

BASIC PROGRAM of LIBERAL EDUCATION for ADULTS

Summer Quarter 2024

Maimonides' *Guide of the Perplexed*

INSTRUCTOR	DATES AND TIMES	LOCATION
Aaron Tugendhaft	COURSE LENGTH: 6 Weeks DATES: 13 June – 25 July	Remote Course
EMAIL: atugendhaft@gmail.com Instructor can be contacted through Canvas message	DAY OF THE WEEK: Thursday TIMES: 9:30-12:45	COURSE CODE and SECTION: BASC70258 24U1 PREREQUISITES: None

Remote courses require you to login to Canvas to access the Zoom Classroom. **You will receive an invitation to join Canvas about a week before your course begins.** Please visit <https://grahamschool.uchicago.edu/academic-programs/online/learning-resources/liberal-arts> to find Canvas login instructions, Zoom instructions, and student training sessions.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will provide an introduction to the medieval Jewish philosopher Rabbi Moses ben Maimun (Maimonides) and his major philosophical work, *The Guide of the Perplexed*. Through close reading of select passages from the *Guide* and related texts, students will become familiar with the major themes of medieval Aristotelian philosophy and the particular form it took within the context of Judaism. Major themes include the relationship between reason and revelation, biblical hermeneutics, the nature of prophecy and providence, the reasons for the commandments, and, ultimately, the proper relationship between human beings and God.

REQUIRED TEXTS

1. Moses Maimonides, *The Guide of the Perplexed*, vol. 1, trans. Shlomo Pines (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1974), ISBN: 978-0226502304
2. Moses Maimonides, *The Guide of the Perplexed*, vol. 2, trans. Shlomo Pines (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1974), ISBN: 978-0226502311

Students can purchase books at the Gleacher Center Bookstore online at <https://chicagobooth.bncollege.com/shop/chicagobooth/page/find-textbooks> using the Textbook order form, or by using the ISBN number to order the correct edition elsewhere.

WEEKLY READING SCHEDULE

DAY	AUTHOR	READING ASSIGNMENT
WEEK 1 June 13		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> J. Kraemer, "The Life of Maimonides" [PDF] Maimonides, "Letter to Samuel Ibn Tibbon" [PDF] Maimonides, "Epistle Dedicatory" and "Introduction to the First Part" in <i>Guide of the Perplexed</i>, vol. 1, pp. 3-20
WEEK 2 June 20	Maimonides	<i>Guide of the Perplexed</i> , Part I, chs. 1-2, 5, 17, 26, 31-35 (= vol. 1, pp. 21-26, 29-31, 42-43, 56-57, 65-81)
WEEK 3 June 27	Maimonides	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Guide of the Perplexed</i>, Part II, chs. 32, 36-40, 45 (= vol. 2, pp. 360-363, 369-385, 395-403) <i>Mishneh Torah</i>, Laws of Idolatry, ch. 1 [PDF]
WEEK 4 July 11	Maimonides	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Guide of the Perplexed</i>, Part III, chs. 11-12, 17 (= vol. 2, pp. 440-448, 464-474) "Letter on Astrology" [PDF]
WEEK 5 July 18	Maimonides	<i>Guide of the Perplexed</i> , Part III, chs. 26-34 (= vol. 2, pp. 506-535)
WEEK 6 July 25	Maimonides	<i>Guide of the Perplexed</i> , Part III, chs. 51-54 (= vol. 2, pp. 618-638)

Students will receive an invitation to join the Graham School Student Community Canvas Site, a place to read announcements, have discussions, ask questions, and find resources.

DISABILITY INFORMATION

Student Disability Services (SDS) works to provide resources, support and accommodations for all students with disabilities and works to remove physical and attitudinal barriers, which may prevent their full participation in the University community. Students that would like to request accommodations should contact SDS in advance of the first class meeting at 773.702.6000 or disabilities@uchicago.edu.