

Interpersonal Relationships (3 Credits)

This course addresses fundamental questions and overarching themes in Halaka and Human Relations.

- Is ethical the same as Halachic?
- Do the laws of bein adam lchavero differ from ben adam l'Makom?
- What is the mandate of chesed?

Through text, rich discussion, and reflection, students learn about the obligations Jewish law places upon the relationships between people. Similarly the course covers how the Torah regulates our interpersonal behavior through prohibitions, how we understand the prohibition of loshon hara in the contemporary culture, and how we understand and apply the definition of tzedaka.

Course Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Determine ethical action given diverse scenarios and circumstances.
2. Identify the differences and similarity between being ethical and being halachic.
3. Analyze how the Torah regulates our interpersonal behavior through prohibitions.

Topics (Subject to Change):

- Principles of Interpersonal Behavior
- Above & Beyond the Law
- The Mandate of Chesed (Kindness, Hospitality)
- Basics of Tzedakah (Charity)
- The Prohibitions of Interpersonal Behavior
- The Bilateral Obligation of Forgiveness
- Lashon Hara & Implications (Derogatory Speech, Gossip)

Assessment:

This course utilizes a mix of engaging discussions, collaborative glossing of primary sources, knowledge checks and journaling to assess students understanding and ability to apply newly acquired knowledge to the world in which they live. Students will use Web 2.0 tools and technology to collaborate, engage, and reflect both with Professor through private journals and with one another.