



Exploring Judaism – Outline of Discussion Topics Fall 2010 – 5770/5771

The following course is just a “taste” of the dynamic history, rituals, and beliefs found within Judaism. Through the book “Settings of Silver,” by Stephen M. Wylen, the alternate readings, and the exploratory website addresses, the goal of this course is for each of us to begin, and subsequently continue, to question and experience our personal Judaism.

I encourage each of you to visit www.timemphis.org to sign up for the weekly Temple newsletter, as well as leisurely pursue the online course outline at <http://www.timemphis.org/education/adult.htm#b>, which provides useful web links to a variety of Jewish materials. For those considering conversion, please feel to set up a time with one of the clergy to discuss the process in more detail.

If you have any questions or thoughts throughout your readings or from a previous class, please feel free to contact me at rabbiadam@timemphis.org or at 901-761-3130.

Outline of Discussion Topics

- September 26** **What is a Jew?**
SOS – pg. 3-14, 336-357
Union of Reform Judaism www.urj.org
The United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism www.uscj.org
Jewish Reconstructionist Federation www.jrf.org
The Orthodox Union www.ou.org
Society for Humanistic Judaism www.shj.org
www.myjewishlearning.com/life/Life_Events/Conversion/Contemporary_Issues/Denominational_Differences.shtml
- October 3** **Whose God Is It Anyway: Differences between Judaism and Christianity**
SOS – pg. 53-78
- October 10** **God and the Afterlife: In-depth analysis of the Jewish conceptions of God**
SOS – pg. 37-52, 110-123
Handouts – Introduction to “The Many Faces God” by Rifat Sonsino
Appendix to “Finding God: Selected Responses” by Rifat Sonsino and Daniel B. Syme
- October 17** **Talmud Say What: An Introduction to Jewish Sources and Jewish History**
SOS – pg. 15-36, 185-312, [221-232], 313-335
A Page of Talmud www.acs.ucalgary.ca/~elsegal/TalmudPage.html
- October 24** **The History (and other stuff) of the Holidays**
SOS – pg. 137-152, 172-175
SOS – pg. 153-172, 175-182
<http://urj.org/holidays/index.cfm?>
- October 31** **Creating and Maintaining a Jewish Home**
SOS – pg. 79-85, 86-87, 95-98
www.myjewishlearning.com/life/Life_Stages/Building_a_Jewish_Home/Home_and_Community.shtml?LFLS
www.myjewishlearning.com/life/Life_Stages/Building_a_Jewish_Home/Home_and_Community/The_Jewish_Home.shtml?LFLS
www.reformjudaismmag.org/Articles/index.cfm?id=1361

- November 7** **Tikkun Olan (Mitzvah Day)**
www.rac.org/
www.myjewishportal.com
- November 14** **From Birth to Death: Jewish Lifecycles**
 SOS – pg. 85-86, 89-95
www.myjewishlearning.com/daily_life/About_Jewish_Daily_Life/HomeCommunity/JewishHomeTour_Ochs/JewishHome_Ochs.htm
www.jewishsf.com/content/2/module/displaystory/story_id/27428/edition_id/524/format/html/displaystory.html
www.myjewishlearning.com/lifecycle/Death.htm
- November 21** **The Holocaust and Israel: Now and Then**
 SOS – pg. 358-406
Holocaust
 The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum www.ushmm.org
 The Center for Holocaust & Humanity Education www.holocaustandhumanity.org
Israel
www.urj.org/israel/
www.arza.org/
www.adl.org/ISRAEL/record/conflicts.asp
www.adl.org/ISRAEL/record/creation.asp
- December 5** **Friday Night Lights: Living in Jewish Time In and Out of the Home**
 SOS – pg. 79-85, 86-87, 95-98
 SOS – pg. 99-109, 124-136
www.urj.org/shabbat/
www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/Judai3sm/liturgy.html
www.myjewishlearning.com/life/Life_Stages/Building_a_Jewish_Home/Home_and_Community.shtml?LFLS
www.myjewishlearning.com/life/Life_Stages/Building_a_Jewish_Home/Home_and_Community/The_Jewish_Home.shtml?LFLS
www.reformjudaismmag.org/Articles/index.cfm?id=1361
- December 12** **The Ever-Changing American Jewish Family: Conversion, and Inter-marriage**
 SOS – pg. 407-439
www.myjewishlearning.com/life/Life_Stages/Building_a_Jewish_Home/Contemporary_Jewish_Family.shtml?LFLS
www.interfaithfamily.com
 For those interested in conversion: <http://urj.org/outreach/conversion/individ/>

