

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).

The ArtScroll Siddur – Ashkenaz Edition (Brooklyn, NY: Mesorah Publications, 1984).

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).

A. Z. Idelsohn, *Jewish Liturgy and Its Development*. (Mineola, NY: Dover Publications, 1995).

Barbara Rushkoff, *Jewish Holiday Fun for You!* (New York, NY: Universe Publishing, 2003)

Hayyim Schauss, *The Jewish Festivals: A Guide to the History and Observance* (also published as *Guide to Jewish Holy Days: History and Observance*) (NY: Schocken Books).

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

Arthur Waskow, *Seasons of our Joy: A Modern Guide to the Jewish Holidays* (Boston, MA: Beacon Press, 1982).

COURSEPACK SOURCES

The Book of Blessings: New Jewish Prayers for Daily Life, the Sabbath, and the New Moon Festival (Boston: Beacon Press, 1996).

The Complete Artscroll Machzor – Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot (Brooklyn, NY: Mesorah Publications, 1985-1989).

Gates of Prayer for Shabbat and Weekdays (New York: Central Conference of American Rabbis, 1994).

The Holy Bible – New Revised Standard Version with Apocrypha (New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 1989).

Ismar Elbogen, *Jewish Liturgy: A Comprehensive History* (Philadelphia, PA: Jewish Publication Society, 1993).

Kol Haneshama (Wyncote, PA: The Reconstructionist Press, 1994).

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

Mishnayoth – Order Moed (New York, NY: The Judaica Press, 1963).

Siddur Sim Shalom – A Prayerbook for Shabbat, Festivals, and Weekdays (New York: The Rabbinical Assembly and United Synagogue of America).

The Soncino Talmud (tr. Isidore Epstein) (London: Soncino Press, 1960).

The Union Prayerbook for Jewish Worship (New York: Central Conference of American Rabbis, 1961 – originally 1940).

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: *Bible* – Exodus 23 and 34, Leviticus 23, Numbers 28-29
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)

Coursepack – Babylonian Talmud: Beitza 4b. Mishnah Shabbat 19:5. Mishnah Rosh Hashana 1:1-3, 2:1-2. Mishnah Taanit 4:8. Babylonian Talmud Taanit 30b-31a.

Day 2

AM: Shabbat and Havdallah I

PM: Shabbat and Havdallah II

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

READING: *Bible* – Genesis 1:1 – 2:4, Exodus 20 and 35, Deuteronomy 5.
ArtScroll Siddur, p 296-629.
Humanistic Judaism – Shabbat – all.
Idelson, *Jewish Liturgy*, p128-157.
Schauss, *Festivals*, p3-37.
Home Shabbat Service - http://kolhadash.com/judaism/Home_Shabbat_Chalom.pdf.

Coursepack – Mishnah Shabbat 7:2, 12:3-6, 16:8. BT Berakhot 13a. Torah Portion chart. Secular Humanistic Havdalah. Shabbat Services: Shabbat Shalom. Moments. Women.

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

Coursepack – Mishnah Yoma 8:9. YK Mahzor Selections. Secular Human. High Holidays Material.

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

Coursepack – Sukkot Mahzor selections. Secular Humanistic Sukkot/Simchat Torah Material.

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"
Home Hannu. Service - http://kolhadash.com/judaism/Home_Hanukkah_Chalom.pdf

Coursepack - Babylonian Talmud Shabbat 21b and 23a. Josephus *Antiquities of the Jews* Book 12. I Maccabees 1-2 + 4:41-61. MI-COEJL Tu B'Shevat Seder. Secular Humanistic Tu B'Shevat and Hanukkah materials.

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
Shulhan 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

Coursepack: Babylonian Talmud Megillah 7b. II Maccabees 15:25-39. Mishnah Pesakhim 10:1-5.

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.

Coursepack: Mishnah Taanit 4:6. Babylonian Talmud Taanit 28b-29a. Josephus *Wars of the Jews*, Book VI, Ch. 4. Secular Humanistic Shavuot and Tisha B'Av Materials

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.

Coursepack – Babylonian Talmud Berakhot 40b and 32a. Article on Reform liturgy by Ismar Elbogen. *Union Prayer Book* (selections). *Sim Shalom* (selections). *Gates of Prayer* (selections). *Kol Haneshama* (selections). *Mishkan T'filah* (selections). *Book of Blessings* (selections). Secular Humanistic Israel and Holocaust Materials. Hillel Halkin, “Endless Devotion,” *Jewish Review of Books*, March 2010.

Day 10

Creating Humanistic Jewish Holiday Celebrations II and Conclusion

Debate/Discussion: Intellectual Property, “Adaptation,” and Fair Use.