



Course Coordinator: Rabbi Dr. Jonathan Schwartz

Rabbi, Congregation Adath Israel of the JEC, Clinical Director, Center for Anxiety Relief, Union, NJ

CURRICULUM*

**Topics and presenters are tentative and subject to change.*

Session 1,2 and 10 will be slightly more than 60 min but the rest of the course will be closer to 60 min.

<p>Intro <i>Before course starts</i></p>	<p>Intro (5 min) Rabbi Dr. Jonathan Schwartz and Rabbi Yaakov Glasser, David Mitzner Dean, Center for the Jewish Future, Yeshiva University, and Rabbi of the Young Israel of Passaic</p>
<p>Session 1 <i>Week of Nov. 17</i></p>	<p>Pornography</p> <p>Rabbi Shmuel Maybruch, LCSW Psychotherapist and Relationship Coach at The Relationship Couple, LLC (20 min) The impact on the marriage and on oneself/their self-esteem and the importance of bringing it up with the congregant.</p> <p>Rabbi Yaakov Neuburger, Rosh Yeshiva, RIETS, Yeshiva University and Rabbi of Beth Abraham, Bergenfield, NJ (30 min) How to help the spouse or parents of the one addicted and how the rabbi should have the conversation with the congregant/child.</p> <p>Approaches to Pornography Addictions (20 min) <i>Yaakov Nadel, Founder of Guard your Eyes</i> Presentation how to help people get out of pornography addiction and the tools available, why it's effective, how rabbonim can encourage community members to get in to it, etc.</p>
<p>Session 2 <i>Week of Nov. 24</i></p>	<p>Struggling with Sexual Identity (LGBT) (70 min) Rabbi Yaakov Neuburger Dr. David Pelcovitz, Gwendolyn and Joseph Straus Chair in Psychology and Jewish Education at Yeshiva University's Azrieli Graduate School of Jewish Education and Administration Rabbi Menachem Penner, Dean of RIETS, Yeshiva University</p>
<p>Session 3 <i>Week of Dec. 1</i></p>	<p>Spousal Abuse (60 min) Lisa Goodman Twerski, LCSW, author of "I'm So Confused, Am I Being Abused? Guidance for the Orthodox Jewish Spouse and Those who Are Trying to Help"</p>

	<p>Goal of the session is to help the Rabbis understand the impact of spousal abuse on the abuser, victim and marriage, to identify the cycle of abuse and to know how to respond to it.</p>
<p>Session 4 Week of Dec. 8</p>	<p>Infidelity (30 min) Dr Binyamin Tepfer, PhD, CSAT, CMAT, AASECT, Founder and Clinical Director of Tepfer and Associates</p> <p>Rabbi Mordechai Willig, Rosh Yeshiva, RIETS, Yeshiva University and Rabbi, Young Israel of Riverdale moderated by Rabbi Dr. Jonathan Schwartz (30 min) Will address some of the halachic issues that arise from infidelity.</p>
<p>Session 5 Week of Dec. 15</p>	<p>Couples with Trauma history (Trust in relationship, intimacy, etc.) (30 min) Rabbi Eliezer Zwickler, LCSW, Senior Rabbi, Congregation AABJ&D, West Orange, NJ</p> <p>Forgiveness (30 min) Dr. David Pelcovitz</p>
<p>Session 6 Week of Dec. 22</p>	<p>Divorce Mediation (30 min) Rabbi Adam J. Berner, Founder, Berner Law & Mediation Group and Frequent Mediation Presenter and Trainer What is mediation, how is it done, where do you find the experts, what's the rabbi's role and what is NOT the rabbi's role in mediation, collaborative divorce mediation.</p> <p>Coming to Grips with the Understanding That it's Over (30 min) Rabbi Eliezer Zwickler, LCSW When is it time for the rabbi to come to grips with the fact that congregants should divorce and how to help parents accept that their kids are getting divorced.</p>
<p>Session 7 Week of Jan. 5</p>	<p>When Things Get Complicated: Halachic & practical Issues that Arise During & Post Divorce (60 min) Rabbi Daniel Feldman, Rosh Yeshiva, RIETS, Yeshiva University, and Rabbi, Ohr Saadya, Teaneck, NJ Keshet Starr, Esq., Executive Director of the Organization for the Resolution of Agunot (ORA) and Rabbi Shlomo Weissman, Esq., Director of the Beth Din of America</p>
<p>Session 8 Week of Jan. 12</p>	<p>Steps of Divorce/Get Process (60 min) Rabbi Chaim Jachter, Rebbe at TABC High School, Rabbi of Congregation Shaarei Orah (the Sephardic Congregation of Teaneck), Dayan on the Beit Din of Elizabeth and author of the multi-volume halachic work "Gray Matter"</p>

<p>Session 9 <i>Week of Jan. 19</i></p>	<p>“The Sandcastles Way”: Blended Families and Maintaining Healthy “Co-Parenting” (60 min) Rabbi M. Gary Neuman, LMHC, licensed psychotherapist, <i>New York Times</i> bestselling author of seven books including <i>“Helping Your Kids Cope with Divorce the Sandcastles Way”</i>, and referred to by Oprah as <i>“One of the best psychotherapists in the world”</i>, and former Rabbi of Boca Raton Synagogue</p>
<p>Session 10 <i>Week of Jan. 26</i></p>	<p>Adoption and Foster Care</p> <p>Dr. Norman Blumenthal, Director of Trauma, Bereavement and Crisis Intervention at OHEL Children's Home and Family Services, and Education Director of the Harry and Bella Wexner Semikha Honors Program at RIETS (25 min) The parenting/family psychological issues that come up and how to deal with them.</p> <p>David Mandel, CEO, OHEL Children's Home and Family Services Brany Rosen, Director of Member Services, A TIME/ MENORAH Adoption Program (30 min) Describing the process of foster parenting/adoption.</p> <p>Rabbi Hershel Schachter, Rosh Yeshiva, RIETS, Yeshiva University (30 min) Highlighting the relevant Halachos.</p>