 Date: Sep. 2015

Course Name:

Halacha & Gender

**Type of course:**

Lecture

**Year of Studies:** 2015-2016 **Semester:** Fall & Spring **Hours/credits:** 2

**(Overall Objectives/ Specific Objectives)**

This course aims to educate the student in the basics of Jewish literacy. Supplemental readings are provided to enhance understanding of the material under review.

**Course Description:**

This fast-paced, broad-based course covers everything a Jew should know to consider herself knowledgable about her religion, heritage, history and culture. Topics to be covered include the Jewish bookshelf, the Hebrew calendar and holidays, the Jewish lifecycle, Jewish history, the Holocaust, Zionism and the State of Israel, and major Jewish personalities throughout history. Knowledge is power, and this course will empower you to feel confident that you have a solid grasp of Judaism and the Jewish people.

**Detailed Lesson plan:**

**First Semester Topics:**

Week 1: Our History, Part I: Abraham to Joshua

Week 2: Our History, Part II: Judges and Kings, Temple and Prophecy

Week 3: Our History, Part III: Shivat Zion; Jewish Bookshelf I: Tanach and Apocrypha

Week 4: Mesorah and the Development of Oral Law; Jewish Bookshelf II: The Mishna

Week 5: Our History, Part IV: The Second Temple Period

Week 5: Jewish Bookshelf III: Talmud

Week 6: Jewish Bookshelf IV: Responsa Literature, Prayer

Week 7: Jewish Bookshelf V: Biblical Exegesis

Week 8: Jewish Bookshelf VI: Talmudic Commentaries and Halachic Codes

Week 9: Jewish Calendar I: Elul and Tishrei

Week 10: Jewish Calendar II: Chanuka

Week 11: Jewish Lifecycle I: Birth to Marriage

Week 12: Jewish Lifecycle II: Death

**Second Semester Topics:**

Week 13: Our History, Part V: Middle Ages

Week 14: Our History, Part VI: Rennaissance and Enlightenment

Week 15: Jewish Calendar III: Purim

Week 16: Jewish Calendar IV: Pesach

Week 17: Our History, Part VII: Stirrings of Zionism

Week 18: Our History, Part VIII: Holocaust

Week 19: Our History, Part IX: Medinat Yisrael

Week 20: Jewish Calendar V: Omer and Shavuot

Week 21: Jewish Calendar VI: Tisha b'Av and Fast Days

Week 22: Jewish Bookshelf VII: Hassidut and Kabbalah

Week 23: Jewish Bookshelf VIII: Jewish Philosophical Works

Week 24: Judaism Today

**Course requirements**

Students will be supplied with a bulkpack of articles at the beginning of each semester and are required to complete the readings assigned for each class. Attendance is mandatory; a student who is accrues more than three absences per semester will be penalized. There will be a final exam at the end of each semester, as well as a midterm project.

**Grade Components - Number grade**

#### Bibliography: (Required/ Elective)

Bloomberg, Jon. The Jewish World in the Middle Ages. Ktav Publishing House: NY, 2000.

Dawidowicz, Lucy. The War Against the Jews. Bantam, 1986.

Hertzberg, Arthur. The Zionist Idea. Jewish Publication Society: Philadelphia, 1997.

Kitov, Eliyahu. The Book of our Heritage. Feldheim: Jerusalem, 1997.

Kolatch, Alfred. The Jewish Book of Why. Jonathan David Publishers, 1981.

Mendes-Flohr and Jehuda Reinharz, eds. The Jew in the Modern World. Oxford University Press: NY, 1980.

Sachar, Howard. A History of Israel from the Rise of Zionism to Our Time. Knopf: NY, 1998.

Telushkin, Joseph. Jewish Literacy. William Morrow and Co., Inc., NY: 1991.

Trachtenberg, Joshua. The Devil and the Jews: The Medieval Conception of the Jew. Jewish Publication Society: Philadelphia, 1983.

Wouk, Herman. This is My God: The Jewish Way of Life. Simon & Schuster: NY, 1970.

**A bulkpack of articles and selections not limited to the list above will be provided and will serve as the main reader for this course.**