 **Date: Fall – Winter 2021-22**

Course Name and Number:

***Introduction to the Jewish Experience - Meir Balofsky***

**Year of Studies: Semester: Hours/credits**

**The courses objectives:**

*Participants will gain a strong familiarity and understanding of major figures, texts and aspects of ritual observance.*

**Course Description:**

*\* The composition of the Oral law*

*\*Areas of practical Jewish ritual observance, including major holidays, kashrut and shabbat*

**The Process of the Course:**

**Semester 2**

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| Comment | Topic of the Lesson | Lesson |
| *Who were the Jews? The Purim Story* | Purim – Part 1 | 1 |
| *How we celebrate today* | Purim – Part 2 | 2 |
| *The spiritual and the practical* | Kashrut | 3 |
| *The Haggadah – content and structure. Seder Experience* | Passover 1 | 4 |
| *Seder Experience continued. Ritual & Kashrut* | Passover 2 | 5 |
| *What does it mean that the holidays are “late this year”* | Rosh Chodesh – Lunar Calendar | 6 |
| *Birth / Brit / Pidyon, Bar- Bat Mitzvah* | Jewish Life Cycle 1 | 7 |
| *Weddings and Funerals* | Jewish Life Cycle 2 | 8 |
| *Cooking / Timers / Eruv* | Shabbat in practice | 9 |
| *Why is Shavuot the least popular of the major holidays?* | The Omer and Shavuot | 10 |
| *How do we apply ancient teachings to our lives today?* | Writing of the Oral Law / Compilation of the Talmud | 11 |
| *How do we mourn for something we didn’t experience?* | Fast days and Tisha’ B’Av | 12 |

**Course requirements**

**Requirements/ Assignment/Tasks**

**S***emester 2: Final Exam 40%*

*Assignment (written or multi-media) on an area of Jewish law of their choice 35%*

*Participation / Attendance 25%*

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

**Required textbooks, other textbooks -** all content will be provided

**Required material for the final** – all content will be provided