

"Journeys"

Basic Concepts in Judaism (JST 103)

Syllabus Outline for FZY/Young Judea Year Course

This course will introduce students to the rich world of Jewish wisdom, text, and traditions. Using a seminar approach with a weekly theme, students will forge their own relationship to Judaism, taking note of its historical and religious significance. The seminars are designed to give a foundational understanding of concepts (morning sessions) and an opportunity to experience and search deeply below the surface (afternoon sessions).

The goals of this course are to increase Jewish literacy and trigger a personal encounter with Judaism that informs one's perspective on world events and ideas.

Students will be graded on attendance and participation (25% of the final grade); an in-class oral presentation (25%); weekly check-in and reflections (25%); and a final (25%).

Seminars:

I. Who is the Jewish God? A look at Judaism's perspective of the Deity.

Readings:

- Bokser, Ben Zion. Abraham Isaac Kook – The Lights of Penitence, The Moral Principles, Lights of Holiness, Essays, Letters, and Poems. Paulist Press: New York, 1978. p. 1.
- Hertzberg, Arthur. Judaism. Simon and Schuster Adult Publishing Group. New York, 1998. p. 63-84.
- Telushkin, Joseph. Jewish Wisdom. William Morrow and Company, Inc. New York, 1994. p. 283-289.

II. Prayer, Spirituality, and Connecting (Rosh Hashana)

Readings:

- Dosick, Rabbi Wayne. Op. Cit. p. 201-209
- Steinsaltz, Adin. A Guide to Jewish Prayer Schocken Books: New York, 2000. p. 3-13; p. 288-305.
- Heschel, Abraham Joshua. Man's Quest for God. Charles Scribner's Sons: New York, 1954. p. 3-19.
- Telushkin, Joseph. Jewish Literacy: The Most Important Things to Know About the Jewish Religion, Its People and Its History (Revised and Updated). William Morrow & Company, Inc.: New York, 2001. p. 23-25 and 148-150.

III. Jewish Time (Yom Kippur)

Readings:

- Hertzberg, Arthur and Hirt-Manheimer, Aron. Jews. HarperSanFrancisco: New York, 1998. p. 1-12.
- Steinsaltz, Rabbi Adin. Biblical Images. Basic Books, Inc.: New York, 1984. p. 13-19.
- Dosick, Rabbi Wayne. Living Judaism. HarperSanFrancisco: New York, 1995.

p. 56-64.

- Robinson, George. Essential Judaism. Pocket Books: New York, 2000. p. 55-65.
- Heschel, Abraham Joshua. I Asked for Wonder. Crossroad: New York, 1983. p. 34-37.
- Dresner, Samuel H., The Sabbath. The Burning Bush Press. New York, 1970. p.36-41.
- Hertzberg, Arthur. Judaism. Op. Cit. p. 170-178.

IV. Torah and Mitzvot

Readings:

- Borowitz, Eugene B. "Halakhah in Reform Jewish Usage" in the CCAR Journal, Fall 2002. p. 1-17.
- Telushkin, Joseph. Op. Cit. p. 495-496.

V. Am Yisrael

Readings:

- Dosick, Rabbi Wayne. Living Judaism. HarperSanFrancisco: New York, 1995. p. 56-64.
- Robinson, George. Essential Judaism. Pocket Books: New York, 2000. p. 55-65.

VI. Food/Kashrut

Readings:

- Welfeld, Irving. "You Shall Not Boil a Kid in its Mother's Milk" in The Jewish Bible Quarterly. 32,2 (2004). p. 84-89.
- Lau, Rabbi Israel Meir. Op. Cit. p. 106-107

VII. Environment

Readings:

- 10 Jewish Teachings on Judaism and Environmentalism by Rabbi Lawrence Troster (http://www.coejl.org/~coejlor/learn/je_tenje.php)
- Jews, Jewish Texts, and Nature: A Brief History by Rabbi Daniel Swartz (http://www.coejl.org/~coejlor/learn/je_swartz.php)

VIII. Shoah

Readings:

- Golinkin, David. "Yom HaShoah: A Program of Observance". in Conservative Judaism. Vol. 37 (4). p. 52-61.
- Greenberg, Irving. Op. Cit. p.326-339 and 388-399.
- Schwartz, Rabbi Yom Tov. Eyes to See – Recovering Ethical Torah Principles Lost in the Holocaust. Urim Publications: Jerusalem, 2004. p. 167-177. (classroom handout).

IX. Family and Sexuality

Readings:

- Lamm, Maurice. The Jewish Way in Love and Marriage. David, Jonathan Publishers, Inc., New York, 1992. p.3-9, 115-121.

X. Tzedek

Readings: Jewish Literacy, Rabbi Joseph Telushkin, pp. 499-500; 51-514