

Syllabus for Philosophy 11
"Problems in Jewish Philosophy"

- I. FREE WILL AND DETERMINISM. Exegetical problems in Bible and commentaries. Formulation of problem in Mishnah. Parmenides and Democritus -- and history of problem in Western philosophy. Resolutions suggested by Saadia, Ibn Daud, Halevi, Gersonides, Crescas, with special emphasis on Maimonides. Treatment of problem by modern secular (especially scientific and psychological) and Christian thinkers.
- II. DOGMATOLOGY. History of Ikkarim - formulations. Attempts in Philo, Talmud. Islamic and Christian dogmatology. Maimonides Principles. Crescas. Albo. Readings in Maimonides and Albo. Contemporary problems.
- III. FAITH AND DOUBT. Definitions of faith in Talmud, Saadia, Maimonides. Classifications of forms of faith by Buber, Wolfson, Tillich. Legitimation of Doubt in context of faith: Talmud, Rashi, Saadia. Writings of contemporary linguistic philosophers.