Dear all and welcome to the online course to be given in English

The name of the course is “**Why Give? Approaches to Charity as found in Rabbinic Literature**”. In the course of the semester we will learning about the religious obligation of giving charity and we shall study the various approaches to this commandment throughout time from the Talmudic period until today. The first half of the semester will be devoted to introductory material about this central obligation and the second half towards demonstrating the various approaches taken by the leadership in their attempt to convince man to be generous. This part of the course will begin with the Talmudic Sages, move to medieval Rabbis and end with modern-day thinkers. The purpose of the course is to become better acquainted with the various approaches to charity from the Bible onwards utilizing various texts and academic disciplines (literary, historical, legal).

Every week there will be a reading) assignment (or a viewing of a lecture or other materials from the web together with summary questions. The readings will either be a passage from a book or article or it may be something that I wrote up for the class. I will do my best to post the reading at the beginning of the week.

There is **no** obligation to submit the answers to the summary questions, but they will be the basis of the exam at the end of the semester, so it will be worthwhile to relate to them. There may be one assignment during the course of the semester and there will surely be one frontal meeting.

If you have any questions, feel free to ask me

I hope you will enjoy this learning experience

Yehuda