

INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM 2019: Thursdays, 6:30-8:30 PM
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Assignments are listed below in italics. Please also read *Choosing Judaism* or *Choosing a Jewish Life* during the course of the semester if you are interested in conversion.

- Session 1, January 10. Mitzvah and Covenant
Read chapters 1-3 in To Life! and chapter 1, What Is a Jew, and chapter 4, Israel, in Settings of Silver
- Session 2, January 17. The Life Cycle (1) -- Berit Milah, B'nai Mitzvah.
Read chapter 5, The Service of God, pp. 85-87, in Settings of Silver; and chapter 8, pp. 215-226 in To Life!
- Session 3, January 24. The Life Cycle (2) Marriage, Family and Home.
Read chapter 5, The Service of God, pp. 89-93, in Settings of Silver; and chapter 8, pp. 226-236 in To Life!
- Session 4, January 31. The Life Cycle (3) – Death and the After-Life
Read chapter 8, pp. 236-241 in To Life! and chapter 7, The World to Come, in Settings of Silver.
- Session 5, February 7. History (1) – From the Bible to the Rabbinic Period
Read chapters 1-8 in A Short History of the Jewish People.
NO CLASS FEBRUARY 14
- Session 6, February 21. Different Ideas of God in Judaism
Read Finding God; chapter 3, God, in Settings of Silver; and chapter 5 in To Life!
- Session 7, February 28. The Calendar (1): Shabbat and Prayer
Read chapter 5, pp.79-85 , The Service of God, chapter 6, Jewish Worship, chapter 8, Shabbat, in Settings of Silver; and chapter 4, pp. 87-106 in To Life!
Optional: Read The Sabbath by Abraham Joshua Heschel.
- Session 8, March 7. The Calendar (2): High Holy Days-- Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur .
Read chapter 9, The High Holy Days, in Settings of Silver; and chapter4, pp. 106-118 in To Life!
- Session 9, March 14. The Calendar (3): Sukkot and Shavuot
Read chapter 11, Other Sacred Days, pp. 170-175, in Settings of Silver; and chapter 4, pp. 119-124 and 129-133 in To Life!
- Session 10, March 21. The Calendar (4): Chanukah
Read chapter 11, Other Sacred Days, pp. 175-178, in Settings of Silver; and chapter 4, pp. 134-138 in To Life!
BREAK: MARCH 28
- Session 11, April 4. The Calendar (5): Purim.
Read chapter 11, Other Holy Days, pp. 178-179 in Settings of Silver; and chapter 4, pp. 133-134 in To Life!
- Session 12, April 11. Jewish Texts: Torah, Talmud, Midrash
Read chapter 13, The Turning Point, and chapter 14, Rabbinic Literature, in Settings of Silver.
- Session 13, April 18. The Calendar (6): Passover
Read chapter 10, Passover, and pp. 153-169, in Settings of Silver; and chapter 4, pp. 124-129 in To Life!

Please attend the Community Seder at Temple Beth El, April 20, 6 PM, preceded by a study session starting at 4 PM

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- Session 14, April 25. Reform Judaism *Read chapters 7, 10, 11, and 12 in To Life!*
- Session 15, May 2. History (2) – The Holocaust
Read chapter 9 in A Short History of the Jewish People

Please attend the Yom HaShoah program at Temple Beth El, May 1, 6 PM

- Session 16, May 9. History (3) –The State of Israel
Read chapters 10, and 11 in A Short History of the Jewish People; and chapter 9 in To Life!

Required Books:

- Settings of Silver: An Introduction to Judaism by Stephen M. Wylen, Paulist Press (2000)
- A Short History of the Jewish People: From Legendary Times to Modern Statehood by Raymond P. Scheindlin, Oxford University Press (2000)
- Finding God: Selected Responses by Rifat Sonsino and Daniel B. Syme, Behrman House (2002)
- The Jewish Study Bible (featuring The Jewish Publication Society TANAKH Translation) by Adele Berlin, Marc Zvi Brettler, and Michael Fishbane, Oxford University Press, (2004).
- To Life: A Celebration of Jewish Being and Thinking by Harold S. Kushner, Warner Books (1994).

If you are interested in conversion, additional requirements include:

- Choosing Judaism by Lydia Kukoff, URJ Press, (2005) or Choosing a Jewish Life by Anita Diamant, Penguin Random House (1997, 2016)
- Schedule regular meetings with Rabbi Singer
- Attendance: six Friday night Shabbat services, one Bar/Bat Mitzvah Saturday morning, Community Seder
- Completion of an open book, take home final exam

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