

Dip Your Toe (Judaism 101)

Class Sessions:

- 1) Cultivating the Context: A Journey Through Jewish History and Jewish Future
- 2) Shabbat
- 3) High Holy Days and the Fall Holidays
- 4) The 3 Regalim: Passover, Shavuot and Sukkot
- 5) Hanukkah: The December Dilemma, and reinterpretations of the holiday by the Rabbis of the Talmud and the Zionists.
- 6) "Minor" Holidays: T'u Bishvat, Purim, Tisha b'Av, Rosh Hodesh, etc...
- 7) The Jewish Lifecycle: Birth, Bnei Mitzvah, Marriage, Divorce and Death
- 8) Mussar and Kedushah: Jewish Ethics and Holiness. Values, Mitzvot including kashrut.
- 9) Siddur: An Introduction to the Jewish prayerbook.
- 10) The Jewish movements: Reform, Reconstructionist, Renewal, Conservative, Orthodox, Hasidic and others...Who is Jewish?
- 11) Jewish Symbols and Objects
- 12) Israel. Zionism, Hebrew and Peoplehood
- 13) Shoah and Antisemitism
- 14) Midrash, Talmud and Halacha :Introduction to Reading the Torah rabbinically.
- 15) Jewish Views of God
- 16) Closing session on what was learned, why it was important, next steps for learning and engagement...

Books to purchase for students:

- 1) The Jewish Holidays by Michael Strassfeld
- 2) Jewish Literacy by Joseph Telushkin
- 3) These Are the Words: A Vocabulary of Jewish Spiritual Life by Arthur Green

Bibliography for further reading:

- 4) A Short History of the Jewish People: From Legendary Times to Modern Statehood by Raymond P. Scheindlin
- 5) Choosing a Jewish Life, Revised and Updated: A Handbook for People Converting to Judaism and for Their Family and Friends by Anita Diamant
- 6) The Observant Life: The Wisdom of Conservative Judaism for Contemporary Jews by Martin Cohen (Editor), Michael Katz (Editor)
- 7) Explaining Reform Judaism by Eugene Borowitz and Naomi Patz
- 8) Exploring Judaism: A Reconstructionist Approach by Alpert and Staub

- 9) Jewish With Feeling by Zalman Schachter-Shalomi
- 10) God in Search of Man : A Philosophy of Judaism
by Abraham Joshua Heschel
- 11) The Classic Midrash: Tannaitic Commentaries on the Bible (Classics of Western Spirituality) by Reuven Hammer
- 12) Everyday Holiness: The Jewish Spiritual Path of Mussar by Alan Morinis
- 13) Seek My Face, Speak My Name. by Arthur Green
- 14) The Essential Kabbalah by Daniel Matt
- 15) Halakhic Man by Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik
- 16) The Sabbath by Abraham Joshua Heschel
- 17) Living Jewish Life Cycle: How to Create Meaningful Jewish Rites of Passage at Every Stage of Life by Rabbi Goldie Milgram
- 18) Judaism for Two: A Spiritual Guide for Strengthening & Celebrating Your Loving Relationship by Rabbi Nancy Wiener and Rabbi Nancy Fuchs-Kreimer
- 19) God vs. Gay? By Jay Michaelson
- 20) Standing Again at Sinai: Judaism from a Feminist Perspective by Judith Plaskow
- 21) The Encyclopedia of Jewish Symbols
by Ellen Frankel (Author), Betsy Platkin Teutsch (Author)

Other Media

- 1) *PBS: Civilization and the Jews*
- 2) *The Story of the Jews* with Simon Schama
- 3) *History Channel Kabbalah Documentary*
- 4) Myjewishlearning.com
- 5) Sefaria.org
- 6) bimbam.com