A course designed to explore the history and development of Jewish celebrations of life cycle events, from birth to death, as well as the practical skills of creating original Secular Humanistic Jewish ceremonies. Reading proficiency in Hebrew required.

Pre-Course Assignments
1. Prior to January 15, 2012, choose, in consultation with the faculty for this course, one of the following life cycles (birth, marriage, intermarriage/conversion death) and be prepared to teach the class the history of the life cycle from biblical to modern times for about an hour. You may want to look at some of the Supplementary Texts that relate to your chosen life cycle. Pay attention to bibliography and footnotes. You will need them for your final paper. (Life cycle choices will be assigned in the order that they are requested. Please have second or third choices ready).
2. Prepare and submit a Secular Humanistic Jewish ceremony for your chosen life cycle. Due February 20, 2012. You will end your presentation with the “performance” of your ceremony, using members of the class as your participants. In your preparation, please create and note the steps you would take for implementation, the questions you would include in a pre-ceremony interview, a list of ritual items needed for the ceremony, the processional/recessional and the ceremonial set-up. (You may use material from various sources. However, every non-original part of the ceremony must be attributed to the writer).

Requirements to Complete the Course
1. Completion of pre-course assignments.
2. Class attendance at all sessions.
3. Students shall complete a one to two page self-evaluation to be completed and sent to course faculty no later than April 1, 2012. The self-evaluation will include understanding of the readings, your assessment of your class presentation and your sense of preparedness to be a capable life cycle ceremonialist.
4. Students shall complete an evaluation form for the course to be returned to Jeremy Owens at info@iishj.org, no later than April 1, 2012.

5. Rabbinic and Masters students shall complete a final paper (15-20 pages) based on the life cycle presented in class and shall include a history of the life cycle, textual references (Bible, Mishna/Talmud, Mishne Torah and Kitzur Shulchan Aruch), Ceremony Elements of a traditional/rabbinic ceremony, changes in ceremony in reform Judaism, a discussion of Ceremony Elements of the traditional ceremony that can be used in Secular Humanistic Judaism and your original ceremony. Please include the ceremonial preparation materials you used in an appendix. The paper will be double spaced, 12 point type with one inch margins. Papers/projects are due no later than December 21, 2012.

6. Create ceremonies (6 in total) for Birth Celebration, Coming of Age Ceremony (Bar/Bat Mitzvah or Confirmation), two ceremonies for Marriage one between two Jews and one intermarriage between a Jew and another religious/cultural background with one or two officiants (co-officiated), a Memorial or Funeral Service (if a Memorial Service is chosen, include a separate burial of either body or cremation remains), and one other ceremony. The ceremony you write prior to class is included. These ceremonies can also be used to satisfy field work requirements and must be included again when the field work is documented and submitted. (You may use material from various sources. However, every non-original part of the ceremony must be attributed to the writer). All ceremonies are due by December 21, 2012. If you do not yet have a field work arrangement, please discuss this assignment and different deadline with Rabbi Jerris.

**Required Texts**


**Required Readings**

(You will need the books in this section either for other courses or you should have them on your bookshelf [or on your electronic reader]. Required online readings are also listed here)


*Guide to Humanistic Judaism*, Society for Humanistic Judaism. Read selections on Adult Celebrations, Celebrations, Birth Celebrations, Brit Mila, Bar/Bat Mitzva and Confirmation,
Marriage, Marriage Celebrations, Intermarriage, Sexual Orientation, Divorce, Death, Funeral, Memorial Services, Mourning Practices, Adoption (Conversion). All new members of the Society for Humanistic Judaism receive this “guide.” (Available from the Society for Humanistic Judaism).


Scherman, N, tr. The Complete Art Scroll Siddur, Mesorah Publications, 1984. (Ashkenaz or Sefard) Page numbers will be Ashkenaz first and then Sefard. (selections)


Supplementary Texts
(not required)


DAILY SCHEDULE (may vary) –
We will meet one evening in order to break by 2 pm on Friday
Session 1: 9:00-11:00
Break: 11:00-11:10
Session 2: 11:15-12:45
Lunch: 12:45-1:30
Session 3: 1:30-3:15
Break: 3:15-3:25
Session 4: 3:30-5:00

Day 1, Monday, February 20, 2012 and Day 2, Tuesday, February 21, 2012

ROLE OF THE RABBI AS CEREMONIALIST IN SECULAR HUMANISTIC JUDAISM

CELEBRATING THE JEWISH LIFE CYCLE
Schauss, (pp. 3-8)
Wine, Judaism Beyond God, (pp. 179-180).
Guide to Humanistic Judaism – Celebrations
Oraynu Contract for Life Cycle 2011-2012 (course pack)

BIRTH AND CELEBRATING NEW LIFE

B’rit Mila (Circumcision)
History and Overview
Schauss (pp.11-76 – see below for sections related to Pidyon HaBen)
Chill (pp.291-306)
Wine, Judaism Beyond God, pp. 180-182.
Guide to Humanistic Judaism, Birth Celebrations, Brit Mila

Text on B’rit Mila
Exodus 4:24-26

Laws and Jewish Practice
The Laws of Circumcision, Kitzur Shulchan Aruch, Chapter 163, pp.1077-1081
Traditional/Rabbinic Bris [circumcision] Ceremony, Art Scroll Siddur, pp. 208-215 or pp.224-231

Pidyon Ha Ben
History and Overview
Schauss (p.18,29,48-50,60,62)
Chill (pp.309-314)
Guide to Humanistic Judaism, Birth Celebrations
Text on Pidyon Ha Ben

Laws and Jewish Practice
Pidyon HaBen Ceremony, *Art Scroll Siddur*, pp. 218-221 or pp.234-237

Secular Humanistic Jewish Approach to Birth
Philosophy
*Celebrating Life’s Passages*, pp. 5-8.

Ceremony Elements
Issues
Wine, S. “Circumcision.” (course pack)
Lowenfeld, J. (URL in required readings)

Family Preparation
Preparing the Rabbi (all in course pack)
Birth Celebration Order of Service Sample
Goldfinger, E. *Naming Certificate Application*
Goldfinger, E. *Candle Values*
Certificates
Jerris, M. *Naming Certificate Cade D’Haem*
*Oraynu Naming Certificate*

Ceremonies
*Celebration*, pp.317-329
*God-Optional Judaism*, pp.143-151,
*Celebrating Life’s Passages*, pp.8-15, 19-21
Ceremonial course pack

Day 2, Tuesday, February 21, 2012 and Day 3 Wednesday, February 22, 2012

COMING OF AGE, BAR/BAT MITZVAH, GROWING UP

History and Overview
Schauss (pp.112-121)
Chill (pp. 315-317)
*Guide to Humanistic Judaism*, Bar/Bat Mitsva and Confirmation.
Barr, R., “Bar and Bat Mitzvah Origins.” (course pack)

Text on Coming of Age
Genesis 17:23-26
Mishnah, Pirke Avot 5:21, Mishnah Niddah 5:6, Ketubot 50a (course pack)

Laws and Jewish Practice
*Art Scroll Siddur*, Blessings Before and After Reading of Torah, pp.440-441 or 480-481.
Traditional/Rabbinic Bar Mitzvah Blessing, pp. 444-445 or 484-485, Blessings Before and After Reading of Haftarah, pp. 446-447 or pp.484-487

Secular Humanistic Jewish Approach to Coming of Age
Philosophy
  *Celebrating Life’s Passages*, pp.25-29.
  *Rosenfeld, M (course pack)*
Bar and Bat Mitzvah Kibbutz Style (course pack)
The Programs (in course pack unless otherwise noted)
  *Schweitzer, P. The City Congregation Program*
  *Schweitzer, P. The City Congregation Mentor Guide*
  *Kol Hadash Humanistic Congregation Mitzvah Guide*
  *http://kolhadash.com/uploads/1/bnai_mitzvah_guide_2.pdf*
  *Gottfried, Rosalie, Mitzvah Program*
  *Secular Jewish Circle Mitzvah Program*
Ceremony Elements
Issues
Family Preparation
Preparing the Rabbi (all in course pack)
  *Oraynu Mitzvah Policies and Guidelines*
  *Oraynu Application for Mitzvah*
  *Oraynu Host Agreement*
  *Goldfinger, E., Mitzvah Candidate Interview*
  *Goldfinger, E., Mitzvah Candidate Agreement*
  *Goldfinger, E., Mitzvah Project List*
  *Chalom, A. Mitzvah Role Models*
  *Goldfinger, E., Mitzvah Ceremony Content*
  *Society for Humanistic Judaism Certificate*
Ceremonies
  *Celebration* pp.330-354
  *God-Optional Judaism*, pp 152-164
  *Celebrating Life’s Passages*, pp.31-38
  *Ceremonial course pack*


**WEDDINGS, MARRIAGE AND PARTNERSHIP**
History and Overview
*Schauss* (pp.125-219)
*Chill* (pp. 275-290)
*Guide to Humanistic Judaism*, Marriage, Marriage Celebrations

**Text on Marriage**
*Genesis 1:26-29; Genesis 2:18-25; Genesis 24:1-8, 50-59, 63-67; Genesis 29:10-30; Deuteronomy 25:5-10; Mishnah Ta’anit 4:8* (course pack)
Laws and Jewish Practice

*Kitzur Shulchan Aruch*
- Pre-Nuptial Laws, Chapter 157, pp.1049-1052.
- The Fast of the Bridegroom and the Bride, Chapter 146, pp.999-1001
- The Nuptial Ceremony, Chapter 147, pp.1001-1003
- The Privacy Following the Marriage Ceremony, Chapter 148, pp.1003-1005.
- The Laws of Birkas Hamazon for Wedding and the Mitzvah to Gladden the Bride and Groom, Chapter 149, pp.1005-1009.

Orthodox Ketubah Text (course pack)
*Art Scroll Siddur,* The Marriage Service, pp. 202-205 or pp. 218-221, Traditional Seven Blessings, pp. 206-207 or pp. 222-223
The Reform Marriage Service (course pack)

**Interruption**

*Guide to Humanistic Judaism,* Intermarriage
Wine, *Judaism Beyond God,* pp. 221-229
*Celebrating Life’s Passages,* pp. 56-66
Petsonk and Remsen, *Intermarriage Handbook*
Jerris, M. *Intermarriage Reading List* (course pack)
Recent Surveys on Intermarriage: 2000 AJC Opinion Survey, 2000-1 NJPS (course pack)
“*If I were a Moose*” by Fred Small (course pack)

Text on Intermarriage
Genesis 27:46-28:9; Deuteronomy 7:1-6; Ezra 9:1-10:17; Ruth 1-4

**Same-Sex Unions/Marriage**
History and Overview
*Guide to Humanistic Judaism,* Sexual Orientation

Text on Homosexuality
Leviticus 18:22 and 20:13

Laws and Jewish Practice
Homosexuality
Amsel, N., *Homosexuality in Orthodox Judaism,*

**Divorce**
History and Overview
Bloch (course pack, pp. 42-46 in Bloch)
*Guide to Humanistic Judaism,* Divorce
Text on Divorce
Deuteronomy 24:1; Malachai, 2:14

Laws and Jewish Practice

Secular Humanistic Jewish Approach to Marriage and Partnership
Philosophy
Celebrating Life’s Passages, pp. 39-45
Jerris, M. Intermarriage and Jewish Identity (course pack)
LCSHJ Statement on Intermarriage http://www.lcshj.org/intermarriage.html
AHR Statement on Intermarriage and Co-officiation,
http://www.humanisticrabbis.org/intermarriage/
http://www.humanisticrabbis.org/co-officiating-at-wedding-ceremonies/
AHR and LCSHJ Diverse Sexualities and Gender Identity Statements
http://www.humanisticrabbis.org/sexualities-identities/
http://www.lcshj.org/same-sex.htm

Ceremony Elements
Hartman, H. (course pack)
Sukenik, M (course pack)

Issues
Preparing the Rabbi (all in course pack)
Chalom, A. Wedding Tracker Worksheet
Goldfinger, E. Intermarriage Prenup Philosophy
Levy, K. Humanistic Jewish Wedding Information (including prices)
Goldfinger, E. Client Information Sheet
Levy, K. Wedding Custom Reply
Jerris, M. Intermarriage Ceremony Outline
Chalom, A. Wedding Information Booklet
Goldfinger, E. Wedding Set Up
Goldfinger, E. Sample Processional
Goldfinger, E. Same Gender Blocking
Secular Humanistic Ketubah Texts

Family Preparation
Ceremonies
Celebration, pp. 365-376
God-Optional Judaism, pp. 165-179,
Celebrating Life’s Passages, pp. 51-55
Ceremonial course pack
Day 5 February 24, 2012

DEATH, MOURNING AND CELEBRATING LIFE
History and Overview
Schauss, pp.223-300.
Chill, pp.319-338.
Wine, Judaism Beyond God, pp. 187-190.
Guide to Humanistic Judaism, Death, Funeral, Memorial Services, Mourning Practices.

Text
Genesis 3:17-19; Genesis 37:34
I Samuel 28:7-15; II Samuel 1:12
Job 1:21

Laws and Jewish Practice
Laws Pertaining to Death, Kitzur Shulchan Aruch, Chapters 194-221, pp. 1180-1283.
Art Scroll Siddur, K’riah pp.796-797 or pp.844-845, El Male Rakhamim, pp.814-815 or pp. 860-861, Kaddish After Burial, pp. 800-801 or pp.848-849
"Funeral Service at the Chapel" The Rabbi’s Guide p124a-136 (course pack)

Secular Humanistic Jewish Approach to Death and Celebration of Life (in course pack unless otherwise noted)
Philosophy
Celebrating Life’s Passages, pp. 80-97
LCSHJ Statement Aid in Dying
Ceremony Elements
Examples of Humanistic Kaddish and Alternatives
Humanist K’riah

Issues
Family Preparation
Preparing the Rabbi
Jerris, M. Humanistic Jewish View of Death and Mourning
Miller, L. SHJ Leaders Guide to Death.
Wolfelt, A. “Understanding the Six Needs of Mourning.”
Goldfinger, E. Pre-arrangement
Jerris, M. Steps from First Call to Eulogy Preparation.
Goldfinger, E., Funeral/Memorial Information
Jerris, M. Questions to Prepare Eulogy.

Ceremonies
Celebration, pp.377-390
God- Optional Judaism, pp. 180-189
Celebrating Life’s Passages, pp. 98-106
Ceremonial course pack
OTHER CELEBRATIONS

Text
Mishnah, Pirke Avot 5:21 (course pack, see Coming of Age)

Conversion/Adoption
Text
Deuteronomy 23:3-9, Isaiah 56, Ezra 9:1-10:17, Ruth 1

Laws and Jewish Practice
Reform Rabbi Manual, pp. 229-234 (course pack)

Secular Humanistic Jewish Adoption/Conversion (all in course pack unless otherwise noted)

Philosophy
IFSHJ Statement, Who is a Jew? http://www.ifshj.net/id44.html
Schweitzer, P. Presentation on Conversion
Barr, R. Adopting Humanistic Judaism
LCSHJ Conversion Considerations
Association of Humanistic Rabbis Statement on Conversion
http://www.humanisticrabbis.org/conversion-adoption/

Preparing the Rabbi (all in course pack)
Oraynu Private Conversion Guidelines
Oraynu Syllabus and Reading List for Conversion
Jerris, M. Society for Humanistic Judaism Distance Program for Conversion/Adoption
Goldfinger, E. Client Information for Conversion
Goldfinger, E. Conversion Covenant

Certificates
SHJ
Goldfinger
Jerris

Hebrew Naming Ceremony for Older Children or Adults (ceremonial course pack)

Ceremonies of Love and Connection
Engagement (ceremonial course pack)

Other Commitment Ceremonies

Women’s Ceremonies
Loss (Miscarriage, still birth), Celebrating Life’s Passages, pp. 107-109
Ceremony of the Wise Woman (retirement/aging) Celebrating Life’s Passages, pp. 77-79

Others

SUMMARY AND EVALUATION
**Additional Resources**


WEBSITES


