining them in more depth and giving relevant examples. Wherever necessary, demonstrations will be done, pictures presented, and charts drawn. One night mid-semester students will be required to attend an “Amen party” to see first hand Hilchot Berachot.

**Detailed Lesson plan:**

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| **Comment** | **Required Reading** | **Topic of the Lesson** | **Number of Lesson** |
| 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. | Berachot 2b (the first mishna), Rav Tzadok HaCohen (in Sefer Tzidkat Hatzadik ot Dalet), The Shema (all three paragraphs), Shulchan Aruch Simanim 58, 60-62, 70, 239 with Mishnah Berurah, Yalkut Yosef, and Piskei Teshuvot on those simanim, Rav Melamed Peninei Halacha Tefilat Nashim, Yalkut Yosef Otzar Dinim Leisha, Ben Ish Hai Parashat Pekudei, Rigshei Lev pg. 135 - 139, Halichos Bas Yisrael pg 35-37, 47 | Intro to Halacha and the Laws of Keriat Shema | 1 |
| See above | See above | Laws of Keriat Shema continued | 2  |
| 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. | Shulchan Aruch Simanim 1-7, 46-48 with Mishnah Berurah, Yalkut Yosef, and Piskei Teshuvot, Chayei Adam, Rav Melamed Peninei Halacha Tefilat Nashim, Yalkut Yosef Otzar Dinim Leisha, Rigshei Lev pg. 125 - 135, Halichos Bas Yisrael pg 11-33, | The Laws of Waking Up in the Morning | 3 |
| 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. | Shulchan Aruch simanim 54-57, 89-128, 233-238 with Mishnah Berurah, Yalkut Yosef, and Piskei Teshuvot, Rav Melamed Peninei Halacha Tefilat Nashim, Yalkut Yosef Otzar Dinim Leisha, Rigshei Lev pg. 110 - 124, 162-176, 143-147 Halichos Bas Yisrael pg. 21-24, 38-41 | Test 1 and the Laws of Prayer | 4  |
| See above | See above | Laws of Prayer continued | 5  |
| See above | See above | Laws of Prayer continued | 6  |
| This lecture will go through all the practical laws of candle lighting, menorah placement, additions to the prayer, and the background behind the fun customs. | Shulchan Aruch simanim 670-679 682-683 with Mishnah Berurah, Yalkut Yosef, and Piskei Teshuvot, Hazon Ovadia Hanuka, Torat Hamoadim Hanuka, | Laws of Hanuka | 7  |
| This lecture will discuss the basic laws of which Beracha goes on which food (In semester 2 we will delve into more complicated scenarios). | Shulchan Aruch simanim 167, 176-177, 181, 185, 202-208, Vezot Haberacha, Birkat Hashem vol. 1, Otzar Haberachot, Chazon Ovadia Laws of tubishvat and berachot, Encyclopedia lebirkat hanehenin | Test 2,Basic Laws of Food Blessings | 8  |
| See above | See above | Basic Laws of Food Blessingscontinued | 9  |
| 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. | Sefer Shaarei Tzedek Hilchot Bein Adam Lechavero, Halichot Ben Adam Lechavero, Notes of Rav Yitzhok Berkowitz | Laws Ben Adam Lechavero, Between Man and Man  | 10  |
| See above | See above | Laws Ben Adam Lechavero, Between Man and Man continued | 11  |
|  |  | Cumulative Final | 12  |

**Course requirements**

Attendance - 20 %

Test 1 - 20 %

Test 2 – 20 %

Final – 40 %

**Requirements/ Assignment/Tasks**

Test 1, Test 2, Cumulative Final

**Grade Components (Number grade or pass/fail)**

Number grade

#### Bibliography: (Required/ Elective)

Berachot 2b (the first mishna),

Rav Tzadok HaCohen (in Sefer Tzidkat Hatzadik ot Dalet),

The Shema (all three paragraphs),

Shulchan Aruch,

Mishnah Berurah,

Yalkut Yosef, Piskei Teshuvot, Chayei Adam, Rav Melamed Peninei Halacha Tefilat Nashim, Yalkut Yosef Otzar Dinim Leisha, Rigshei Lev, Halichos Bas Yisrael,Hazon Ovadia Hanuka, Torat Hamoadim Hanuka, Vezot Haberacha, Birkat Hashem vol. 1, Otzar Haberachot, Chazon Ovadia Laws of tubishvat and berachot, Encyclopedia lebirkat hanehenin,Sections of Bava Kama and Bava MetziahSefer Shaarei Tzedek hilchot bein adam lechavero, Halichot ben adam lechavero, Notes of Rav Yitzhok Berkowitz

**Required textbooks, other textbooks**

Siddur, handouts, materials to be sent electronically to students

**Required material for the final**

Class notes, outlines, optional review class