

Hebrew College Rabbinical School
Academic Year 2010-11/5771 Fall Semester
INTD 015 Jewish Life and Practice I: The Yearly Cycle
Instructor: Rabbi Allan Lehmann
Fridays, 11:15-1:15 [First session on Wed. 9/22 11:15-1:15]

Contacting the Instructor

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Course Goals:

The primary goal of Traditional Jewish Life and Practice is to help students deepen their familiarity with basic Jewish practices and the meanings behind those practices. Students will be introduced to the patterns and essential terminology of Jewish religious life: the life cycle, the Shabbat and holiday cycle, and other essential aspects of traditional observance. We will integrate primary text study, secondary readings and hands-on practicing, repetition and review in order to build fluency and comfort in the practice of Judaism. Students are encouraged to bring their personal experience to class discussions, and to talk about their reaction to the content of what we are learning and practicing.

Course Requirements:

1. **Regular attendance.** If you miss more than one session you will need to make up the class by writing a summary (750 words) of the topic for that week.
2. **Thoughtful reading of the week's assignments.** Students are expected to come prepared and to participate actively. There will be an expectation of honest and respectful dialogue in all class sessions.
3. **Class journal.** Students will spend 15-20 minutes per week "journaling" in response to the class. This written response is meant to be personal, reflective and informal. These assignments are due by email on each Wednesday after class.
4. **Project-** Students are asked to focus on a traditional Jewish practice that they have been currently observing, or one that they have newly chosen to observe this semester, and to prepare a treatment (in writing and for presentation at the last class) of their experience, along with an in-depth investigation of that practice.

Required books:

Blu Greenberg, *How to Run a Traditional Jewish Household*

Irving Greenberg, *The Jewish Way: Living the Holidays*

Isaac Klein, *A Guide to Jewish Religious Practice*

Recommended books:

Michael Strassfeld, *The Jewish Holidays*

Arthur Waskow, *Seasons of Our Joy*

Daniel Judson and Kerry Olitzky, eds., *The Rituals & Practices of a Jewish Life: A Handbook for Personal Spiritual Renewal*

Elon, Hyman and Waskow, *Trees, Earth, and Torah*

In addition to these books, students are also expected to own a Hebrew/English Tanakh, and a traditional siddur (of your own choosing). Please bring the Tanakh with you to class each week.

Course Schedule

- 9/22 Introduction to Jewish time: the calendar, year, month, week and day
- 10/8 Introduction, Daily Prayer, *tzitzit*, *tallit*, *tefillin*, *sefer torah*
A.J. Heschel, *Man's Quest for God*, pp. 3-8
Klein, 3-39
Please bring siddur, tallit and tefillin (if you have)
- 10/15 Shabbat-Tefillot and home rituals
Klein 53-75
Greenberg, *Jewish Way*, 121-81
Greenberg, *How to Run*, 25-90
- 10/22 Shabbat Practice
Klein 76-94
- 10/29 Elul, Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur
Klein, 175-224
Greenberg, *Jewish Way*, 182-215
Waskow, *Seasons*, 1-46 (please bring shofar, mahzor and kittel (if you have))
- 11/5 Sukkot
Klein 155-73
Greenberg, *Jewish Way*, 94-118
Waskow, *Seasons*, 47-86
- 11/12 Pesah I-Seder etc
Klein 103-140
Greenberg, *Jewish Way*, 34-656
Waskow, *Seasons*, 133-164
- 11/19 Pesah II-Hametz etc
readings continued from last week
- 12/10 Sefira/yom Hashoa Lag Ba'omer Shavuot, Fast days, Yom Ha'atzmaut, Yom
Hazikkaron
Klein 141-153, 241-253
Greenberg, *Jewish Way*, 66-93, 283-303, 307-372
Waskow, *Seasons*, 165-218
Greenberg, *Jewish Way*, 373-404

12/17 Presentations and Wrap Up