

Course Name and Number:

Topics in Maimonides

**Type of course:** Lecture

**Year of Studies:** 2017-2018 **Semester:** Spring **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 – Are you ever allowed to lie?**

In this lecture, we will discuss various real-life scenarios as to whether one is ever allowed to lie. Are you ever supposed to lie? Could it even be a mitzva to lie? We will analyze various gemaras and rishonim on our quest to a conclusion

**Week 2 and 3– Lashon Harah**

In this lecture, we will delve into the intricacies of lashon harah. What is considered lashon harah? Why is lashon harah so bad for a person? Is it ever ok to speak lashon harah? Listen to lashon harah? Etc. We will analyze the chofetz chaim’s advice to help us gin a deeper understanding

**Week 4 and 5- Gehenom and Olam Habbah**

In these lectures, we will delve into the afterlife. What does tradition teach about what happens to the soul in Gehenom vs. heaven. Does everyone go to gehenom? Does everyone go to Olam Habbah? Etc.

**Week 6 and 7 – shabbat**

In these lectures, we will discuss the topic of shabbat. We will discuss the spirit of shabbat vs. the laws of shabbat and how they work hand in hand. We will delve into zachor vs. shamor, as well as the concepts of kavod and oneg shabbat.where it applies and its limitations.

**Week 8** - Midterm

**Week- 9  and 10– Test 1 - Prayer**

In these lectures, we will discuss the ins and outs prayer. We will attempt to answer some of the most fundamental questions about prayer including: Why must we pray? Doesn’t Hashem already know what we want? If Hashem is just won’t we receive what we deserve regardless of whether we prayer? Why do we pray so often? And finally, how can we make prayer more meaningful?

**Week 11 and 12– Israel**

In these lectures, we will discuss the Importance of the land of Israel. Is it a mitzvah to live here? We will analyze the Rambam’s view and compare it to the Ramban’s view. We will discuss modern day Israel and why Satmar Chassidim do not believe in the state. Lastly, we will discuss mitzvot hatluyot baaretz and how Mitzvot were given to be performed in the land of Israel.

**Final Week** - Cumulative Final

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

Attendance - 33 % (you can miss 2 classes)

Test 1 - 33%

Test 2- 33%