

The School of the Environment is offering a special topics course, ENV382H1S, from 2 – 4 on Tuesdays in the winter term. Open to students in third and fourth year. ***Students enrolled in Environmental Studies, Environmental Ethics (major only), Environmental Science (major only), Environment & Behaviour, Jewish Studies, Religion, and Near & Middle-Eastern Civilization programs have priority for this course.***

### **ENV382H1S Special Topics in the Environment – Waste Not, Want Not: Stories of Wastefulness in Religion and Society**

Do religions have environmental ethics? This course will explore religious approaches to environmental ethics within three Abrahamic faiths: Judaism, Christianity and Islam. Religious environmentalists have used teachings from the Hebrew Bible, New Testament and Quran as exemplars of sustainability. Others, however, claim that these texts teach domination, anthropocentrism and hierarchical values. Among other texts, this course will look at sources from the Hebrew Bible, New Testament, Talmud, Quran, Hadith, medieval commentaries and modern sources. We will study environmental movements within these faiths and how values are translated into lived religion. Our understanding will be augmented through field trips where we will explore how environmental teachings are being interpreted within faith communities.

The course instructor is Tanhum Yoreh.

Dr. Yoreh studies the intellectual history of religious-based environmental concepts and their modern application to human behaviour. He obtained his PhD in Humanities from York University in 2014. His dissertation focused on Religion and Environment, investigating the intellectual history of the Jewish prohibition against wastefulness. He has since expanded his research on wastefulness to include other Abrahamic faiths, namely Christianity and Islam. He was the recipient of a Spalding Trust Award in 2015 for post-doctoral interfaith research. Dr. Yoreh also holds a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Studies from McGill University's School of Environment, and a Master's degree in Geography specializing in Environmental Management, Planning and Policy from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. While studying for his MA, he hosted an award-winning radio program on Israeli and Middle Eastern environmental issues.

Dr. Yoreh has taught at Leo Baeck College in London, the Faculty of Divinity at the University of Cambridge, and the Department of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations at U of T. He is interested in faith-based wisdom as it pertains to the environment and in understanding how this wisdom is translated from theory into practice. His current research focuses on the impact of religious values on environmental behavior in Toronto communities. He is also interested in religious legal approaches to environmental protection.