 **Date:** March 2013

Course Name and Number:

Jewish Literacy

**Type of course:** Lecture

**Year of Studies:**2013-2014 **Semester:** Fall  **Hours/credits**: 2

**Course Description:**

This course will acquaint the student with all of the sources, vocabulary, background information and basic philosophy necessary for learning Torah on an advanced level.

**Topics studied will include:**

Belief in G-d, the Divine origin of the Torah, the significance of the mitzvoth, the role of the Patriarchs and Matriarchs, Shabbat and the holidays, and the soul.

The significance of, and relationship between, classical writings such as the Torah, Prophets, Midrashim, Talmud, Rishonim, Achronim, etc.

Basic biographical information of the major personalities throughout history who have influenced Jewish thought and practice such as Ezra, Rabbi Yehuda Hanasi, Rashi, Rambam, Rav Yosef Karo, the Ba’al Shem Tov, The Vilna Gaon and the Chafetz Chaim, etc.

Fundamental concepts needed to understand Jewish legal and philosophical discussions such as kal v’chomer, gzeiras shava, kinyan, kedusha, tumah, lichatchila, bideavad, korbanot, teshuva, kapparah, etc.

**Course requirements**

and participation, mastery of the information taught including primary and secondary sources used. Students will be asked to research and present a given topic to the class and a final exam will be given at the end of each semester