Hebrew College Rabbinical School
Academic Year 2013-2014 Spring Semester
INTD 016
Jewish Life and Practice: The Yearly Cycle
Instructor: Rabbi Allan Lehmann
Fridays 11:30-1:00

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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.
   • 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.
   • Class journal. Students will spend 15-20 minutes per week in Schoology
discussions in response to the class. This written response is meant to be
personal, reflective and informal. They are to be posted by each Tuesday after
class.
   • Weekly quiz. There will be a short quiz at the beginning of each class on key
terms and phrases from the assigned reading for that week.
   • "Lab" Project- Students are asked to focus on two Jewish practices, one
relating to eating and one relating to prayer practice that they have either been
currently observing, or have newly chosen to observe this semester, and to keep
a brief weekly log to record their experience and their response. The May 16
class will be devoted to discussion and sharing our "lab" work.

Required books:
Martin S. Cohen and Michael Katz, editors, The Observant Life [TOL]
Blu Greenberg, How to Run a Traditional Jewish Household
Recommended books:
Irving Greenberg, *The Jewish Way: Living the Holidays*
Isaac Klein, *A Guide to Jewish Religious Practice*
Michael Strassfeld, *The Jewish Holidays*
Arthur Waskow, *Seasons of Our Joy*
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

February 7  Introduction to Jewish time: the calendar, year, month, week and day,
TOL Alan Lucas, Introduction, the Jewish Calendar 137-9

February 14  Everyday spirituality, Daily Prayer, *tzitzit, kipa, tallit, tefillin, sefer torah part I*

A.J. Heschel, Man’s Quest for God, pp. 3-8
GJP I, 5-96.
TOL Prayer Karen Reiss Medwed pp. 5-60
recommended: Klein, 3-39
Please bring siddur, tallit and tefillin (if you have)

February 21  Daily Prayer, *tzitzit, kipa, tallit, tefillin, sefer torah part II*

February 28  Shabbat-Tefillot and home rituals
TOL Shabbat Michael Katz and Gershon Schwartz 98-122
GJP II Jacob Staub 73-182 [strongly recommended 182-200]
Greenberg, *How to Run*, 25-90
recommended: Klein 53-75
recommended: Greenberg, *Jewish Way*, 121-81

March 7  Purim, special shabbatot, Tu Bishvat
TOL Lucas 193-202
GJP II Barbara Penzner 463-505
GJP II 701-704
Recommended: Elon, Hyman and Waskow, *Trees, Earth, and Torah*

March 14  Shabbat Practice
TOL Shabbat Michael Katz and Gershon Schwartz 122-136
GJP II, Staub 3-71.
recommended: Klein 76-94

March 21  Kashrut
TOL Drazen The Dietary Laws Paul Drazen 305-338
GJP I 519-548
Greenberg, *How to Run*, Kashrut section
March 28
Kashrut continued

April 4
Yom Tov, Pesah
TOL Lucas Working and Cooking on Holy Days, Eruv Tavshilin 139-42
Pesah I-Seder etc
TOL Lucas Nisan, The Passover Festival 202-3, 211-224
GJP II 527-578
Klein 103-140
Recommended:
[Greenberg, Jewish Way, 34-656
Waskow, Seasons, 133-164]
bring your favorite haggadot to class

April 11
Pesah II-Hametz etc
TOL Lucas 203-11
GJP Robert Tabak and David Teutsch 579-604

April 25
Sefirat Ha’omer, Yom Hashoa, Lag Ba’omer, Yom Ha’atzmaut, Shavuot,
Fast days

Shavuot
GJP II Seth Goldstein 615-657
TOL Lucas 224-8
Yom Hashoa, Yom Haatzmaut
TOL 223-4
GJP II 683-95
Fast Days
TOL Lucas 229-31
GJP II 695-700
Tisha Be’av
TOL Lucas 231-5
GJP II 659-681
Tu Be’av
TOL Lucas 235
recommended:
[Klein 141-153, 241-253
Greenberg, Jewish Way, 66-93, 283-303, 307-372
Waskow, Seasons, 165-218
Greenberg, Jewish Way, 373-404]

May 2
Yamim Noraim
GJP II Yael Ridberg Yamim Noraim 201-335
TOL Lucas Elul, Selihot 143-5
TOL Lucas Rosh Hashanah 146-156
TOL Lucas The Ten Days of Repentance, The Day of Atonement 157-169
recommended:
[Greenberg, Jewish Way, 94-118, 182-215]
May 9
Sukkot, Shmini Atzeret, Simhat Torah
GJP II Nina Mandel Sukkot 349-92
TOL Lucas Sukkot, Shmini Atzeret, Simhat Torah 169-187
Recommended: [Klein, 175-224]

May 16
Wrap-up- lab presentations

May 23
Final Exam