



COURSES OF STUDY AND INTERNSHIPS

Acronyms Used

ISR	Joseph S. and Caroline Gruss Kollel in Israel
HAL	Halakhah (includes Sephardic courses)
JPH	Jewish philosophy
JTH	Jewish Thought (same department as JPH)
RTP	Rabbinic Training Program (courses given by the Kawaler Rabbinic Training Program)
SHP	Bella and Harry Wexner <i>Semikha</i> Honors Program
TAC	Talmud and Codes (courses and/or study hall sessions)

Calendar and Hours

RIETS semesters provide a minimum of 14 weeks of contact class-hours and generally meet for several weeks more. Thus, there is usually an excess of contact hours for each credit earned.

TAC Study hall sessions generally run from 9am to 12:45pm Lectures generally run from 12:45pm to 2:45pm

Courses meet daily Sunday through Thursday or Monday through Thursday

RTP classes are held generally on Friday.

JPH (JTH) classes are generally held on Monday afternoon and Friday morning. HAL classes meet Monday through Thursday.

SHP classes generally meet on Friday.

Afternoon Study Hall Sessions (required of all kollel students, some fourth year students, voluntary for others): 3-6:30pm, Sunday through Thursday.

Night Study Hall Sessions (required of all kollel students, voluntary for others)

Katz Kollel: daily study hall sessions, Sunday through Thursday, 3pm-6:30pm, lectures given by the head of the Kollel on a regular basis during the times of the study hall session.

Post graduate Kollelim: daily study hall sessions, Sunday through Thursday, 3pm-6:30pm, lectures given by the head of the Kollel or by Kollel Fellows on a regular basis during the times of the study hall session.

YU corequisite graduate programs can be taken in the afternoons or evenings, depending on the individual schedules.



DEGREES GRANTED

- Chaver certificate
- *Yoreh Yoreh Semikha*
- *Yadin Yadin Semikha*

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

CHAVER CERTIFICATE

Open to students with a background in Talmud but who plan to enter professions other than the rabbinate.

Requirements:

- Admission into RIETS and the Ludwig Jesselson Kollel Chaverim, and completion of the following course of studies:
- Participants pursue a post-college year of intense study of Talmud and Halakhah related to their professional goal. Must attend morning and early afternoon study hall session and lecture in Talmud, and afternoon lecture in Halakhah.
- Three years of directed self-study while in professional school or working. Return to RIETS for brief period of summation and completion of research paper.

SEMIKHA YOREH YOREH

The main RIETS course of study leads to Semikha Yoreh Yoreh (the traditional ordination), certifying that an individual has qualified as a rabbi by virtue of his piety; intensive knowledge of the Talmud, Codes, and Halakhah; as well as deep commitment and dedication to enhancing the quality of life for all people.

To receive ordination, a student must be admitted into RIETS and complete the following course of studies, generally over a four year period:

Required Course of Study

- A. TAC Courses - Talmud, Codes, and Study Hall Sessions
- 4 semesters of Talmud (includes lectures and morning study hall session). Students take one course of either 8 or 9 credits each semester in the Department of Talmud and Codes. Specific course assignment is made by the dean.
 - Hullin requirement (can be taken as regular Talmud course over two semesters and satisfy 2 semesters of Talmud, or can be taken concurrently with regular Talmud courses as a special course generally given twice per week)
 - 2 semesters Yoreh Deah (Hullin is a prerequisite) - includes classes and morning study hall session, generally taken in the third year (can be taken during another year with permission from the dean)



- 4th year: must attend one study hall session - either 9-1 or 1-5, depending on hours of internship (see below for the internship requirement)
- night study hall session - voluntary for all except kollel members

B. HAL Courses

- 2 semesters of Contemporary Halakhah (HAL 6571 through 6579) - any time *Hilkhot Aveilut* - 1 semester - any time (generally given in the fall)
- *Hilkhot Niddah* - 1 semester - any time (generally given in the spring)

Fourth year required course:

- *Halakhah L'Maaseh* Program (HAL 6801-6802) - 2 semesters

C. RTP Courses

- 8 credits or the equivalent (see “acceptable substitutions,” following)—required of all *semikha* students
- year 1—First Year Survey course (RTP 6001-6002) - 2 semesters
- years 2 and 3—students choose from one of three tracks in this program—pulpit, education, or chaplaincy—and generally take four RTP credits that pertain to their track. These four credits are comprised of 3 classroom courses and one semester of fieldwork during the third year. Courses relevant to a student’s track are strongly recommended. But students may switch tracks with permission from the dean.

Courses open to those

- in the Education track are RTP6102, 6103, 6104, 6302; second-year students in this track take the Seminar on Jewish Education RTP 6401.
- in the Chaplaincy and Pulpit track are RTP 6102, 6147,6204; second-year students in one of these tracks take the Homiletics Seminars RTP 6301-6302. Specialized chaplaincy electives are RTP 6501 and RTP 6112.

Third-year students take one semester of the Third-Year Shimush/Fieldwork Program (RTP 6131). This program course generally entails activities such as the observation of classes in an outside school and/or the giving of model lessons for those in the education track, or the observation of a rabbi in a synagogue and limited pastoral functions for those in the pulpit track. Appropriate venues are arranged in the chaplain track.

Fourth Year Professional Seminars (RTP 6701-6702) (the Professional Internship course):

During the fourth year of the *Semikha* program all students are required to take 2 semesters of Professional Seminars/Irving I. Stone Rabbinic Internship Program. This consists of extensive fieldwork and some classroom sessions that discuss and analyze the internship experience. Depending on the student’s choice of track, this internship entails teaching, serving as an assistant rabbi, doing communal service work, or other fieldwork relevant to the *Semikha* student. These pulpit, educational, and chaplaincy internships through synagogue, school, and



agency placements are in supervised settings with support services. Students are generally paid for their work by the institution or organization benefiting from it.

Students are also involved in other activities that prepare them for the rabbinate, including youth seminars, *Shabbatonim*, and retreats. This is part of the process of molding an abiding sense of responsibility to entirety of the Jewish people.

D. JTH Courses

Required only of students electing the “Machshevet Yisrael” option (see following “corequisite”); open to all students

E. SHP Courses

Required only of Wexner Fellows (see following). Non-Wexner *Semikha* students can also take SHP course with permission of the dean. See attachment for course sequence and sample four-year program.

F. Hebrew

Students must pass a comprehensive examination demonstrating proficiency in the Hebrew language. Exemptions from this requirement are possible. (See following under “acceptable substitutions.”)

G. Corequisite

In addition to the requirements listed above, ordination is predicated on successful completion of one of the following corequisite programs:

- six semesters of Kollel studies at RIETS (Katz Kollel or Gruss Institute). This requirement can be met any time during the four years of the *semikha* program, except that undergraduate seniors admitted to the *semikha* program cannot begin the kollel in that year.
- twelve credits in the Department of Jewish Thought (Machshevet Yisrael) at RIETS, or
- obtaining one of the following three masters degrees:
 - M.A. at YU’s Bernard Revel Graduate School, which offers programs in Bible, Jewish philosophy, Jewish history, and rabbinic literature.
 - M.S. at YU’s Azrieli Graduate School of Jewish Education and Administration. Azrieli offers the M.S. in Jewish elementary and secondary education
 - or
 - M.S.W. at YU’s Wurzweiler School of Social Work. Wurzweiler's Block Program is tailored to RIETS students’ needs.

Acceptable Substitutions

RTP courses



At the dean's discretion, equivalent graduate courses or experience in the field can be substituted for some RTP courses. It is advisable to consult with the dean before taking a course with the intention of using it as a substitute for an RTP course.

Hebrew Proficiency Exam

Exemption from Hebrew proficiency exam can be received by completing an accepted advanced Ulpan.

Kollel

- 2 credits of Machshevet Yisrael (JTH) can be substituted for 1 semester of Kollel Talmud courses and Kollel
- Gruss Kollel - year of study at Gruss Institute in Israel can take place of one year of residency in NY.

JTH courses

- At the discretion of the dean credits in Revel or Azrieli may be substituted for credits of Machshevet Yisrael on a course by course basis.
- 2 credits of Machshevet Yisrael can be substituted for one semester of Kollel.

SEMIKHA YADIN YADIN

The *Yadin Yadin Semikha*, the advanced ordination that qualifies rabbis as Poskim (decisors of Jewish law), is offered in the Kollel Le'Horoah through an intensive post-graduate study program following traditional ordination.

Requirements

Admission into the Kollel Le'Horoah and completion of the requirements. Admissions requirements:

1. *Semikha*
2. Passing battery of oral exams by 5 examiners
3. Exceptional Talmudic academic record

Course of Study

Residency requirement: 4 years of half-time study in Kollel Le'Horoah and half-time of shiurim in other Kollelim, or 2 years of full time study in Kollel Le'Horoah, studying only for *Yadin Yadin*. (Because of the rigors of the course, most students avail themselves of the 4 year option.)

Content of Study:

- If taken in four years: 2 years of *Chosen Mishpat* (Advanced Jurisprudence), and 2 years of *Even Haezer* (Family Law).
- If taken in two years, one year each of *Choshen Mishpat* (Advanced Jurisprudence) and *Even Haezer* (Family Law).
- With permission the program of study can continue for more than four years.



COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

HALAKHAH (HAL)

HAL 6581, 6582 Jewish Law in Professions and Business

An analysis of various topics—business ethics and bioethics—based on relevant texts in the Talmud, early and late commentaries, and responsa. The student will learn how to approach various halakhic issues frequently faced by practicing rabbis.

HAL 6425 Laws of Mourning

An analysis of death and mourning rituals and laws as found in the code of Jewish law, commentaries and responsa. The student will learn how to approach various halakhic issues frequently faced by practical rabbis.

HAL 6426 Laws of Niddah

An analysis of the laws of Niddah as found in the code of Jewish law, commentaries and responsa. The student is taught how to deal with questions relating to the issue of Niddah.

HAL 6571 Contemporary Jewish Law

The interface between halakhah and issues confronting contemporary society as seen through the prism of responsa literature. Topics include privacy, abortion, assisted suicide, transplants, surrogate motherhood, agunah, and extradition.

HAL 6591 Sephardic Halakhah - Moadim

A review of the laws pertaining to the holiday cycle with emphasis on Rambam, Tur, Bet Yosef, Shulchan Arukh, Kaf Hachayim, and the responsa of Rabbi Ovadya Yosef and other Sephardic luminaries. Emphasis is given to halakhic practice in the main Sephardic communities and the sources upon which it is based. Differences in observance between Sephardic and Ashkenazic Jewry are noted.

HAL 6597 Sephardic Halakhah—Orach Hayim

A study of the holiday cycle using the Code of Jewish Law and other sources, with particular emphasis, on Sephardic rites and practices. Responsa of Rabbi Ovadya Yosef and other Sephardic luminaries are analyzed.

HAL 6601 Sephardic Halakhah—Laws of Niddah

A study of Hilkhot Nidah as found in the Code of Jewish Law, commentaries and Sephardic luminaries, with emphasis on addressing those issues commonly presented to the practicing rabbi. Emphasis is given to halakhic practice in the main Sephardic communities and the sources upon which it is based. Differences in observance between Sephardic and Ashkenazic Jewry are noted.



HAL 6602 Sephardic Halakhah—Mourning

A review of the laws of mourning as found in the Code of Jewish Law, commentaries and Sephardic luminaries, with emphasis on halakhic practice in the main Sephardic communities and its sources. Difference in observance between Sephardic and Ashkenazic practice are noted.

HAL 6615 Sephardic Codes

An analysis of selected topics in Tractate Hullin as they are codified in Shulchan Arukh: Yoreh Deah. Major areas include Shechitah, Basar b'Halav, Ta'aruvot, and Melikhah. Emphasis is placed on Sephardic practices through the study of Sephardic commentaries and responsa. Sources studied include Rambam, Tur, Bet Yosef and Kaf Hachayim and the responsa of Rabbi Ovadya Yosef and other Sephardic luminaries.

HAL 6637 Sephardic Halakhah—Shabbat

An analysis of selected topics relating to Sabbath observance, including exploration of the prohibited categories of labor. Special attention is given to Sephardic practice and an understanding of Sephardic commentaries and responsa, especially the works of Rabbi Ovadya Yosef.

HAL 6801 Fourth Year Halakhah L'Maaseh Program

An analysis of halakhic topics deemed critical for the contemporary practicing rabbi. Topics include Eruvin, Bishul b'Shabbat, Gerut, Milah, Hechsher Kelim, Tevilat Kelim and Siddur Kiddushin. Sourcework will begin with the Talmud and Earlier and Later Commentaries, Codes of Jewish Law, and responsa literature from earlier and modern periods. The emphasis is on addressing current issues in these fields.

JEWISH THOUGHT (JTH)

Each of the courses in Jewish thought concentrates on a particular area in Jewish philosophy through the study of appropriate textual material, ancient, medieval and modern.

JTH 6203 Introduction to the Philosophy of Rav Soloveichik

A study of the thought of Rabbi Joseph Soloveichik. Topics covered include his conception of the philosophy of Halakhah; his conception of Ratzon Vashov; his approach to theodicy; his emphasis on human creativity as compared to the thought of Rabbi Chaim Volozin; his views on natural theology; and his conception of Devekut.

JTH 6213, 6214 Jew's Role in the World

Selected topics in Jewish philosophy and Hashkafah. An exploration of classical Jewish thinkers on issues of importance to contemporary Jewish life. Topics covered include the Jewish attitude to the rest of the world; the nature of Halakhah, halakhic authority, Aggadah, and Daas Torah; science and religion; Halakhah and medicine; women and Halakhah; women and Talmud Torah; the Agunah issue; the Baal Teshuva movement; religious reactions to the State of Israel; and religious attitudes toward secular education.



JTH 6302 Taamei Hamitzvot in Jewish Thought

An exploration of Ta'amei Hamitzvot following the pattern of Isaak Heinemann's Taamei Hamitzvot Be-Sifrut Yisrael. Topics include the views of Hazal, Rabbeynu Sa'adiah Gaon, R Bahya Ibn Pakuda, R Yehudah Halevi, R Abraham Ibn Ezra, R Abraham Ibn Daud, Rambam, Ramban, Ralbag and later thinkers.

JTH 6310 Hashkafat Ha Ramban

A survey of Ramban's life and works. Topics covered include his precursors and lines of influence upon his thought; his relationship to Rashi and ibn Ezra; his understanding of the expulsion from Gan Eden and other topics in Sefer Bereshit; his views on the separation of church and state; his critique of Rambam's view of sacrifices; his view of the Yom Kippur service; his views of the end of the world; and his views on the Land of Israel.

RABBINIC TRAINING PROGRAM (RTP)

RTP 6001-6002 First Year Survey Course

Introduction to the scope of career opportunities available to rabbis in communal work as congregational rabbis, educators and Jewish Communal Professionals and a presentation of the diversity of models and opportunities within each individual component. The course exposes students to outstanding personalities who have been pioneers in their fields or who have been acclaimed as outstanding practitioners in their fields.

RTP 6131 Third Year Shimush Field Work Program

Limited fieldwork placement in pulpit, education, organization, or chaplaincy framework. Students are assigned mentors who supervise their fieldwork.

RTP 6147 Seminar in Professional Rabbis

Course focusing on a proper understanding of life cycle events, including love and marriage, illness, death and mourning, faced by the congregational rabbi. The readings are from relevant halachic texts, with emphasis on clinical aspects. This course is a corequisite for the fieldwork component in the Pulpit track of the Shimush Program and is open to all senior students in RIETS.

RTP 6204 Outreach Training Program

Introduction to outreach from prominent rabbis in the field, including guest lecturers. Topics covered include philosophical issues of the unaffiliated Jew, halakhic issues related to kiruv, teaching methods, and how to promote and conduct a kiruv program. The course may be coupled with hands on internship at Manhattan Jewish Experience and other outreach programs in the New York area. The internship may fulfill the requirements for third year shimush. (See earlier.)

RTP 6251 Rabbinical Leadership

Congregation and Community (Rabbinical Skills in Communal Organization) Develop the essential organizational and leadership skills needed by rabbis in running a synagogue, day school and Jewish institution. Topics include a primer in community organization and leadership development, community organization planning and growing your



organization, working with individuals in an organizational context, and sustaining committed leadership over time. The course combines didactic instruction with interactive and participatory workshops.

RTP 6301 Homiletics Seminar

An introduction to the art of preparing sermons. Covers the analysis of style, topics, and appropriate use of source material. Students will present model sermons they have composed, which will be critiqued by the instructor and class.

RTP 6305 Pastoral Psychology

The Pastoral Psychology courses constitute a survey of issues that are relevant to future rabbis and Jewish educators. The objectives of the course are as follows: Introduce students to salient concepts, principles, and parameters of mental health, relevant to rabbinic practice in both the congregational and the educational spheres, teach some of the basic principles of counseling, sensitize students to the divergent ways in which individuals ask for help, and modalities through which help is given, and to teach students ways of assessing a problem, and determining the most effective and appropriate course of intervention. Emphasis will be on those issues most often encountered by rabbis in their practice, e.g. marriage and family conflict, personal problems, illness, suicide, bereavement, etc.

The introductory classes are based on a formal presentation of assessment and intervention strategies. The more advanced classes focus on more specific counseling skills presented in the format of role playing and subsequent discussion. An emphasis on couple's counseling and issues revolving around marriage and prenuptial processes are highlighted as well. In addition, the students are taught relevant group dynamics particularly as they play out in the classroom and congregation.

RTP 6401 Seminar in Jewish Education

An overview of contemporary issues in Jewish education, which includes an analysis of Classical and contemporary options in yeshiva education, current enrollment patterns, Israeli school systems and informal Jewish education, as well as field visits to yeshivot to observe classes and meet with principals.

RTP 6505 Rabbinic Writing Seminar

The Rabbinic Writing Seminars expose students to a wide array of writing genres, discuss specific concepts of writing and language structure, and work on editing and re-writing skills all within a practical context and mindful of content and audience. Writing assignments are given both in and out of class and are reviewed and critiqued on an individual basis with the instructor.

The writing assignments are both varied and relevant, with a particular focus on writing style and effective communication to a variety of audiences. Classmates anonymously edit some of the writing assignments and actual sentences from the students' work are used for structured exercises geared towards the enhancement of grammar, punctuation, syntax and the like.



The more advanced courses focus more exclusively on traditional rabbinic topics and essays based on Talmudic and traditional Jewish texts. A transition is achieved at which point the writing assignments are also conducted in Hebrew geared towards a more scholarly and academic audience. As part of the requirements for this portion of the program, the student needs to compose a scholarly article for publication in the University's journal on Jewish erudition.

RTP 6607 Contemporary Responsa

An analysis of contemporary responsa literature, with emphasis on the writing of Rabbi Moshe Feinstein, making use of both published and unpublished materials.

RTP 6701 Fourth Year Professional Seminars/Internships

Placement of fourth-year students as interns in pulpit, education, chaplaincy and organizational setting. Students are mentored by professionals who work with them individually. Students meet on a bi-weekly basis as a group with leading rabbis and educators and have the opportunity to discuss issues and challenges faced in their fieldwork.

SEMIKHAH HONORS PROGRAM

SHP 6201 The Rabbi as Educator

This course focuses on the varied educational demands of a rabbinic position, including techniques for teaching Talmud and Bible to a lay population with differing levels of Jewish education and observance, teaching youth and adults in both formal and informal setting, and how to present source material in Hebrew and English.

SHP 6257 Community Relations

Course aimed at developing the essential organizational and leadership skills needed by rabbis in running a synagogue, day school and Jewish institution. Topics include a primer in community organization and leadership development, community organization planning and growing your organization, working with individuals in an organizational context, and sustaining committed leadership over time. The course combines didactic instruction with interactive and participatory workshops.

SHP 6350 Pastoral Psychology (Crosslisted with RTP 6305)

The Pastoral Psychology courses constitute a survey of issues that are relevant to future rabbis and Jewish educators. The objectives of the course are as follows: Introduce students to salient concepts, principles, and parameters of mental health, relevant to rabbinic practice in both the congregational and the educational spheres, teach some of the basic principles of counseling, sensitize students to the divergent ways in which individuals ask for help, and modalities through which help is given, and to teach students ways of assessing a problem, and determining the most effective and appropriate focus more exclusively on traditional rabbinic topics and essays based on Talmudic and traditional Jewish texts. A transition is achieved at which point the writing assignments are also conducted in Hebrew geared towards a more scholarly and academic audience. As part of the requirements for this portion of the program, the student needs to compose a scholarly article for publication in the University's journal on Jewish erudition.



RTP 6607 Contemporary Responsa

An analysis of contemporary responsa literature, with emphasis on the writing of Rabbi Moshe Feinstein, making use of both published and unpublished materials.

RTP 6701 Fourth Year Professional Seminars/Internships

Placement of fourth year students as interns in pulpit, education, chaplaincy and organizational setting. Students are mentored by professionals who work with them individually. Students meet on a bi-weekly basis as a group with leading rabbis and educators and have the opportunity to discuss issues and challenges faced in their fieldwork.

SEMIKHAH HONORS PROGRAM

SHP 6201 The Rabbi as Educator

This course focuses on the varied educational demands of a rabbinic position, including techniques for teaching Talmud and Bible to a lay population with differing levels of Jewish education and observance, teaching youth and adults in both formal and informal setting, and how to present source material in Hebrew and English.

SHP 6257 Community Relations

Course aimed at developing the essential organizational and leadership skills needed by rabbis in running a synagogue, day school and Jewish institution. Topics include a primer in community organization and leadership development, community organization planning and growing your organization, working with individuals in an organizational context, and sustaining committed leadership over time. The course combines didactic instruction with interactive and participatory workshops.

SHP 6350 Pastoral Psychology (Crosslisted with RTP 6305)

The Pastoral Psychology courses constitute a survey of issues that are relevant to future rabbis and Jewish educators. The objectives of the course are as follows: Introduce students to salient concepts, principles, and parameters of mental health, relevant to rabbinic practice in both the congregational and the educational spheres, teach some of the basic principles of counseling, sensitize students to the divergent ways in which individuals ask for help, and modalities through which help is given, and to teach students ways of assessing a problem, and determining the most effective and appropriate course of intervention.

Emphasis will be on those issues most often encountered by rabbis in their practice, e.g. marriage and family conflict, personal problems, illness, suicide, bereavement, etc.

The introductory classes are based on a formal presentation of assessment and intervention strategies. The more advanced classes focus on more specific counseling skills presented in the format of role playing and subsequent discussion. An emphasis on couple's counseling and issues revolving around marriage and prenuptial processes are highlighted as well. In addition, the students are taught relevant group dynamics particularly as they play out in the classroom and congregation.



SHP 6352 Lifespan Counseling

This course focuses on human development with an emphasis on the needs of future congregants at the various stages of life. The particular challenges of childhood through old age are identified in conjunction with many of the typical demands on the rabbi for that specific period of life. Interventions that are age specific are covered as well.

SHP 6501 Business Ethics

Identifies salient principles in Jewish law and general ethical ideals that govern business and commercial relations. Moral dilemmas in specific settings are presented and analyzed using the case study method. Topics include false goodwill, advertising and marketing; salesmanship; pricing policies; labor relations; and fair competition. American and Rabbinic Law are compared. The practical implications and applications for a practicing rabbi and questions or dilemmas he may face is a prominent part of the course.

SHP 6505 Rabbinic Writing Seminar (Crosslisted with RTP 6505)

The Rabbinic Writing Seminars expose students to a wide array of writing genres, discuss specific concepts of writing and language structure, and work on editing and re-writing skills all within a practical context and mindful of content and audience. Writing assignments are given both in and out of class and are reviewed and critiqued on an individual basis with the instructor. The writing assignments are both varied and relevant, with a particular focus on writing style and effective communication to a variety of audiences. Classmates anonymously edit some of the writing assignments and actual sentences from the students' work are used for structured exercises geared towards the enhancement of grammar, punctuation, syntax and the like. The more advance courses focus more exclusively on traditional rabbinic topics and essays based on Talmudic and traditional Jewish texts. A transition is achieved at which point the writing assignments are also conducted in Hebrew geared towards a more scholarly and academic audience. As part of the requirements for this portion of the program, the student needs to compose a scholarly article for publication in the University's journal on Jewish erudition.

SHP 6511 Crisis Intervention

The unique challenges and techniques for crises that may precipitously face the prospective rabbi are covered in this course. This includes post-traumatic reactions, sudden death and illness, acute psychiatric illness or catastrophic life events or occurrences. Immediately ameliorative interventions are considered as well as the process of both accessing communal or government assistance as well as assisting fellow congregants and family members in coping and assisting.

SHP 6512 Advanced Pastoral Skills

This course is aimed at teaching the students the skills of crisis counseling, using a combination of handouts, transcripts of therapy sessions and role-plays depicting situations typically encountered by rabbis in the course of their pastoral duties. It focuses on building skills in verbal response modes and intentions, managing boundaries, determining patterns, strategies for change and resistance.

SHP 6513, 6514 Pastoral Skills Seminar I-II



These seminars seek to develop in the student fundamental and requisite skills for effective pastoral counseling. The experiential group is a learning context particularly suited to help students attain an increased level of self-awareness and personal insight in order to use themselves more sensitively in their work with people. The focus is on diagnostic interviewing skills, listening skills, and short-term intervention techniques appropriate for rabbis who are called upon to help people in crisis.

SHP 6515 Foundations of Dispute Resolution

The goal of this course is to develop basic skills in conflict resolution and mediation. The course focuses on the roots and motivators of conflict and how to reverse destructive rifts into positive means of growth and empowerment. The students are also taught how to identify interventions opportunities and formulate interventions responses. The various mediation skills and interventions are imparted through theoretical discussions, assigned readings, videotape presentations as well as exercises and role playing.

SHP 6516 Mediation for Marriage

Applies mediation skills in resolving marital conflict or negotiating a separation and divorce. Various methods of resolving conflict are reviewed and role-played with particular focus given to the common corrosive factors affecting marriage or ferociously contested divorces as well as the interface between relationship and legal issues.

SHP 6531-6533 Public Speaking Seminars

The Public Speaking seminars are geared towards preparing prospective rabbis for the task of cogently presenting concepts and ideas both from the pulpit or in a more didactic setting. The skills promoted include the use of self-presentation, organization and visual aids. The more advanced classes cover topics such as humor, multimedia presentations, fielding questions and the use of sound bites. The students regularly present to the class, followed by a critique by the classmates and instructor. Subsequently, each presenter retreats to another room where they view their speech on a videotape in order to self-evaluate.

SHP 6540 Couples' Counseling

The initial topics covered in this seminar include understanding relationships, dating, preparing for marriage, the role of the rabbi in pre-marital counseling, early-stage marital issues, communication, defining real problems, as well as conducting the initial interview with a couple. During the latter phase of the course, the following issues are discussed:

Marital and family systems, the impact of families of origin, stages of couple counseling, effective interventions, marital contracts, conflict resolution, individual pathology in a marriage, abusive relationships, the developing family/parenthood, the rabbi's role in the larger network of change, and uses and misuses of ritual. The material is taught through didactic instruction, role-playing and experiential exercises.

SHP 6545 Group Facilitation

The goal of this course is to familiarize the prospective rabbi with group dynamics as they impact on the synagogue, classroom or committees. The perspective of the "group" as an entity



with a life of its own will be highlighted including concepts such as roles, scapegoating, group contagion and projection. Understanding and managing such groups will be considered through presentation and discussion of typical scenarios for the rabbi, community leader or educator.

**SHP 6560 Pastoral Counseling Practicum**

Limited fieldwork placement employing the pastoral psychology skills learned in the foundation and advanced courses. Fieldwork is supervised by a professional psychologist and the students meet on a regular basis to review case studies with the instructor.

SHP 6570 Conflict Resolution Practicum

Attend sessions of a Rabbinical court to study the laws and practices of Rabbinical courts and to see the application of mediation skills in action. The application of previously taught mediation skills are now viewed as they apply to cases disputed and solved in a religious court. The specific laws and practices of the Rabbinical court are both taught and viewed as students attend proceedings and adjudications.

TALMUD (TAC)

The major emphasis of students at RIETS is on the study of the Talmud.

Every seven years, the RIETS faculty meets to pick a group of tractates whose study they deem to be particularly beneficial to be studied over the following seven-year period. At the end of the seven years, the faculty meets to vote on the next cycle, which may vary, substantially from the previous selections.

While this general system is true of most yeshivot, RIETS is distinctive in that its cycle, although relating to the different categories of Jewish law, is not repetitive of the selections within those categories.

In addition, all RIETS *semikha* students are required to study specific areas of law that have special significance for practicing rabbis. They do so in an intensive TAC course dealing with a section of the Code of Jewish law called “Yoreh Deah” and in several other lecture courses under the HAL designation that have been designed precisely for this purpose.