

IKAR: The Essentials of Judaism

Class Schedule and Syllabus

2019—2020

Classes are from **6:30 to 8:30 p.m.** on **Thursdays**, typically at the **Boulder JCC**, 6007 Oreg Ave.

Please Note: The class on 3/12/20 will be held at
Congregation Har Hashem, 3950 Baseline Road, Boulder.

Learning Block 1 - Instructors: *Rabbi Deborah Bronstein & Rabbi Diane Tiferet Lakein*

09/05/19 – Bereishit: In the Beginning *taught by Rabbi Deborah Bronstein* (See lesson 1, pp. 10-15.)

Segment 1 - What is this class about?

Segment 2 - How is Jewish time marked?

09/12/19 – Rosh HaShanah *taught by Rabbi Diane Tiferet Lakein* (See lesson 2, pp. 16-30.)

Segment 1 - What is Rosh HaShanah?

Segment 2 - What are some of the ways Rosh HaShanah is commemorated /celebrated?

09/19/19 – Yom Kippur *taught by Rabbi Diane Tiferet Lakein* (See lesson 3, pp. 31-39.)

Segment 1 - What is Yom Kippur?

Segment 2 - What are Jewish values?

Learning Block 2 - Instructor: *Rabbi Ori Har DiGennaro*

10/03/19 – Sukkot and Simchat Torah (See lesson 4 pp. 40-58.)

Segment 1 - What are Sukkot and Simchat Torah?

Segment 2 - What are the major books of Judaism? How are they connected?

10/17/19 – Shabbat (See lesson 5 pp. 59-71.)

Segment 1 - What is Shabbat?

Segment 2 - What are some ways Shabbat is celebrated?

10/24/19 – Conversion (See lesson 6, pp. 72-77.)

Special guests to be announced.

Segment 1 - Who is a Jew?

Segment 2 - What is the conversion process like?

Learning Block 3 - Instructor: Rabbi Ruthie Gelfarb

11/09/19 Rituals of Birth through Adolescence (See lesson 7, pp. 78-95.)

Segment 1 - What are Jewish rituals surrounding birth?

Segment 2 - What are Jewish rituals surrounding adolescence?

11/14/19 – Marriage and Divorce (See *Lesson 8* in the Reader, pp. 96-108.)

Segment 1 - What are Jewish rituals surrounding marriage?

Segment 2 - How does Judaism address divorce?

11/21/19 – Death and Afterlife (See *Lesson 9* in the Reader, pp. 109-129.)

Segment 1 - What are Jewish rituals surrounding death?

Segment 2 - What are the Jewish beliefs concerning afterlife?

11/28/19 NO CLASS -- THANKSGIVING

Learning Block 4 - Instructor: Rabbi Lynne Goldsmith

12/5/19 – Chanukah & Tu B'Shevat (See *Lesson 10* in the Reader, pp. 130-146 and *Lesson 14* in the Reader, pp. 202-219.) *

Segment 1 - What does Chanukah commemorate?

Segment 2 - What are some ways Chanukah is commemorated and celebrated?

Segment 1 - What is Tikkun Olam?

Segment 2 - What is Tu B'Shevat?

12/12/19 – God (See *Lesson 11* in the Reader, pp. 147-166) *

Segment 1 - Who is God?

Segment 2 - Why does God act as God does?

12/26/19 NO CLASS -- WINTER BREAK

01/02/20 NO CLASS -- WINTER BREAK

01/09/20 – Prayer (See *Lesson 12* in the Reader, pp. 167-182.)

Segment 1 - What is the importance and value of prayer?

Segment 2 - What are some different models of Jewish prayers?

Learning Block 5 - Instructor: Rabbi Marc Soloway

01/16/20 – Modern Judaism and its Various Expressions (See *Lesson 13*, pp. 183-201.)

Segment 1 - How did Judaism come to look as it does today?

Segment 2 - What unites the different denominations?

01/23/20 – Purim and Mysticism (See *Lesson 15* in the Reader, pp. 220-242.) *

Segment 1 - What is Purim?

Segment 2 - What is Jewish mysticism?

01/30/20 – Timeline of Jewish History (See *Lesson 17* in the Reader, pp. 262-278)*

Learning Block 6 - Instructor: Rabbi Fred Greene

02/16/20 Handouts – Texts of Jewish History (*Handouts*) *

Segment 1 - What is the role of history? Memory?

Segment 2 - How does Jewish history impact me?

02/13/20 – Anti-Semitism (See *Lesson 18* in the Reader, pp. 279-312.) *

Segment 1 - What is the history of Anti-Semitic feelings and actions?

Segment 2 - How does the Holocaust impact us today?

02/20/19 – Zionism and Israel (See *Lesson 19* in the Reader, pp. 313-340.)

Segment 1 - How did Israel come to be?

Segment 2 - What is the current situation in Israel?

Learning Block 7 - Instructor: Rabbi Diane Tiferet Lakein

02/27/20 – Passover (See Lesson 16 in the Reader, pp. 243-261.) *

Segment 1 - What does Passover commemorate?

Segment 2 - What are some ways Passover is commemorated and celebrated?

03/05/20 20 – Shavuot (See Lesson 20 in the Reader, pp. 341-366.)*

Segment 1 - What does Shavuot commemorate?

Segment 2 - What is the purpose of the commandments?

03/12/20 – Tikkun Olam & Pursuing Justice (handouts.)*

Segment 1 - What are my options for community involvement?

Segment 2 - What questions do I still have?

Learning Block 8 - Instructor: Deborah Bronstein

03/19/20 – Inside the Synagogue & Jewish Home; Conclusion/Siyyum –

At Har HaShem (See lesson 21, pp. 367-376)

04/02/20 Make-up Session and Snow-date - Instructor: tbd

***These lessons are out of sequence from the course materials to accommodate the Jewish calendar.**