Instructor:
Professor Jordan D. Rosenblum
Office: 1404 Sterling Hall
Office Hours: Monday/Wednesday 11:00am-12:00 pm; and by appointment
E-mail: jrosenblum@wisc.edu

Course Hours:
Monday and Wednesday 9:55-10:45am

Prerequisite(s):
This course assumes no prior knowledge of Hebrew, Judaism, Law, Business and/or Ethics.

Course Description:
This course explores the development of Jewish law from antiquity to modernity. In particular, it focuses on legal questions related to business practices and ethics. We will explore issues ranging from ethical practices in agriculture to how to run a modern multi-billion dollar kosher industry, from the ethics of Jews celebrating Thanksgiving to regulations governing the preparation, consumption, and sale of coffee.

Course Goals:
By the end of the semester, students should:
• Be familiar with the general development and evolution of Jewish law;
• Be familiar with different strategies that different Jewish communities have used to regulate business and ethical practices;
• Be able to read Jewish legal texts;
• Be able to analyze, in both written and oral form, Jewish legal texts; and
• Be able to apply Jewish legal principles to new material.

Classroom Etiquette:
In both class and discussion sections, students are expected to arrive on time and should not engage in private conversations. Students wishing to use laptops must: (1) sit in the first three rows of class; and (2) refrain from using them for anything besides taking class notes. There is a one-strike policy for using laptops for anything else. Should any instructor observe you playing on the internet, etc., you will no longer be allowed to use your laptop in class for the remainder of the semester. There is no reason for a student to be talking or sending texts on a cellular phone during class time. This is distracting to both professor and students. Cellphones must be turned off and put away during class. Students whose behavior in class is disruptive can expect a significant reduction in their final grade.
Requirements and Grading:

(1) Regular class attendance of lectures and careful preparation of assigned texts are essential aspects of this course. Readings are to be completed for the class day upon which they appear on the syllabus. Please bring the assigned texts to both class and discussion section each week. In grading papers and tests, we will be particularly concerned that you are learning the material and concepts that are taught in class sessions. Prior learning is not a substitute for doing the work required by this course.

(2) Attendance and participation in sections: 10%. Active involvement in discussion sections is highly important. Your teaching assistant will provide an additional syllabus with standards and guidelines.

   (A) You may receive extra credit for participation. In order to do so, you must attend an on-campus event sponsored by either the Center for Jewish Studies, the Legal Studies Program, or Religious Studies Program; write a one-page response paper in which you summarize the lecture and attempt to apply what it taught you to content from this course; and submit it to your Teaching Assistant within one week of attending the event. Students may submit extra credit a maximum of twice per semester. Based on the quality of work, you may receive up to 2 points per assignment added to your final participation grade (total of 4 possible points for the semester).

(3) Two papers: 20% each; 40% total. Two short papers, each not more than three typed, double-spaced pages, will be assigned during the semester. They are due at the beginning of class on September 27 and November 22.

   N.B. Students taking this course for Legal Studies credit will be required to complete longer paper assignments. Additional information will be provided at a later date.

(4) Take-Home Midterm: 25%. The take-home exam, due by 11:00 am on October 30, will address the readings and class discussions up to that point.

(5) Take-Home Exam: 25%. The take-home exam, due by 12:05 pm on December 15, will be cumulative and will address issues covered in the readings and class discussions.

   **Students are expected to bring relevant texts to every class**

Honor Code:
Students are expected to follow the University of Wisconsin-Madison Academic Honor Code. If students have any questions about this policy, please speak with your teaching assistant or the instructor. More information on plagiarism can be found at: http://www.wisc.edu/writing/Handbook/QPA_plagiarism.html

Extension Policy:
Extensions on papers and exams will not be granted. For each 24-hour period that a paper or exam is late, the student’s grade will be reduced by one full letter grade.

Grade Scale:
A: 94-100  AB: 88-93  B: 83-87  BC: 77-82  C: 70-76
D: 60-69  F: 0-60
**Required Books:**
(4) Electronic Reserve: Canvas (readings marked with *)

**Class Schedule:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 6</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td><em>Course Syllabus</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>September 11</td>
<td>Introduction to Biblical Law</td>
<td><em>CCJL</em>, 19-47; <em>Laws of Hammurabi</em> (selections)</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 25</td>
<td>Introduction to Second Temple Judaism</td>
<td><em>CCJL</em>, 48-75</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 27</td>
<td>No Class: Work on Paper One</td>
<td><strong>Paper Due at 11:00 am</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>October 2</td>
<td>Text Workshop: Jewish Law in Sectarian Communities</td>
<td>*Community Rule; Miqsat Ma'aseh Ha-Torah; Matthew 5:1-7:29; Acts of the Apostles, 4:32-5:11</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 4</td>
<td>Introduction to Rabbinic Judaism</td>
<td><em>CCJL</em>, 76-127</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 9</td>
<td>Text Workshop: Rabbinic Authority</td>
<td><em>T</em>, 469-471, 553-556, 591-592</td>
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October 16  
**Text Workshop: Talmud: Neziqin, Part I**  
**Reading:** T, 425-496

October 18  
**Text Workshop: Talmud: Neziqin, Part II**  
**Reading:** T, 497-556

October 23  
**Text Workshop: Talmud on Sabbath and Kosher Laws**  
**Reading:** T, 95-107, 113-123, 127-138, 603-619

October 25  
**Introduction to Medieval Jewish Law**  
**Reading:** CCJL, 157-186

October 30  
**No Class: Take-Home Midterm Exam**  
**Midterm Due at 11:00 am**

November 1  
**Text Workshop: Maimonides**  
**Reading:** *Sefer Kinyan* from Mishneh Torah

November 6  
**Maternal Nursing and Wet Nurses**  
**Reading:** *Baumgarten, “Maternal Nursing and Wet Nurses: Feeding and Caring of Infants”*

November 8  
**Judaism and the Enlightenment**  
**Reading:** CCJL, 215-231

November 13  
**Jewish Law and Coffee**  
**Reading:** JWC, 37-59

November 15  
**Jewish Responses to Thanksgiving**  
**Reading:** *Berkowitz, “Women’s Wear and Men’s Suits: Ovadiah Yosef’s and Moshe Feinstein’s Discourses of Jewishness”*;  
[https://www.sefaria.org/sheets/6117](https://www.sefaria.org/sheets/6117)

November 20  
**No Class: Work on Paper Two**

November 22  
**No Class: Work on Paper Two**  
**Paper Due at 11:00 am**

November 27  
**Judaism, Coffee, and Consumption**  
**Reading:** JWC, 61-83

November 29  
**Jewish Law and Coca-Cola**  
**Reading:** *Horowitz, “Kosher Coke, Kosher Science”*
December 4  Is it “Kosher”? Modern Legal Scandals  
**Reading:** *Gross, “The Event and Response”*

December 6  Jewish Law and Israel  
**Reading:** *CCJL, 337-364*

December 11  Israel as a “Jewish and Democratic State”  
**Reading:** *CCJL, 365-385*

December 13  Conclusions and Review  
**Reading:** *Arbes, “How the Talmud Became a Best-Seller in South Korea”*

December 15  TAKE-HOME EXAM DUE  
12:05 pm