 **Date:** Oct. 2013

Course Name:

Introduction to Rabbinic Literature

**Type of course:** Lecture

**Year of Studies:** 2013-2014 **Semester:** Fall& Spring **ours/credits:** 2

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

To give a well-rounded introduction to rabbinic literature using classic as well as some modern sources. The course will deal with the history, philosophy, structure, and content of the Oral *Torah*, the process of the transmission of the *mesorah*, and begin to explore some of the more essential texts of Rabbinic literature.

**Course Description:**

Classes will include both lecture and class discussion components to them. There will also be use of multimedia in the form of pictures, audio, and video, to elucidate some of the material being covered in class. A projector and laptop will be used. Occasionally, students will be given group work in class or as homework such as splitting into groups to debate a certain topic that was learned in class, or researching a certain area of *halacha*.

 **Detailed Lesson plan:**

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| **Comment** | **Required Reading** | **Topic of the Lesson** | **Number of Lesson** |
| rules, syllabus, requirements, questions to be answered throughout semester The structure and components of the Oral Law | Rambam PH”M, Encycopedia Judaica, The Oral Law of Sinai, R’ B. Wein  | 1) Introduction and foundation of the class 2) What is the Oral Law? | **1**  |
| Proofs of Oral Torah, when it was given, who was it given to, how, etc | Rabbi Lawrence Kelemen, Rav SR Hirsch, Rav Yitzchak Berkowitz | The Philosophical Argument Part 1 | **2** |
| Shabbat, Shechittah, Tefillin, Sukkah,  | Eruvin 54b, Brachos 5a, Chulin 28a,  | The Philosophical Argument Part 2 | **3**  |
| How the Oral Torah got from what it was to what it is right now | Rambam’s Introduction to Peirush Hamishnayot, Gateway to the Talmud,  | The History of the Oral Torah part 1 | **4** |
| Tracing the generations of the mesorah and the historical significance of each. | Iggeres R’ Sherirah Gaon, Yesod Hamishnah of Rav Margolios | The History of the Oral Torah part 2 | **5** |
|  |  | Midterm | **6** |
| An inside look at the texts  | Texts of Mishnah, Gemarah, Tosefta, Medrash Halacha | The 4 Parts of the Oral Law: Mishnah, Gemarah, Tosefta, Medrash Halacha | **7** |
|  | Mevoh Hatalmud, Rabbi Berger,  | Mishnah Vs. Gemarah | **8** |
| History, Structure, Purpose of Rishonaic Literature | Rashi, Tosfos, Rambam, Ramban, Ran, Rosh, Rif, Ritvah, Rashbah | Rishonim | **9** |
| History, Structure, Purpose of Acharonaic Literature | Shulchan Aruch, Ramah, Nosei Keilim, Modern Poskim | Acharonim | **10** |
|  |  | Review | **11** |

**Course requirements:** Full Attendance, note taking, participation in group and individual assignments and activities,

**Requirements/ Assignment/Tasks:** 1 Test, 1 Midterm, 1 research assignment, Final

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

#### Bibliography: (Required/ Elective): Rambam Hakdamah L’peirush Hamishnayos; Mevo L’talmud, Rav Berger; Yesod Hamishnah, Rav Reuven Margolios; R’ Hirsch’s commentary to the Torah; Iggeres Rav Sherirah Gaon; Permission to Believe, Permission to Receive, Rabbi Lawrence Kelemen; Classic texts such as Mishnah, Gemarah, Shulchan Aruch, and commentaries, Hatorah V’hamesorah L’shitas Harambam, Rav kahanah;

**Required textbooks, other textbooks:** Handouts, materials to be sent electronically to students

**Required material for the final:**  class notes, readings from in class and from homework