RB-PRAC-515 - Senior Seminar
Instructor: Allan Lehmann
Tuesday 11:30-1:00
Fall 2015-16

Contacting the Instructor

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Course Goals:
The Senior Seminar provides an opportunity for students approaching graduation to investigate current topics that face rabbis in their practice. Most of these topics involve issues of personal status and Jewish identity such as intermarriage, Jewish identity by birth, the role of non-Jews in Jewish families and communities, and conversion. Contemporary readings from a range of Jewish sources are integrated with primary text study. Students are encouraged to bring their personal experience to class discussions.

Course Requirements:

1. Thoughtful reading of the week's assignments. Students are expected to come prepared and to participate actively. Most reading assignments are available on Schoology; others may be made available over the course of the term.

2. 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 and to continue the class discussion.

3. Project. Students will be asked to prepare a project focusing on one of the topics treated in this course (or another agreed upon topic). This will be an in-depth investigation of this topic, bringing to bear both classic and contemporary sources.

9/8 Introduction
10/1 Thursday (HC Tuesday) Role of the non-Jew in Jewish communities 1
10/8 Role of the non-Jew in Jewish communities 2
10/13 Officiation at intermarriages 1
10/20 Officiation at intermarriages 2
10/27 Jewish identity by birth
11/3 Conversion 1
11/10 Conversion 2
11/17 Divorce and remarriage
11/24 Berit Milah
12/1 topic to be determined by participants
12/8 topic to be determined by participants
12/15 topic to be determined by participants
12/22 final session