

Course Name:

**Topics in Maimonides**

Type of course: Lecture

**Year of Studies**:2017-2018 **Semester:** Fall  **Hours/credits**: 2

**Course Description**:

The objective of the class is to go through various fundamental topics essential to Judaism through the eyes of the Rambam and other Sages. We will discuss important issues and see various points of view on the  major ideas that are the backbone of  Judaism.

**Detailed Lesson plan**:

**Week 1 and 2 – Our Purpose in the World**

These lectures we will discuss why Hashem created the world and our job in the world. We will delve into the issue on a personal, communal, and global level. The lecture includes various opinions and perspectives including the Rambam's unique outlook..

**Week 3 and 4- The Golden Path of the Rambam**

In these lectures, we will delve into the timeless advice of the Rambam. We will discuss different scenarios and situations as to when and where the Rambam's the Ramabam's sagely advice would and wouldn't apply.

**Week 5 and 6 – Free Will vs. Divine Providence**

In these lectures, we will discuss the topic of free will, where it applies and its limitations. We will also analyze various scenarios that will shed light on the question of free will vs. divine providence

**Week 7 and 8 – Test 1 and Thoughts vs. Actions**

In these lectures, we will discuss Judaism's view on the responsibility a person has for their thoughts. Do thoughts lead to actions? Do actions lead to thoughts? Is one responsible for thoughts that never turn into actions? We will see various perspectives and discuss the different issues.

**Week 9 and 10– Reward and Punishment**

In these lectures, we will discuss the Rambam's view on Reward and Punishment. How quickly does one receive a reward/ punishment for a good/bad deed? Does the reward come in this world or the World to Come? What are Yesurim? Tzadik ViRah Lo and Rasha ViTov Lo.

**Week 11 and 12- The Places You Go**

In these lectures, we will discuss the effect an environment has on a person as well as the effect a person has on an environment. We will analyze various opinions dealing with when to enter or not enter into certain situations.

**Final Week** - Cumulative Final

**Grading:**

Attendance - 25 % (you can miss 2 classes)

Test 1 - 35%

Final – 40%