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Course Description:
Jewish tradition has a great deal to say about disability. This course will trace the development of Jewish perspectives on disability from the bible through rabbinic sources and more contemporary understandings. We will consider issues regarding the cause of as well as the Jewish responses to individuals with disability. This course is appropriate for education students as well as others interested in exploring the topic.

Learning Objectives:
We will explore the Biblical, Rabbinic and Modern Jewish attitudes toward Disability, and see how these attitudes shape our current perspective. Students will learn to look at texts with a wider awareness of Difference and Disability.

Required Texts:
Several articles will be posted as part of the course lecture.

Optional Texts:
Other articles may be posted as optional. In addition, there will be recommendations for other optional readings.

Assessment:
Students will be assessed based on their participation in the online discussion, as well as the content quality of their personal journals and the expanded reflection paper/midrash/project.

Course Accommodations for Disabilities:
Hebrew College is committed to ensuring the full participation of all students in programs. Accordingly, if a student has a documented disability, and as a result, needs a reasonable accommodation to attend, participate or complete course requirements, then he or she should inform the instructor at the beginning of the course. For further information, see the Student Handbook at http://hebrewcollege.edu/sites/default/files/student_handbook.pdf.

If you require course accommodations because of a documented disability or an emergency medical condition, please email your instructor as soon as possible. We are happy to work with you on any issues you have to ensure that you can participate fully in the class and complete the course requirements. Please do not wait until the assignments are due for a retroactive accommodation, but discuss the situation with your instructor before you experience difficulty.

Course Structure (Dates, Topics, Readings and Assignments):
The five week session will include five units; since Thanksgiving is in the middle of the course, some weeks might include more than one unit.

• Unit I: Overview of Jewish Views on Disability
  o Tanach, Part 1: Disability in the Torah
• Unit II: Disability in the Tanach, Part 2  
  o Biblical characters  
  o Disability in the Prophets and Writings  

• Unit III: Disability in Rabbinic Literature, Part 1  
  o Halachic sources on disability  

• Unit IV: Disability in Rabbinic Literature, Part 2  
  o Midrashic sources on disability  

• Unit V: Contemporary Jewish Views on Disability and Education  

**Final Assignment:**  
Students are expected to complete the lectures and participate in online discussion through the Schoology system in a timely fashion. Students are also expected to keep an online journal which will include personal responses to discussion questions. Finally, students will expand on one of the topics/questions from the discussion board in a bit more detail as part of a final project. This could take the shape of a two-to-three page paper, or a midrash, or an artistic expression, with instructor approval.