

Date: Sep. 2025

Syllabus - Teaching Program for the Course

**Women in Jewish Law**

**Miriam Schwartz**05-242-80

05-241-05

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| **Course Type:** | Lecturer |
| **Scope of credits:** | 1 |
| **Year of study:** | 2025-2026 |
| **Semester:** | Spring |
| **Day & Time:** | Monday Morning |
| **Reception Time:** | By appointment |
| **Lecturer Email:** | miriam@rybtech.com |
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**Course description and learning goals.**

**Course Abstract**

This course is a survey of Women in Jewish Law. The second semester will be an analysis of the components of a woman’s relationships throughout her adult life. It will begin with self-development and will conclude with a couple’s relationship within a Torah framework. Discussions of Niddah, Yichud, and Jewish Divorce laws will be included.

**Learning objectives**

**Knowledge**

1. Learners will demonstrate their understanding of Niddah Laws.
2. Learners will be able to describe components of self-development.
3. Learners will be able to define important ideas in Torah relationships,

**Values**

Learners will be able to formulate their own beliefs about their role in Jewish society and their ability to contribute to their communities.

**Active learning –** **lessons plan:**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Lesson No. | Topic | Active learning | Required reading | Assessment |
| 1 | Self Esteem |  |  |  |
| 2 | Chessed |  |  |  |
| 3 | Dating and Relationships |  |  |  |
| 4 | Family Purity Part 1 |  |  |  |
| 5 | Family Purity Part 2 |  |  |  |
| 6 | Family Purity Part 3 |  |  |  |
| 7 | Yichud Part 1 |  |  |  |
| 8 | Yichud Part 2 |  |  |  |
| 9 | Marital Intimacy |  |  |  |
| 10 | Challah / Shabbat Candles |  |  |  |
| 11 | Divorce / Aguna Crisis |  |  |  |
| 12 | Mikvah Trip |  |  |  |
| 13 | Final Exam |  |  |  |

**Final grade**

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| --- | --- |
| Description of the learning product | Weight in the final score |
| Final Exam | 65% of final grade |
| Class Participation | 35% of final grade |

**Course** requirements

Final Exam

80% Attendance is required.

Class participation



**Bibliography: Up-to-date** **reading, viewing, and listening content items**

Sourcebook to be distributed to students at the beginning of each semester.

**Lesson 1: Self Esteem**

Dr. David Lieberman – How to Love and be Loved

**Lesson 2: Chessed**

Talmud Shabbat 133b, Sotah 14a

Maharal, Derech Chaim 1:2

Alei Shur, Vol. I, p. 93, Vol. II, p. 205

Rabbi Joseph B Soloveitchik - A Tribute To The Rebbitzen Of Talne

**Lesson 3: Dating and Relationships**

Rabbi Shlomo Aviner - V’Ahavta L’Raayatcha Kamocha

Michtav M’Eliyahu pp. 37-38

B’reishit 24:12 with Rashi and Abarbanel

Rabbi Lawrence Hajioff, "You Are Getting Married for the Wrong Reason," The Times of Israel, August 18, 2014

Emily Esfahani Smith, "Masters of Love," The Atlantic, June 12, 2014

**Lesson 4 - 6: Family Purity**

Rabbi Ari Kahn – M’oray Ha’Aish – Life and Death

Rebbetzin Tehilla Abramov “The Secret Ingredient of a Successful Marriage”

Rabbi Aryeh Kaplan Waters of Eden

Rivka Slonim Total Immersion

**Lesson 7 & 8: Yichud**

Talmud Yerushalmi Ketubot 1:8

Talmud Bavli Kiddushin 81b

Yam Shel Shlomo, Kiddushin chapter 4, siman 21

Talmud Bavli Avoda Zara 36b

Rabbi Ari Wasserman - Staying Out of Trouble - The Prohibition of Yichud

Rabbi Zev Leff - The Concept of Modesty

**Lesson 9: Marital Intimacy**

Rabbi Chaim Levine, “The Deeper Meaning of Physical Intimacy”

Rabbi Avraham Peretz Friedman, Marital Intimacy

**Lesson 10: Challah / Shabbat Candles**

Bamidbar Chapter 15

Maharal – Chidushei Agadot – Volume 1 23:1

Maharal – Derech Hachaim 243

Ohel Rachel

Prayer for a Woman after Taking Challah

Rebbetzin Feige Twerski “For Women Only”

Mrs. Leah Kohn “Women in Judaism”

Rambam Laws of Shabbat 5:1, 30:5

Rav Dovid Mirsky Hegyonei Halacha

Gemara Shabbat 23b, 118b

Prayer for a Woman after Candle Lighting

**Lesson 11: Divorce / Aguna Crisis**

Devarim 24:1

Mishna Kiddushin 1:1

Tur Even Ha’Ezer 120

Talmud Bavli Gittin 88b, Rashi

Jeremy Stern “We Can End The Agunah Crisis”