

Judaism 101

Taught by Rabbi Garth Silberstein

Who is This Class For?

This class is for anyone who wants to make up for the Jewish education they didn't get growing up. It is appropriate for those interested in conversion to Judaism*, for non-Jews who are curious to learn more about Judaism, and for Jews who simply want to deepen their understanding of the Jewish tradition.

Course Goals

Students will gain the knowledge of Jewish beliefs, history, culture and practice necessary to be able to participate fully in the life of the Jewish community.

Course Schedule and Location

The class will meet weekly on Thursday evenings at Bais Abraham Congregation from 7-8:30pm, except on Jewish holidays and US federal holidays. Those who are unable to attend in person, may participate via Zoom (link will be sent out to those who register using the link below).

Course Description

This is not a lecture class. Each week, when we meet we will discuss the answers to questions about reading materials. The questions are organized into different units, covering topics ranging from Jewish thought, to Shabbat observance, to the laws of blessings over food. Students who sign up for the class are expected to come to class on time and prepared, having completed outside reading and homework assignments.

Registration

Please register for this class by visiting <https://forms.gle/9p1ktLf9Hut5Vq2XA>

*Enrollment or completion of the course does not guarantee acceptance as a conversion candidate by Rabbi Silberstein or by any other rabbi or Beit Din. Students wishing to pursue conversion should speak to Rabbi Silberstein or another rabbi about the process, and whether this class would be an appropriate component of their preparations.

Reading and References

Required Books

Tanakh (any edition)

Koren Hebrew-English Nusach Sefard Siddur

How to Run a Traditional Jewish Household, by Blu Greenberg

To Be a Jew, by R. Hayim Halevy Donin

Jewish Literacy, by R. Joseph Telushkin

The Book of Our Heritage, by R. Eliyahu Kitov

The Kosher Kitchen, by Rabbi Binyomin Forst

The Shabbos Kitchen by Rabbi Simcha Bunim Cohen

The Laws of B'rachos by Rabbi Binyomin Forst

While all of the books on this list are needed for the course, students who cannot purchase all the books at once, should prioritize the bolded titles, which will be used most often and earliest. Non-bolded titles will not be needed during the first several weeks of the course. If acquiring these books poses a financial hardship, please contact rabbi@baisabe.com

For those students pursuing conversion, the Beit Din you work with may have their own recommended reading list, which may overlap to some extent with this one.

Recommended Books

Chumash, Stone or Hertz edition

Choosing to be Jewish, by R. Marc Angel

The Shabbos Home vol. 1 and 2 by Rabbi Simcha Bunim Cohen

To Pray as a Jew, by R' Hayim Halevy Donin

Useful Websites

baisabe.com

aish.com

chabad.org

crcweb.org

OU.org

sefaria.org