**Required Books**

1. HTEM ***–*** Lieberman, Beth and Hara Person, eds. *Honoring Tradition, Embracing Modernity: A Reader for the Union for Reform Judaism’s Introduction to Judaism Course*, CCAR Press, 2017.
2. LJL **–** Diamant, Anita. *Living a Jewish Life: Jewish Traditions, Customs, and Values for Today's Families (Revised and Updated Edition,* Harper Collins, 2007. Please check that you are buying the revised, 2007 edition.
3. TK **– Suggested:** A Tanakh, a Hebrew Bible. Choose one of the following.
* *Tanakh: The Holy Scriptures.* The Jewish Publication Society, 1988. Paperback, 1985. Available English only, English and Hebrew; many sizes and formats. The best English translation of the Hebrew Bible available today.   OR
* Berlin, Adele and Marc Zvi Brettler, ed. *The Jewish Study Bible*, Second edition, Oxford University Press. Please note that the second edition is not available in paperback. This Bible uses the same authoritative translation as above, and adds explanatory notes, introductory materials, and essays by leading biblical scholars on virtually every aspect of the text, the world in which it was written, its interpretation, and its role in Jewish life.

**Introduction to Judaism: Oak Park Temple B’nai Abraham Zion**

**1235 N. Harlem Ave, Sundays, Jan. 26- May 17, 7pm**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Session** | **Date** | **Unit** | **Topic** | **List faculty and location, if different each time**  |
| 1 |  | Jewish People, Beliefs and Sacred Texts   | What is Judaism? - Who are the Jewish People?  | Jan. 26 Weiss |
| 2 |  | The People of the Book | Feb. 2 Kirzane |
|  |  | **Tu B’Shevat Observance** | Feb. 9 |
| 3 |  | Jewish Prayer and the Synagogue | Feb. 16 Weiss  |
| 4 |  | What Do Jews Believe? | Feb. 23 Kirzane |
| 5 |  | Living a Jewish life/ The Jewish Life Cycle   | Birth, Childhood, and Jewish Education | Mar. 1 Weiss |
| 6 |  | Marriage, Partnership, Love and Sex | Mar, 8 Kirzane |
|  |  | **Purim Celebration** | Mar. 9 6:00pm |
| 7 |  | Death and Mourning | Mar. 15 Weiss |
|  |  |  | CLASS SHABBAT EXPERIENCEDinner and service | March 20, 6:30pm |
| 8 |  | Living in Jewish Time  | The Calendar and Shabbat | Apr. 5 Weiss |
|  |  | **Passover Observed** | Apr.8-15 |
| 9 |  | The Yamim Nora’im (High Holy Days): The Days of Awe | Apr. 12 Kirzane |
| 10 |  | The Three Festivals and Other Jewish Holidays | April 19 Kirzane |
| 11 |  | The Jewish Story   | From Creation to the Enlightenment | Apr. 26 Weiss  |
| 12 |  | The Shoah (Holocaust) | May 3 Gerson |
| 13 |  | Israel and Zionism | May 10 Gerson |
| 14 |  | The American Jewish Experience; Understanding Diversity | May 17 Gerson |

**Course Overview**

Our Introduction to Judaism course reflects [the approach of Reform Judaism](https://reformjudaism.org/practice/what-reform-judaism). Reform Judaism honors tradition while embracing modernity. Committed to inclusion, diversity and egalitarianism, Reform Judaism strives to create a world of justice, compassion and wholeness. Judaism encourages questions, and Reform Judaism helps people seek their own answers. Reform Judaism enables people to celebrate life, connect, learn and live Judaism on today’s terms.

**Your faculty are:**Rabbi Max Weiss: rabbi@oakparktemple.org

Rabbi Daniel Kirzane: rabbikirzane@oakparktemple.org

Rabbi Gary Gerson: gsgharav@gmail.com

For each session, you will find “**Prepare for the Session**” assignments. The readings, web links, and/or videos have been chosen to help you get the most from the course. Allow about an hour to complete this work. Please come to class having read or viewed the resources in the “Prepare for the Session” section

The **“Additional Resources”** listed will help you dig deeper into each topic that we cover in class, if you choose. There are no tests, written reports, or grades.

## JEWISH PEOPLE, BELIEFS, AND SACRED TEXTS

**Session #1 – Welcome & Introductions; What is Judaism? Who are the Jewish People?**

In this session, we begin to get to know each other, create ground rules for ourselves, and talk about any questions you have. Additionally, we dive into a few fundamental questions: What is Judaism? Who is a Jew? Who are the Jewish People? We focus on the strands of God, Torah and Israel, that woven together create the fabric of Judaism.

**Prepare for the Session:**

1. [“What is Reform Judaism?”](https://reformjudaism.org/what-reform-judaism) ReformJudaism.org.
2. Ochs, Vanessa L. [“Ten Jewish Sensibilities,”](https://www.bjpa.org/content/upload/bjpa/dec0/dec03ochs.pdf) *Sh’ma: A Journal of Jewish Ideas,* December 2003.
3. Lieberman, Beth (ed). *Honoring Tradition, Embracing Modernity* (HTEM), “A Statement of Principles for Reform Judaism,” 21-25;“On the Jewish People,” 5-9; “On the Jewish People,” 19-20.

**Additional Resources to explore after class, if you choose.**

1. HTEM, “Jewish Religious Pluralism,” 10-18;
2. HTEM, “A Statement of Principles for Reform Judaism,” 21-25.

**Session #2 -- People of the Book**

The Hebrew Bible, with its commentaries and interpretations over the span of 2,000 years, is what causes Jews to be known as “People of the Book.” We consider its origins and authorship, content, and structure, and its place in contemporary Jewish communal life.

**Prepare for the Session**

1. LJL, Diamant, Anita. *Living a Jewish Life*, “People of the Library,” 71—81.
2. [“Torah: The Tree of Life,”](http://reformjudaism.org/torah-tree-life) ReformJudaism.org.
3. [“What is the Talmud?”](https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/talmud-101/) ReformJudaism.org.
4. HTEM, “Jewish Sacred Texts Timeline,” 428; “The Oral Torah,” 430 (bottom) - 432; “Rabbinic Literature,” 444-5; “Documents of Rabbinic Literature,” 449-50.

**Additional Resources to explore after class, if you choose.**

1. [Subscribe to ReformJudaism.org Newsletters](http://pages.mail.rj.org/subscribe), including Ten Minutes of Torah, on the weekly Torah portion. Weekly and occasional newsletters delivered to your email at no cost to you. Subscriptions include: Reform Voices of Torah; Celebrating Jewish Arts and Culture; Pursuing Social Justice; Israel Connections, Reform Life, Jewish Life; Weekly Update; The Jewish Dish; Jewish Holiday Guide Emails; Jewish Life in Your Family Life
2. Listen to and subscribe to [On the Other Hand,](http://reformjudaism.org/learning/podcasts) the weekly Ten Minutes of Torah podcast with Rabbi Rick Jacobs, the President of the Union for Reform Judaism.
3. (Book) Plaut, W. Gunther and Stein, David E.S. *The Torah: A Modern Commentary. Revised Edition.* New York: URJ Press, 2005. This book is a *chumash*, a Torah and Haftarah collection with contemporary commentary, used in synagogue worship to follow the weekly scriptural readings Bernstein, Rabbi Stephanie. [“My love affair with the Torah: A Women’s Commentary,”](https://reformjudaism.org/blog/2016/08/18/my-love-affair-torah-womens-commentary) ReformJudaism.org.
4. Video of a Torah Scribe - [“This Week: Julie Seltzer at the Contemporary Jewish Museum.”](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zZ5dk656t1s) KQED.
5. (Book) Holtz, Barry W. *Back to the Sources: Reading the Classic Jewish Texts*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1992.
6. (Book, historical fiction) Steinberg, Milton. *As a Driven Leaf*. Behrman House, 1939.
7. Short, animated videos on the Torah portions: [Weekly Parsha](https://www.bimbam.com/weekly-parsha/), BimBam.com
8. (Book excerpt) Brettler, Marc Zvi, [How to Read the Bible,](http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=5174963) Jewish Publication Society, 2006. NPR.org.
9. Hoffman, Joel. [“Five Ways Your Bible Translation Distorts the Original Meaning of the Text,”](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/dr-joel-hoffman/five-ways-your-bible-tran_b_1007058.html) Huffington Post.

## Session #3 -- Jewish Prayer and the Synagogue

This week we will consider the role of the synagogue as a focal point for Jewish communal life and tour the synagogue. We’ll explore Jewish ideas around communal prayer and the structure of Jewish liturgy. We’ll touch on the role of Hebrew and music and begin to learn some Hebrew blessings together as a class.

**Prepare for the Session**

1. HTEM, “About the Sanctuary,” 395; “The Tallit,” 396-400; “Prayer,” 407-413; “The Order of Prayer,” 414-415; “Building a Holy Network,” 417-418; “Communal Prayer,” 419-420; “Creating New Prayers,” 421-424.
2. LJL, “Community,” 93-94; “Synagogues,” 97-99.
3. Adar, Ruth. [“New to Jewish Prayer? Nine Tips for Beginners,”](https://reformjudaism.org/new-jewish-prayer-nine-tips-beginners) ReformJudaism.org.
4. Geffen, Wendi. [“What to Expect at a Reform Shabbat Service.”](https://reformjudaism.org/what-expect-reform-shabbat-service) ReformJudaism.org.
5. [“Reform Sanctuary Customs,”](https://reformjudaism.org/reform-sanctuary-customs)ReformJudaism.org.

**Additional Resources to explore after class, if you choose.**

1. LJL, “The Worship Service,” 1-29; “The Congregation,” 36-72.
2. [Prayer and Liturgy, ReformJudaism.org](https://reformjudaism.org/prayer-and-liturgy).
3. [Revitalizing Prayer](https://reformjudaism.org/revitalizing-prayer), ReformJudaism.org.
4. [Blessings - Shehecheyanu](https://reformjudaism.org/practice/prayers-blessings/blessing-praise-shehecheyanu), ReformJudaism.org.
5. Shekel, Michal. [“The Making of a Torah Scroll,”](http://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/torah-scroll/) My Jewish Learning.
6. Burnham, Kimberley. [“Writing the Torah and Honoring the Name of God,”](https://reformjudaism.org/blog/2015/12/16/writing-torah-and-honoring-name-god) December 16, 2015. ReformJudaism.org.
7. [“Hebrew: Hebrew Alphabet (Aleph-Bet),”](http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/the-hebrew-alphabet-aleph-bet)JewishVirtualLibrary.org. (Poetry) Siegal, Danny.
8. [“There Are Many Roads to the Holiness of Hebrew,”](http://blogs.timesofisrael.com/there-are-many-roads-to-the-holiness-of-hebrew/)Times of Israel, May 13, 2016.
9. Saiger, David. [“Eliezer Ben-Yehuda and the Making of Modern Hebrew,”](http://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/eliezer-ben-yehuda/)My Jewish Learning.
10. [Explore several articles and blog posts on Jewish music](https://reformjudaism.org/jewish-life/music). ReformJudaism.org.
11. [Livestream or “attend” Shabbat worship services online](http://www.reformjudaism.org/attend-shabbat-services-online) - ReformJudaism.org.
12. [Judaism 101 – Blessings](http://www.BimBam.com/judaism-101/#blessings)**.** BimBam.
13. [Adar, Ruth, “A Little Yiddish,”](http://coffeeshoprabbi.com/2014/03/13/a-little-yiddish/) CoffeeShopRabbi.com.
14. [“50 of the Most Stunning Synagogues on the Planet,”](https://www.algemeiner.com/2013/11/05/the-50-most-stunning-synagogues-on-the-planet-photos/) Algemeiner.com.

## Session #4 -- What Do Jews Believe?

We turn our attention to Jewish ideas about God, command-ness, and covenant. We explore different names for and understandings of God. We look at Jewish responses to these questions: What is God’s relationship to humanity? What does God want from us? How do we know?

**Prepare for the Session**

1. HTEM, “On God” 349-350, 356-357; “On the Jewish People” 359-360; On Holiness” 361-62 (top); “What is a Mitzvah?” 365-376.
2. Rosove, John. [“Do You Have to Believe in God to be a Jew?” ReformJudaism.org.](https://reformjudaism.org/blog/2018/01/19/do-you-have-believe-god-be-jew)
3. Kipnes, Rabbi Paul. ["God’s Name is a Four-Letter Word,”](http://www.reformjudaism.org/gods-name-four-letter-word) ReformJudaism.org.
4. LJL, “Good Deeds,” 61-70.

**Additional Resources to explore after class, if you choose.**

1. Scheinerman, Amy. [“What Does the Jews’ Covenant with God Mean?”](http://www.reformjudaism.org/practice/ask-rabbi/what-does-jews%E2%80%99-covenant-god-mean) ReformJudaism.org
2. Splansky, Yael. [“Commandedness,”](http://www.reformjudaism.org/commanded-ness) ReformJudaism.org.
3. LJL, “Judaism and Society,” 291-316.
4. (Video) Heydenmann, Rabbi Lizzie. [“What is the Shema?”](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9geXjErjvfw) BimBam.
5. Irwin, William. ["God is a Question, Not an Answer,"](https://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2016/03/26/god-is-a-question-not-an-answer/) *The New York Times Opinionator Blog.* March 26, 2016.
6. (Website) Explore the website of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism: [www.rac.org](http://www.rac.org/)
7. (Book) Sonsino, Rifat. *Finding God: Selected Responses*, Behrman House, 2002.
8. (Book) Citrin, Paul ed. *Lights in the Forest: Rabbis Respond to Twelve Essential Jewish Questions.* New York: CCAR Press, 2014.

## LIVING A JEWISH LIFE/ THE JEWISH LIFE CYCLE

Session #5 – **Birth, Childhood, and Jewish Education**

We explore some Jewish teachings on love, marriage, and, partnership and the symbols and rituals of a Jewish wedding ceremony

**Prepare for the Session**

1. HTEM - “Birth and Childhood,” 272-282, 286 (bottom); “Raising and Educating a Jewish Child,” 289-294.
2. LJL, “Birth,” 213-224; “Adoption,” 252-254; “Bar and Bat Mitzvah,” 225-233; “Education,” 115-132.
3. [Birth Rituals](https://reformjudaism.org/practice/lifecycle-and-rituals/birth-rituals), ReformJudaism.org.
4. [Bar and Bat Mitzvah, ReformJudaism.org.](https://reformjudaism.org/bar-and-bat-mitzvah)

**Additional Resources to explore after class, if you choose.**

1. Hopper, Mimi. [“Out of the Shadows: An Infertility Story.”](http://www.reformjudaism.org/jewish-life/health-wellness/out-shadows-infertility-story) ReformJudaism.org.
2. Episode from a TV show, available for streaming on Hulu, *The Wonder Years*. Kevin and his Jewish best friend, Paul, are turning 13**.**
3. Jaffe, Wendy. [“B’nai Mitzvah: It’s OK! Go ahead and cry.”](http://jewishjournal.com/religion/bar_and_bat_mitzvahs/14011/) JewishJournal.com.
4. [Podcasts on parenting, ReformJudaism.org.](https://reformjudaism.org/site-search?keyword=podcasts)
5. (Podcast) Terry Gross and Susan Silverman. [“Susan Silverman On Anxiety, Adoption, and Making A Family in An Uncertain World.”](http://www.npr.org/2016/05/23/479150041/susan-silverman-on-anxiety-adoption-and-making-a-family-in-an-uncertain-world) NPR: Fresh Air. May 23, 2016.
6. Kasdan, Peter E. [“What’s in Our Genes: 7 Things to Know About Jewish Genetic Diseases.”](https://reformjudaism.org/jewish-life/health-wellness/7-things-know-about-jewish-genetic-diseases) November 2, 2015,ReformJudaism.org.
7. LJL, “Raising and Educating a Jewish Child,” 289-294.
8. (Book) Mogel, Wendy. *The Blessing of A Skinned Knee: Using Timeless Teachings to Raise Self-Reliant Children*, Scribner 2008.
9. (Book) Mogel, Wendy. *The Blessing of a B Minus: Using Jewish Teachings to Raise Resilient Teenagers*, Scribner 2010.

## Session #6 -- Marriage, Partnership and More

We explore some Jewish teachings on love, marriage, and, partnership and the symbols and rituals of a Jewish wedding ceremony

**Prepare for the Session**

1. HTEM, “Marriage, Partnership and More,” 228-232, 238-240, 243-258, 262-263.
2. LJL, “The Life Cycle,” 211- 212; “Marriage,” 234-245, 247-248.
3. Watch four videos on weddings:
	* [What to Expect at a Jewish Wedding Ceremony](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MxQ87qN7E9o), BimBam.
	* [Chuppah: The Jewish Wedding Canopy](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KYYinMgfn9k), BimBam.
	* [Why We Break the Glass at Jewish Weddings](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=be789D0B9J8), BimBam.
	* [Engaged? Jewish Traditions Before a Wedding](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zmyFeeJpQRE), BimBam.

**Additional Resources to explore after class, if you choose.**

1. LJL, “Community,” 93-110; “Marriage” and “Divorce,” 151-174.
2. [Weddings](https://reformjudaism.org/node/12151)  (several sections pertaining to wedding details), ReformJudaism.org.
3. (Book) Diamant, Anita. *The Jewish Wedding Now,* New York: Scribner 2007.
4. (Book) Grushcow, Rabbi Lisa J (ed). *The Sacred Encounter: Jewish Perspectives on Sexuality*, New York: CCAR Press, 2014.

## Session #7 -- Death, and Mourning

We turn to Jewish beliefs, ethics, rituals, and customs around serious illness, end-of-life, mourning and loss. We explore how the values of honoring the dead and comforting the mourners are expressed in a Jewish context.

**Prepare for the Session**

1. HTEM, “Death, and Mourning” 329-331; “For the Mourner,” 332-337.
2. LJL, “The Life Cycle,” 255-267.
3. ["Death and Mourning,”](https://reformjudaism.org/practice/lifecycle-and-rituals/death-mourning) ReformJudaism.org.
4. [Mourner’s Kaddish](https://reformjudaism.org/practice/prayers-blessings/mourners-kaddish), ReformJudaism.org.
5. (Video) [“Jewish Mourning Rituals: An Overview,”](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QyHvRFkqzmw) BimBam.

**Additional Resources to explore after class, if you choose.**

1. [Mi Shebeirach - Prayer for Healing](https://reformjudaism.org/practice/prayers-blessings/mi-shebeirach-prayer-healing), ReformJudaism.org.
2. [“What to Expect at a Jewish Funeral,”](http://www.reformjudaism.org/what-expect-jewish-funeral) ReformJudaism.org.
3. [“Everything you need to know about the Jewish custom of shiva,”](http://www.reformjudaism.org/what-expect-shiva-condolence-call) ReformJudaism.org.
4. [Do Jews Believe in an Afterlife?](https://reformjudaism.org/practice/lifecycle-and-rituals/death-mourning/do-jews-believe-afterlife) ReformJudaism.org.
5. (Video) [“Jewish Mourning Rituals: The Funeral,”](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zz0QZXMkrsg&t=26s) BimBam.

## LIVING IN JEWISH TIME

## Session #8 --The Calendar and *Shabbat*

**Prepare for the Session**

1. Einstein, Stephen and Lydia Kukoff, ["The Jewish Calendar,"](https://reformjudaism.org/jewish-calendar) ReformJudaism.org.
2. HTEM, “Holiness, Mitzvot, and Justice in Holy Time,” 52-56; “The Possibilities of Shabbat,” 69-70, 75-78; “More Thoughts on the Meaning of ‘Work’ and ‘Rest,’” 85-91; “Thirty-Six More Ways to Celebrate Shabbat”, 92-95.
3. LJL, “Jewish Time,” 141-151; “The Sabbath,” 26-60.
4. Genesis 1-2:4 (The standard citation format is chapter: verses, so this citation refers to chapter 1 through chapter 2, verse 4); Exodus 20:1-15, 31:12-17; Deuteronomy 5:1-18.
5. (Video) [How to Say the Shabbat Blessings,](https://reformjudaism.org/video-how-say-shabbat-blessings) ReformJudaism.org.
6. (Video) [How to make Havdalah,](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-LLWrKeh6tY) Temple Israel (Memphis, TN).

**Additional Resources to explore after class, if you choose.**

1. Explore a Jewish calendar. Here is a link to a popular online calendar: [www.HebCal.com](http://www.hebcal.com)
2. “[Shabbat – Dates, Recipes, & Meaning,”](https://reformjudaism.org/jewish-holidays/shabbat)ReformJudaism.org.
3. Downloadable audio files of the blessings for Friday night home ritual and for Havdalah: [ReformJudaism.org/shabbat-blessings](http://www.reformjudaism.org/shabbat-blessings)
4. [Rosh Chodesh](https://reformjudaism.org/rosh-chodesh), ReformJudaism.org.
5. HTEM, “M’nuchah and M’lachah,” 71-74; “The Possibilities of Shabbat: Questions and Answers,” 75-78; “Welcoming Shabbat,” 79-82; “Establishing Definitions for Work and Rest on Shabbat,” 83-84.
6. (Book) Heschel, Abraham Joshua. *The Sabbath*. Farrar Straus Giroux, 1951. Now a classic work, republished many times. This book is widely available in bookstores and libraries.
7. (Book) *Gates of Shabbat: A Guide for Observing Shabbat.* The entire volume is intended as a reference and ongoing resource.
8. (Website) Read about the [National Day of Unplugging](http://nationaldayofunplugging.com/) and the [Sabbath Manifesto](http://www.sabbathmanifesto.org/).
9. [Downloadable audio files of the blessings for Friday night home ritual and for Havdalah.](http://www.reformjudaism.org/shabbat-blessings) ReformJudaism.org.

**Session #9 – The *Yamim Nora’im* (High Holidays); The Days of Awe**

Each year the Days of Awe (Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur) present us with opportunities to reflect on our lives, behavior, and choices and to set a new path. Asking for and granting forgiveness is a key step to change. We explore Jewish understandings of sin and forgiveness and new beginnings, as well as the liturgy, customs, and rituals of the Days of Awe.

**Prepare for the Session**

1. HTEM, “Approaching the High Holy Days,” 103-106; “The Ten Days of Repentance,” 107-108; “Rosh HaShanah,” 111-117; “Yom Kippur,” 122-127; “Fasting on Yom Kippur,” 128.
2. (Video)  [How to Blow the Shofar,](https://reformjudaism.org/video-how-blow-shofar-0) ReformJudaism.org.
3. LJL, “Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur,” 152-163.

**Additional Resources to explore after class, if you choose.**

1. ["Rosh HaShanah, the Jewish New Year,”](https://reformjudaism.org/jewish-holidays/rosh-hashanah) ReformJudaism.org.
2. ["Yom Kippur: Day of Atonement.”](https://reformjudaism.org/jewish-holidays/yom-kippur-day-atonement) ReformJudaism.org.
3. Phillips, Lauren. [“Kol Nidre: All Vows and One Haunting Melody,”](https://reformjudaism.org/blog/2016/10/11/kol-nidre-all-vows-and-one-haunting-melody) October 11, 2016, ReformJudaism.org.
4. HTEM, “Indulging in the Physical? No, Not on Yom Kippur,” 129-130.
5. Jacobs, Jill. [“Rosh Hashanah Customs: Suggestions for bringing the messages of the New Year home from synagogue.”](http://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/rosh-hashanah-customs/) My Jewish Learning.
6. (Video, 9 min.) Harchol, Hanan. Repair: [“Apology,”](http://www.hananharchol.com/watch-repair)*Jewish Food for Thought: The Animated Series.*
7. (Podcast) Brous, Sharon. [“Days of Awe,”](https://onbeing.org/programs/sharon-brous-days-of-awe/) *On Being*Podcast. September 2, 2010.

**Session #10 -- The Three Festivals and other Jewish Holidays**

We will learn about the history, meaning and key customs associated with the three festival holidays: Pesach (Passover), Shavuot, and Sukkot.

We will learn about the symbols, rituals and customs of the Jewish holidays, including synagogue and home observance.  We will look at the historical origins of the holidays and explore how they can be relevant in our lives today.

**Prepare for the Session**

1. HTEM, “The Three Pilgrimage Festivals,” 140; “Sukkot,” 141-146; “Pesach,” 150-158; “Next Year May We All Be Free,” 162-163; “Shavuot,” 173-175.
2. LJL, “Sukkot and Simchat Torah,” 164-170; “Passover,” 186-199; “Shavuot,” 205-208.
3. (Video) Laufer, Sari. [“Learn How to Say the Blessings and Shake the Lulav,”](https://reformjudaism.org/video-learn-how-shake-lulav-and-say-blessings) ReformJudaism.org.
4. (Video) [What is Shavuot?](https://reformjudaism.org/jewish-holidays/shavuot/what-shavuot-cheesy-holiday-jewish-learning) ReformJudaism.org.
5. Stiel, Debbie.[“What to Expect at a Passover Seder.”](https://reformjudaism.org/what-expect-passover-seder) ReformJudaism.org.
6. HTEM, Arnowitz, Charlie “Next Year May We All Be Free,” 162-163.
7. HTEM, “Source Texts” 185-186; “Chanukah” 187-191; “Source Texts” 178; “Purim,” 179-181; “An Adult Look at the Less-Than-Savory Truths of Purim,” 182-184; “Tu B’shvat” 192.
8. LJL, “Hanukkah,” 171-177.
9. (Video) [“Learn How to Light the Hanukkah Menorah,”](http://www.reformjudaism.org/video-learn-how-light-hanukkah-menorah) ReformJudaism.org.
10. [Hanukkah Blessings,](https://reformjudaism.org/practice/prayers-blessings/hanukkah-blessings) ReformJudaism.org.
11. Read the Book of Esther (nine chapters) or if you’re short on time, look at just these sections: Esther: 1, 2:1-4, 16-23; 3:1-11; 4-7. (The format is chapter: verse)

**Passover *Haggadot***

The *Haggadah* is the script for the Seder, the Passover home ritual meal. There are many hundreds of *haggadot* (singular: *haggadah*) widely available. Please spend ten minutes before class skimming through a *haggadah* of your choice. Here are some we recommend:

1. Yoffie, Alan S. *Sharing the Journey: the Haggadah for the Contemporary Family*, CCAR Press, 2012.
2. Elwell, Sue Levi. *The Open Door: A Passover Haggadah, CCAR Press*, 2002.
3. Dishon, David and Noam Zion. *A Different Night, The Family Participation Haggadah*, Jerusalem: Shalom Hartman Institute, 1997.
4. A variety of home-made *haggadot* and/or create-your-own-*Haggadah* web platform: [www.haggadot.com](https://www.haggadot.com/)

**Additional Resources to explore after class, if you choose.**

1. (Video, 4 min.) Laufer, Sari. [“How to Shake the Lulav,”](https://reformjudaism.org/video-learn-how-shake-lulav-and-say-blessings) ReformJudaism.org.
2. Bennett, Roger. [“Rebooth.”](http://www.tabletmag.com/jewish-life-and-religion/46122/rebooth) Tablet Magazine. September 10, 2010.
3. Friedman, Lisa. [“5 Ways Sukkot is the Perfect Inclusive Holiday,”](http://www.reformjudaism.org/blog/2016/10/20/5-ways-sukkot-perfect-inclusive-holiday) October 20, 2016. ReformJudaism.org.
4. Tzur, Lisa Silverstein, [“A New Beginning is a Precious Gift,”](http://reformjudaism.org/blog/2016/10/27/new-beginning-precious-gift) October 20, 2016. ReformJudaism.org.
5. HTEM, “Dwelling in Safety on Sukkot: A Prayer for Refugees,” 147-149.
6. (Video 2 min.) Maccabeats, music video of [“Mah Nishtanah,"](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RmabziV1LiY) performed with the human voice and objects from the Seder table.
7. [“Sukkot – Festival of Booths,”](https://reformjudaism.org/jewish-holidays/sukkot) ReformJudaism.org.
8. [“Shavuot,”](https://reformjudaism.org/jewish-holidays/shavuot)ReformJudaism.org.
9. Horn, Jordana. ["Why My Family Builds a Sukkah,"](https://www.kveller.com/why-my-family-builds-a-sukkah/) ReformJudaism.org.
10. [“Passover (Pesach),”](https://reformjudaism.org/jewish-holidays/passover-pesach) ReformJudaism.org.
11. (Video) [“Making some of the world's best Matzo,”](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c-ICToi7gWg) CBS Sunday Morning.
12. Herman, Jane. [“11 Resources for You to Have the Best Seder Ever,”](http://www.reformjudaism.org/blog/2016/04/15/11-resources-help-you-have-best-seder-ever) ReformJudaism.org.
13. Plotkin, Helen. [“What’s the Point of Passover,”](http://www.tabletmag.com/jewish-life-and-religion/127294/whats-the-point-of-passover) Tablet Magazine, March 23, 2013.
14. HTEM, “Source Texts” 185-186; “Chanukah” 187-191; “Source Texts” 178; “Purim,” 179-181; “An Adult Look at the Less-Than-Savory Truths of Purim,” 182-184; “Tu B’shvat” 192.
15. LJL, “Hanukkah,” 171-177.
16. (Video) [“Learn How to Light the Hanukkah Menorah,”](http://www.reformjudaism.org/video-learn-how-light-hanukkah-menorah) ReformJudaism.org.
17. [Hanukkah Blessings,](https://reformjudaism.org/practice/prayers-blessings/hanukkah-blessings) ReformJudaism.org.
18. Read the Book of Esther (nine chapters) or if you’re short on time, look at just these sections: Esther: 1, 2:1-4, 16-23; 3:1-11; 4-7. (The format is chapter: verse)
19. The Hanukkah/Christmas season conversation:
	* [Redefining the so called “December Dilemma,”](http://www.ReformJudaism.org/blog/2012/12/06/redefining-so-called-december-dilemma) ReformJudaism.org,
	* ["Hanukkah & Christmas: Can We Celebrate Both?"](https://reformjudaism.org/blog/2012/12/20/hanukkah-christmas-can-we-celebrate-both) ReformJudaism.org
20. (Video) ["What is Hanukah or Chanukah?"](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VvFqBimGuIQ) BimBam.
21. Katz, Elihu and Blondheim, Menahem. [“Home Away from Home,”](http://www.tabletmag.com/jewish-life-and-religion/93000/home-away-from-home-2) *Tablet Magazine,* March 6, 2012. (Purim)

**THE JEWISH STORY**

**Session #11 -- From Creation to the Enlightenment (the Jewish historical experience)**

**Prepare for the Session**

1. [“A Crash Course in Early Jewish History,”](http://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/ancient-jewish-religion-and-culture/)My Jewish Learning.
2. HTEM, “Timeline of Jewish History,” 472-473; “Four Exiles and Spiritual Revolutions,” 474-487.
3. (Video) [Overview of Jewish History Part 1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cP-fdixB1Zc), Khan Institute.
4. (Video) [Overview of Jewish History Part 2](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iBWCZxyElIM), Khan Institute.
5. Visual Timeline, [*The Story of the Jews*](http://www.pbs.org/wnet/story-jews/explore-the-diaspora/visual-timeline/)*,*PBS.

 **Additional Resources to explore after class, if you choose.**

1. [“Crash Course in Medieval Jewish History,”](http://www.myjewishlearning.com/category/study/jewish-history/ancient-medieval-jewish-history/) My Jewish Learning.
2. [“Expulsion and Readmission,”](http://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/expulsion-and-readmission/) My Jewish Learning.
3. (Book) Scheindlin, Raymond. *A Short History of the Jewish People*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1998.
4. (Book) Mack, Stan. *The Story of the Jews: A 4,000-Year Adventure―A Graphic History Book*, Jewish Lights, 2001.
5. (Book) Silver, Mitchell, *The Veterans of History: A Young Person’s History of the Jews.* Boston Workmen's Circle Center for Jewish Culture and Social Justice, 2014. Please don’t be put off by the fact that this book is intended for high school students; it means the book is less dense and more accessible.
6. (Website) Explore the website of the [Center for Jewish History](https://programs.cjh.org) (a museum in New York City).
7. (Video) Schama, Simon. *The Story of the Jews*, Parts 1-3.
8. Read these Torah passages:
	1. Genesis Chapter 1 *(B’reishit)*
	2. Exodus 13:17–14:31 *(B’shalach)*
	3. Exodus 19:1–23 *(Yitro)*
	4. Exodus 24:1–4 *(Mishpatim)*

**Session #12 -- The *Shoah* (Holocaust), Anti-Semitism and Jewish Responses to Evil**

We examine the resilience of Judaism over the years, and specifically throughout the years of the Holocaust.  We look how the Holocaust is commemorated both in Israel and around the world through Yom Hashoah, and how modern Jewish perspectives of God, humanity, and evil were influenced by this period in our recent history.

**Prepare for the Session**

1. HTEM, “Love Letter to God,” 497-499, “Where God Dwells,” 500-501.
2. LJL, “Holocaust Remembrance Day,” 201-203.
3. [“European Anti-Semitism from its Origins to the Holocaust,”](https://www.ushmm.org/confront-antisemitism/european-antisemitism-from-its-origins-to-the-holocaust) United States Holocaust Museum.
4. [“Holocaust: An Introductory History,”](http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/an-introductory-history-of-the-holocaust)
5. HTEM, “The 614th Commandment,” 494-496.
6. (Book, memoir): Wiesel, Elie. *Night.* 1960. Not required, but highly recommended.

**Additional Resources to explore after class, if you choose.**

1. ([Collection of articles) “Anti-Semitism and Bigotry,”](http://www.myjewishlearning.com/category/study/jewish-history/anti-semitism-bigotry/) My Jewish Learning.
2. ([Collection of articles) “Holocaust,”](http://www.myjewishlearning.com/category/study/jewish-history/holocaust/)My Jewish Learning.
3. (Book, Diary) Frank, Anne. *The Diary of a Young Girl*. 1947.
4. (Video, 12 min.) Wiesel, Elie, [“Video of Remarks at the 20th anniversary of the Holocaust Museum in Washington D.C.,”](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IZVByXtaQxY)*PBS NewsHour,* April 29, 2013.
5. Diamant, “Holocaust Remembrance Day,” 201-203.
6. Anne Frank House, [Anne Frank and her Diary](https://www.annefrank.org/en/anne-frank/diary/).
7. (Book) *Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl: The Definitive Edition*, Bantam, 1997. This version, or a version subtitled “The Critical Edition,” contains writings edited from the first publication by Anne or her father in accordance with mores of the times, but today help us understand Anne even more.
8. [“The Righteous Among the Nations,”](https://www.yadvashem.org/righteous.html) YadVashem.org.
9. (Website) [Information for Students](https://www.ushmm.org/learn/students/), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum,
10. (Video) Schama, Simon. “The Story of the Jews,” Parts 4-5.

**Session #13-- Israel and Zionism**

We will continue our discussion of the Jewish relationship to the land of Israel from biblical times to the establishment of the modern State of Israel and discuss the complicated reality that is the modern State of Israel.

**Prepare for the Session**

1. HTEM, 507-8, “Hatikvah,” 509; “Prayer for the State of Israel,” 510-11; “CCAR Resolution Condemning the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions Campaign Against Israel,” 512-15; “Yom HaZikaron,” 516; “Yom HaAtzmaut,” 517-518.
2. LJL, “Israel”, 133-35.
3. [“History of Zionism,”](http://reformjudaism.org/history-zionism) ReformJudaism.org.

**Additional Resources to explore after class, if you choose.**

1. Collection of articles and resources: [“Israel: the Jewish Homeland,”](http://reformjudaism.org/israel)ReformJudaism.org.
2. [“After the Siren,”](https://www.jfunders.org/after_the_siren_yom_hazikaron_and_gratitude) ReformJudaism.org.
3. [“Yom Ha’Atzmaut Will Make You Believe in Miracles,”](http://reformjudaism.org/blog/2016/05/12/yom-haatzmaut-will-make-you-believe-miracles) Josh Weinberg, ReformJudaism.org.
4. [“How ‘Hatikvah’ (The Hope) Became Israel’s National Anthem,”](http://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/hatikvah/)(includes audio recording and lyrics), My Jewish Learning.
5. [“Establishment of Israel: The Declaration of the Establishment of the State of Israel,”](http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/the-declaration-of-the-establishment-of-the-state-of-israel) JewishVirtualLibrary.org.
6. [“The Jerusalem Program,”](http://www.wzo.org.il/The-Jerusalem-Program) WZO.org.
7. [“Key Issues in the Peace Process,”](https://reformjudaism.org/israel/israel-peace-and-security/key-issues-peace-process) ReformJudaism.org.
8. (News Website) [Times of Israel.](http://www.timesofisrael.com/)
9. [“Theodor Herzl,”](http://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/theodor-herzl/) My Jewish Learning.
10. [“History of Jewish Immigration to Israel (aliyah),”](http://reformjudaism.org/history-jewish-immigration-israel-aliyah) ReformJudaism.org.
11. [“Modern Israeli History: A Timeline,”](http://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/modern-israeli-history-a-timeline/) My Jewish Learning.
12. (Book) *Israel: A History*, Anita Shapira, Anthony Berris, (trans.) Brandeis University Press, 2012. Diamant, “Israel,” 133-135; “Israel Independence Day,” 203-204.
13. Collection of articles and resources: [“Israel: the Jewish Homeland,”](http://reformjudaism.org/israel) ReformJudaism.org.
14. (Book) Klein-Halevy, Yossi. *Like Dreamers*. New York: Harpers, 2013.

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## Session #14 -- The North American Jewish Experience; Tapestry of the Jewish People (Understanding Jewish Diversity)

The Jewish people refers to itself as *Klal Yisrael*, the community of Israel. Despite differences in religious denomination and expressions, we consider ourselves to be one people. We will look at the history of Jews in America and how that has influenced and shaped Jewish culture and perceptions about who is a Jew. We’ll explore some of the differences between the major streams of Judaism: Orthodox, Conservative, Reconstructionist and Reform.

**Prepare for the Session**

1. HTEM, “Denominations of American Judaism,” 566; “1885 Pittsburgh Conference,” 567-568, “Reform Judaism: A Centenary Perspective,” 569-573; “Statement of Principles for Reform Judaism, Central Conference of American Rabbis” (most recent statement of Reform Judaism by Reform rabbis), 21-25.
2. (Video) [“Jewish Denominations,”](https://reformjudaism.org/video-jewish-denominations) ReformJudaism.org.
3. ["Social Justice and Reform Judaism,”](https://reformjudaism.org/social-justice) ReformJudaism.org.
4. (Video, 4 min.) Hidary, Vanessa. [“The Hebrew Mamita: You Don’t Look Jewish.”](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yAeWyGGTdEE) Please note this video is "rated R" for language.
5. Collection: [“What is Reform Judaism,”](http://reformjudaism.org/practice/what-reform-judaism) Englander, Lawrence; [“History of Reform Judaism and a Look Ahead: In Search of Belonging,”](http://reformjudaism.org/history-reform-judaism-and-look-ahead-search-belonging) Freelander, Daniel; [“Birth of a Synagogue Movement: Reform Worship Through the Years,”](http://reformjudaism.org/birth-synagogue-movement-reform-worship-through-years) ReformJudaism.org.

**Additional Resources to explore after class, if you choose.**

1. [Explore the website of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism](http://www.rac.org/)
2. Collection of articles: [JewishVirtualLibrary.org/jews-in-america](http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jews-in-america)
3. (Book) Sarna, Jonathan D. *American Judaism: A History*, Yale University Press, 2005.
4. [Great Voices of Reform Judaism: Jacob Rader Marcus and Stephen S. Wise](http://americanjewisharchives.org/exhibits/gv/index2.php), American Jewish Archives.
5. [Significant Documents Illuminating the American Jewish Experience](http://americanjewisharchives.org/exhibits/aje/index.html), American Jewish Archives.