

## Judaism 101

Congregation B'nai Israel  
Little Rock, Arkansas  
5778 (2017-18)

### August 30

Jewish Views of God

### September 6

The High Holy Days: Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur

Reading: *A Guide to the Jewish Seasons*, pp. 3-10, 27-44, 110-114, 123

### September 13

Navigating the Prayerbook

### September 20

The Pilgrimage Festivals: Passover, Shavuot, and Sukkot

Reading: *A Guide to the Jewish Seasons*, pp. 45-70, 115-122, 153-156

### September 27

Shabbat

Reading: *Gates of Shabbat*, all

### October 4

Life Cycles 1: Birth and Bringing a Child into the Covenant

Reading: *Navigating the Journey*, pp. 3-16, 205-224

### October 11

Life Cycles 2: Jewish Education, Bar/Bat Mitzvah, and Confirmation – Eileen Hamilton teaching

Reading: *Navigating the Journey*, pp. 17-24, 149-154,

### October 18

Life Cycles 3: Marriage (and Divorce)

Reading: *Navigating the Journey*, pp. 25-54, 173-198, 225-230

### October 25

Life Cycles 4: Conversion to Judaism

Reading: *Navigating the Journey*, pp. 199-204

*A Guide to the Jewish Seasons*, pp. 157-161

### November 1

Life Cycles 5: Death and Mourning

Reading: *Navigating the Journey*, pp. 55-84, 231-254

November 8

Life After Death

November 15

Judaism and Christianity: Similarities and Differences

November 22 – No class, Thanksgiving

November 29

Chanukah and Purim

Reading: *A Guide to the Jewish Seasons*, pp. 71-80, 107-110

December 6 – No Class, Chanukah

December 13

Comparative Judaism: Reform, Conservative, Orthodox, and more

Reading: *Navigating the Journey*, pp. 85-148, 155-172

December 20, 27 – No Class: Winter Break

January 3

Jewish History 1: The Tanach and its Time

Reading: *A Short History of the Jewish People*, pp. 1-50

*A Guide to the Jewish Seasons*, p. 86

January 10

Jewish History 2: The Rabbinic Period and Oral Torah

Reading: *A Short History of the Jewish People*, pp. 51-70

January 17

Jewish History 3: Medieval Jewish History

Reading: *A Short History of the Jewish People*, pp. 71-122

January 24

Jewish History 4: The Dawn of Modernity

Reading: *A Short History of the Jewish People*, pp. 123-198

January 31

Jewish History 5: Holocaust – Guest Lecturer, Prof. Dorian Stuber, Ph.D.

Reading: *A Short History of the Jewish People*, pp. 199-216

*A Guide to the Jewish Seasons*, p. 83

February 7

Jewish History 7: The History of Israel I

Reading: *A Short History of the Jewish People*, pp. 217-260

February 14 and 21 – No class

February 28

Jewish History 8: The History of Israel II

Reading: *A Guide to the Jewish Seasons*, pp. 84-85

Bibliography

Knobel, Peter S., Editor. *A Guide to the Jewish Seasons*. New York: Central Conference of American Rabbis, 2013.

Knobel, Peter S., Editor. *Navigating the Journey*. New York: Central Conference of American Rabbis, 2017.

Scheindlin, Raymond P. *A Short History of the Jewish People*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1998.

Shapiro, Mark Dov, Editor. *Gates of Shabbat, Newly Revised and Updated*. New York: Central Conference of American Rabbis, 2016.