



INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM 5780 – SYLLABUS

Temple Sinai, South Burlington, Vt

November 3, 2019 – February 9, 2020

Note: *This course will be shaped by the interests of the participants, so this syllabus is only a rough outline. In addition to the course, we ask for participants to consider services at Temple Sinai, but also at a variety of synagogues so we can discuss those experiences and enrich our learning.*

BOOKS

(Temple Sinai will order these books so participants do not need to.)

- HONORING TRADITION, EMBRACING MODERNITY: A Reader for the Union for Reform Judaism's Introduction to Judaism Course. Rabbis Beth Lieberman and Hara Person.
- HERE ALL ALONG: Finding Meaning, Spirituality, and a Deeper Connection to Life – in Judaism. Sarah Hurwitz
- THE JEWISH HOLIDAYS. Michael Strassfeld
- THE SABBATH. Abraham Joshua Heschel.

CONTACT

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COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1, Nov 3 - Introductions; WHAT IS JUDAISM? WHO ARE THE JEWISH PEOPLE? God, Torah, Israel

PART I: GOD

Week 2, Nov 10 - GOD AND HUMAN NATURE: Fundamental Jewish Ethics of Human Rights

Week 3, Nov 17 - THE NATURE OF GOD

PART II: TORAH

Week 4, Nov 24 - PEOPLE OF THE BOOK (S): Sacred Texts I

No Class Dec 1 for Thanksgiving Holiday

Week 5, Dec 8 - PEOPLE OF THE BOOK (S): Sacred Texts II

PART III: ISRAEL

Week 6, Dec 15 - TABERNACLES IN TIME: Shabbat and the Jewish Home

Dec 22 - Hanukkah Cooking Workshop/Chana Kava

Week 7, Dec 29 - TABERNACLES IN TIME: The Jewish Holidays II

Week 8, Jan 5 - TABERNACLES IN TIME: The Jewish Holidays III

Week 9, Jan 12 - TABERNACLES IN TIME AND SPACE: Jewish Daily Practice, Kashrut, and THE CYCLE OF JEWISH LIFE

Week 10, Jan 19 - THE JEWISH STORY: Myth, History, Memory and Meaning

Week 11, Jan 26 - MODERN JEWRY

SHABBATON – Jan 31 - Feb 1 - JUDAISM AND NATURE: Shabbat with Rabbi Michael Cohen

Week 12, Feb 2 - FACING THE FUTURE: Issues in Judaism Today

Feb 9 - TU BISHVAT and CELEBRATION