OPEN HOUSE SCHEDULE
Tuesday, June 2, 2020

All sessions are available on Zoom. Feel free to spend your day sitting in on classes, speaking with our faculty and administration, and getting to know our students. For information please contact Cantor Lisa Klinger-Kantor, Dean of Admissions at lklingerkantor@ajrsem.org. For Zoom links and technical assistance please contact James Wham at jwham@ajrsem.org or Linda Ripps at lripps@ajrsem.org.

9:15 – 10:55 AM
Intro. Talmud
Rabbi Jeff Hoffman

Modern Philosophy
Rabbi Lenny Levin

11:00-11:45 AM
Welcome

11:45 AM -12:45 PM
Getting to Know AJR / Lunch and Learn
Learn more about our programs of study, curriculum, distance learning opportunities, and the application process. Meet with current students, virtually. *Please feel free to use this time to enjoy your lunch during these conversations.*

12:55 – 1:55 PM
Understanding Pluralism*
Sample Class session exclusively for open house attendees
Dr. Ora Horn Prouser, CEO and Academic Dean

2:00-3:20 PM
Responsa/Codes
Rabbi Matthew Goldstone

Counseling I
Cantor Michael Kasper

Biblical Hebrew
Rabbi Peg Kershenbaum

3:30 - 3:50 PM
Minhah
Experience our spirited tefillot

3:55 – 6:20 PM
Intro. Liturgy
Rabbi Jeff Hoffman

3:55- 5:05 PM
Difficult Conversations
Rabbi Scott Glass

5:10-6:10 PM
Disturbing Biblical Texts
Dr. Ora Horn Prouser
Course Descriptions

• **BIB 332 Disturbing Biblical Texts**  
  Dr. Ora Horn Prouser  
  When we engage seriously with the Bible, we find sections that are very meaningful and that speak to us personally, and we find others that disturb us for moral, ethical, or personal reasons. We will focus on those difficult texts and struggle together to find new meaning, or, to find alternative ways to negotiate those sections that are just too troubling.

• **HEB 320 Biblical Hebrew**  
  Rabbi Peg Kershenbaum  
  Introduction to Biblical Hebrew: examination of and exercise in the grammar, syntax and vocabulary of Biblical Hebrew, for the development of competence in understanding and translating the classical Biblical texts (with some attention to major differences between BH, Rabbinic and Modern Hebrew).

• **LIT 101 Introduction to Liturgy**  
  Rabbi Jeff Hoffman  
  Foundations in the academic study of Jewish liturgy including questions of history, textual sources, and literary meaning. Added to that will be inquiries into spiritual meaning for today’s Jews. Portions of the weekday service will be used as the examples for developing an understanding of the basic liturgical units: *Birkhot HaShabat, Pesukei DeZimrah, Keri’at Shema U’Virkhoteha, Amidah, and Tahanun*. Approaches of the varied streams of contemporary Judaism will be taken into consideration.

• **PHI 316 Modern Philosophy**  
  Rabbi Len Levin  
  Issues of modern Jewish thought will be studied through familiarization with principal works of the major modern Jewish philosophers—including Spinoza, Mendelssohn, Buber, Rosenzweig, Kaplan, Heschel, and Soloveitchik—as well as representative thinkers of the 5 major modern and contemporary movements. The focus will be on how all of these thinkers and movements adapted Jewish tradition—each in their own way—to the intellectual, cultural and political challenges of modernity.

• **PRO 215 Counseling I**  
  Cantor Michael Kasper  
  This course is an introduction to the practice of pastoral counseling, offering both the philosophical / religious /psychological underpinnings as well as developing actual practical skills. Emphasis is on acquiring the ability to actively listen and assess situations, and then respond appropriately, knowing when to offer various kinds of help, and when to recommend appropriate referrals. Specific issues in this course involve counseling for life cycle events, pre-marital meetings, helping people cope with illness, losses and grief/bereavement, as well as crisis situations and the stresses of life. We explore ways to use
Jewish texts, song, prayer and ritual for healing. Classes often have an experiential component.

- **PRO 490 Difficult Conversations**  
  Rabbi Scott Glass  
  This course will provide students with an understanding of what causes anxiety, strong emotional reactions, and avoidance of conversations which are often necessary. It will provide opportunities for developing the skills and confidence to handle these difficult situations more comfortably. Students will learn how to manage those issues that are problematic for them, and how to structure conversations that can promote greater understanding. Classes will include discussion of ideas as well as lots of practice and role-playing of real-life situations.

- **RAB 231 Introduction to Talmud**  
  Rabbi Jeff Hoffman  
  Students will acquire the skills to identify the component parts of the talmudic sugya and the relationships between them. This includes the ability to recognize the elements and functions of the talmudic argument, especially the kushia (objection) and the terutz (resolution). Students will also learn the basics of talmudic terminology as well as basic Aramaic vocabulary and grammar. Students are expected to prepare texts with the help of dictionaries, Hebrew commentaries and vocabulary lists, with the limited use of English translations.

- **HAL 484 Responsa Writing: Zoom Minyan**  
  Dr. Matthew Goldstone  
  Should we count both onsite and online participants to make a minyan within a pluralistic setting? In what ways has technology shifted our perception of community and togetherness, and what is the role of such new realities for shaping the path of Jewish law? In this course we will explore both halakhic and secular sources relevant for students to formulate their own responsa addressing these questions.