



Sy Syms Jewish Values Curriculum 2020-2021

Overview

YU’s core educational mission is to prepare you for a variety of in-demand fields while relaying the teachings, traditions and values of our rich tradition—a tradition you will take out into the world as you represent the Jewish people while building your families, careers, and communities.

In September 2020, Sy Syms will debut a new Jewish Values curriculum that offers practical, experiential and actionable courses to prepare you for the workplace. The new curriculum covers two broad types of issues (purely-business issues, and universal issues with a business lens) and two domains of interaction (within the Jewish world, and between the Jewish and Non-Jewish worlds). It will include the following four courses:

		Domain of interaction	
		Within Jewish World	Jewish with Non-Jewish
Types of issues	Purely business	Jewish Business Law	Practical Workplace Halacha
	Universal with business lens	Jewish Public Policy	Jewish-World Interaction

Three of these courses are debuting in the Fall 2020 semester and the fourth will debut in Spring 2021. Please note that if you want to take Practical Workplace Halacha next year, make sure to sign up for the Fall semester.

Jewish Business Law in the Contemporary Marketplace [FALL 2020, SPRING 2021]

Lead professor: Rabbi Itamar Rosensweig

Co-teacher: Rabbi Shlomo Weissmann – director, Beth Din of America

This course explores the application of Jewish civil law in the contemporary commercial marketplace. The course covers: (1) the interaction between Jewish law, secular law and commercial custom. (2) Contemporary *beit din* procedure and jurisprudence, including the jurisdiction of contemporary *batei din*, different procedures for adjudicating disputes (*pesharah* vs. *din, zabras*), choice of law clauses, the appeal process, and the role of attorneys. (3) Substantive principles of Jewish law in the contemporary marketplace, such as: employment law, unjust enrichment, compensation for conferred benefits, foundations of Jewish contract law, tort theory and law, property law, and principles of fair competition.

Throughout the course we will read and critically evaluate contemporary *beit din* decisions and examine how the principles and rules of Jewish law are applied in the modern marketplace. If time allows, we'll also discuss the relationship between rights and duties in Jewish law and the extent to which Jewish civil law recognizes economic considerations.

Practical Workplace Halacha [FALL 2020]

Lead professor: Ari Wasserman – author of the bestseller *Making It Work: A Practical Guide to Halacha in the Workplace*

Co-teacher: Rabbi Yoni Levin

The workplace, with its many opportunities, is a constant, ever-changing challenge. We want to excel in our chosen profession, and still remain strong in our commitment to Torah and *mitzvos*.

There are challenges out there, but there are also solutions. You can learn how to succeed in the workplace, and how to grow as a Torah Jew.

In this course, you'll discover how to deal with issues like: business meetings in non-kosher restaurants; shaking hands with the opposite gender; wearing a *kippah* to work; social gatherings and holiday parties; personal use of office supplies; *yichud*; setting aside time to learn; *minchah* during the workday, and much more.

Jewish Public Policy [FALL 2020, SPRING 2021]

Lead professor: Rabbi Dovid Bashevkin

Jewish Public policy examines the intersection of Judaism and public policy in three different ways: (1) The Jewish approach to major public policy issues, (2) how general public policy affects the Jewish community, (3) and the internal application of public policy that the Jewish community has created to govern their own institutions, organizations, and policies.

Through the course, students will explore some of the key ways community has been conceptualized within the Jewish community, as well as some of the larger areas of debate, controversy, and coordination that have emerged in that process. Grounded in history, sociology, and economics, the course will apply key concepts to contemporary case studies to help them re-imagine the challenges and opportunities facing today's Jewish community.

Jewish-World Interaction [SPRING 2021]

Lead professor: Rabbi Dr. Ari Lamm

We will explore a range of big questions raised by life in a commercial world. We will pay particular attention to the ways in which great Jewish ideas helped build our society, and the practical ways the values of our *mesorah* can help us change our own lives while influencing our (Jewish and non-Jewish) neighbors as we venture out into our professional lives.