Course Syllabus – JC 501-502
Jewish Calendar, Holidays, Liturgy and Celebration I and II

July 11-22, 2011
Faculty: Rabbi Adam Chalom, PhD.

COURSE TEXTS TO OWN AND BRING

Apples and Honey: Music and Readings for a Secular Humanistic Observance of the Jewish New Year Festival (Congress of Secular Jewish Organizations, 1995).


Tanakh/Hebrew Bible – particular translation not important.

Humanistic Judaism vol. 22 no. 2 – Shabbat
Humanistic Judaism vol. 11 no. 3 – Hanukka (may be out of print – check congregational library)
Humanistic Judaism vol. 18 no. 3 - Sukkot

Kitzur Shulchan Aruch (tr. Avrohom Davis) (Metsudah Publications, 1996 or 2006 editions).


Rabbi Peter Schweitzer, The Liberated Haggadah: A Passover Celebration for Cultural, Secular and Humanistic Jews (Center for Cultural Judaism, 2003)


COURSEPACK SOURCES


Mishkan T’filah: A Reform Siddur (NY: Central Conference of American Rabbis, 2007)


ASSIGNMENTS

1) **Pre-Class**: Choose your two favorite traditional Jewish holidays and prepare a 10 minute discussion about the challenges and benefits of celebrating each from a Secular Humanistic perspective.

2) **JC 501 Paper**: Students should complete one 10-20 page paper (12 point font, double-spaced, 1 inch margins) on a topic to be determined in consultation with the instructor, related to material covered in JC 501 (Day 1 through Day 5 below). This paper is due by **April 29, 2012**.

3) **JC 502 Paper**: Students should complete one 10-20 page paper (12 point font, double-spaced, 1 inch margins) on a topic to be determined in consultation with the instructor, related to material covered in JC 502 (Day 6 through Day 10 below). This paper is due by **April 29, 2012**.

**SCHEDULE AND READINGS**

**Day 1**

**AM**: Jewish Calendar: structure, historical calendars, relations to other calendars  
**PM**: Jewish Celebrations, Prayers, and the *Siddur*

**Debate/Discussions**:  What day to celebrate the holiday? Convenience or Tradition?  
Do we need a Siddur?

**READING**:  
*ArtScroll Siddur*, p 1-181, 232-295 (*skimming permissible*)  
*Shulhan Arukh*, p737-749  
Idelson, *Jewish Liturgy*, begin through p127.  
Waskow, *Seasons*, introductory pages (roman numerals)


**Day 2**

**AM**: Shabbat and Havdallah I  
**PM**: Shabbat and Havdallah II

**Debate/Discussion**: Balance of foreign languages (Hebrew, Yiddish, others) with English

**READING**:  
*ArtScroll Siddur*, p 1-181, 232-295 (*skimming permissible*)  
*Humanistic Judaism – Shabbat* – all.  

Day 3

AM: Shabbat and Havdallah III
PM: Rosh Hashana/Yom Kippur I

Debate/Discussion: Shabbat shtick on Sunday Mornings?
Children Holidays, Adult Holidays, Family Holidays – what balance?

READING: Bible – review Exodus 34, Leviticus 23, Numbers 29
Shulkhan Arukh p861-883.
Idelson, Jewish Liturgy, p205-248
Schauss, Festivals, 112-169
Waskow, Seasons, p1-46
Coursepack – High Holidays Questionnaire. Rosh Hashana Mahzor selections.

Day 4

AM: Rosh Hashana/Yom Kippur II
PM: Rosh Hashana/Yom Kippur III

Debate/Discussion: Vocabulary and Liturgy – if we’re blessed, by whom?

READING: Bible - Leviticus 16
Apples and Honey, p3-105
Shulhan Arukh, p887-913

Day 5

AM: Sukkot/Sh’mini Atzeret/Simchat Torah
PM: Creating Humanistic Jewish Holiday Celebrations I

Debate/Discussion: Bicultural Holidays – Xmas/Hanukkah, Easter/Passover

READING: Humanistic Judaism – Sukkot – all
Shulhan Arukh, p915-933
Idelson, Jewish Liturgy, p188-204
Schauss, Festivals, p170-207
Waskow, Seasons, 47-86
Day 6

AM: Hanukkah
PM: Tu B’Shevat and Rosh Khodesh

Debate/Discussion: Our representation of Judaism to the non-Jewish world

READING: Bible - II Kings 18, 21 and 23; Numbers 28:11-15
Shulhan Arukh, p689-695 and 949-963
Schauss, Festivals, 208-236 and 272-280
Waskow, Seasons, p86-114, 228-230 “The Moon”


Day 7

AM: Purim
PM: Passover I

Debate/Discussion: Participation in Jewish Community events – what are our limits?

READING: Bible - Esther, Exodus 1-15, Deuteronomy 16
Maxwell House Haggadah – will be reviewed in class
Shulkh An Arukh p767-773, 799-817, 965-981
Idelson, Jewish Liturgy, p173-187
Schauss, Festivals, p237-271 and 38-85
Schweitzer, The Liberated Haggadah
Waskow, Seasons, 115-164


Day 8

AM: Passover II
PM: Shavuot/Lag B’Omer and Fast Days (Tisha B’Av, Taanit Esther)

Debate/Discussion: Creating new holidays – useful or artificial?

READING: Bible - Lamentations.
Shulhan Arukh, p817-827.
Idelson, Jewish Liturgy, p249-257.
Schauss, Festivals, p86-105.
Waskow, Seasons, 165-218.

Day 9

AM: Modern Jewish Holidays – Israeli Memorial + Independence Day, Yom ha-Shoah, Secular/Humanistic Holidays
PM: Liturgy of other liberal Jewish movements/Blessings and their uses

Debate/Discussion: Citation out of context – nice phrasing vs. original intent?

READING:  Artscroll Siddur, p182-231.
            Idelson, Jewish Liturgy, p268-300.

Day 10

Creating Humanistic Jewish Holiday Celebrations II and Conclusion