Workshop on Liturgical Halakhah  
CG-LITGY-595  
1 graduate credit  
Mondays, 11:15 AM – 1:15 pm  
(5 sessions, Feb. 2, Feb. 9, Feb. 23, March 2, March 9)  
Spring 2015  
Dr. Debra Blank  
dblank@hebrewcollege.edu  

The following is subject to revision.

The goal of this class is to acquaint students with the sources they need to systematically search for answers to questions about liturgical practice. The purpose of this class is not to learn ‘how to daven’ or the ‘right way’ to do anything, but to develop a strategy that helps you best arrive at informed answers and advise others.

Over the five sessions, each student will research and present two questions, along with summaries of the relevant materials (approx. 30”/presentation). This includes classical rabbinic sources in Hebrew and contemporary materials in English and Hebrew. Obviously, time must be spent in the library. You are not expected to find ‘the’ answer to each question, only to get the information that would inform a discussion that could lead to a decision (for example, by a ritual committee). In class, you will present your findings and tentative conclusion, which will be followed by class discussion.

This course is intended for students of the SJM, but others may enroll with instructor’s permission. Required level Hebrew 6. Enrollment is limited to 8 students. Attendance is mandatory. No grade of Incomplete will be assigned, except in the case of extraordinary unforeseen circumstances.

Assessments will be made according to
-- the thoroughness and clarity of your research and presentations;  
-- your engaged and thoughtful participation in the discussions of classmates’ work;  
-- evidence of using resources that are new to you;  
-- your increasing comfort using the lu’ah.

These books must be brought to class every session:
-- Koren-Sacks Siddur  
-- Lu’ah Hashanah, Miles Cohen and Leslie Rubin (USCJ, RA, and CA).

Helpful resources:  
T’filah k’hilkhata, Yitzhak Ya’akov Fuks (Jerusalem, 1989).
A Guide to Jewish Practice,
   Volume 1: Everyday Living, ed. David Teutsch; esp the section on “decision-making”,
   Volume 2: Shabbat and Holidays, ed. Teutsch and Richard Hirsh.
Encyclopaedia Judaica.
The Observant Life, ed. Martin Cohen and Michael Katz.
Rite and Reason, Shmuel Pinchas Gelbard.
Various books by Daniel Sperber.

Some helpful web sites:
CCARnet.org/responsa
Halachipedia.com
RabbinicalAssembly.org/responsa
Jewishrecon.org/resource files
Ritualwell.org
Urj.org/worship
Responsafortoday.com
Beureihatefila.com