

# Miller Introduction to Judaism Program

## Course Readings

### Reading Assignments:

*Required:*

Harold Kushner, [To Life!](#)

Raymond Scheindlin, [A Short History of the Jewish People](#)

Linda Motzkin, [Aleph Isn't Tough: An Introduction to Hebrew for Adults](#)

For those taking Hebrew reading

*Recommended:*

Irving "Yitz" Greenberg, [The Jewish Way: Living the Holidays](#)

Edward Feinstein, [Tough Questions Jews Ask](#)

Abraham Joshua Heschel, [The Sabbath](#)

Additional articles and online resources will be sent to you.

### **Class One: Beginnings: From Creation to the Edge of the Wilderness**

NO READINGS

### **Class Two: The World of the Bible**

READING:

Kushner, pgs 3-48

Scheindlin, pgs 1-49

Recommended:

Rabbi Benjamin Scolnic, ["The Prophets and Social Justice"](#)

### **Class Three: Heart of Many Rooms: Understanding Jewish Diversity**

READING:

Kushner, pgs 49-86

Recommended:

Feinstein, pgs 97-103

Rabbi Elliot Dorff, ["Living the Mitzvot: Today and Tomorrow"](#)

### **Class Four: Holy Days: The Wheel of the Jewish Year**

READINGS:

Kushner, 87-142

Recommended:

Rabbi Irving Greenberg, *The Jewish Way*, "The Holidays as the Jewish Way"

Rabbi Bradley Shavit Artson, ["Introducing the Hebrew Calendar"](#)

### **Class Five: Shabbat: Palace in Time**

READINGS

Review: Kushner, 92-106

Rabbi Sharon Brous & Rabbi Aaron Alexander, ["Shabbat and the Possibility of Transformation"](#)

(HIGHLY) Recommended

Heschel, *The Sabbath*

### **Class Six: When Do I Bow? And Other Questions About Jewish Prayer**

READINGS

Kushner, 197-214

Recommended:

Feinstein, 13-22

Rabbi Jonathan Wittenberg, ["God and Us"](#)

### **Class Seven: Passover: The Jewish Master Story**

READINGS

Review: Kushner, 124-129

Recommended:

Rabbi Irving Greenberg, *The Jewish Way*, "Judaism as an Exodus Religion"

### **Class Eight: God: Encountering the Holy**

READINGS

Kushner, 143-180

Recommended:

Feinstein, 7-12; 41-50

Rabbi Bradley Shavit Artson, ["Almighty? No Way! Coming to Know the God We Already Love"](#)

### **Class Nine: Talmud: Argument for the Sake of Heaven**

READINGS

Scheindlin, 51-69

Recommended:

Rabbi Gail Labovitz, ["The Rabbinic Period"](#)

***Class Ten: Starting Over: The High Holy Days***

READINGS

Review: Kushner, 106-118

Rabbi Michael Werbow, [“Rosh HaShanah”](#)

Rabbi Cheryl Peretz, [“Yom Kippur”](#)

***Class Eleven: Kashrut: The Original Soul Food***

READINGS

Review: Kushner, 49-60

Recommended:

Feinstein, 57-65

Rabbi Morris Allen, [“How Kosher Is Kosher?”](#)

***Class Twelve: Philosophers, Poets, and Mystics: The Jewish Middle Ages***

READINGS

Scheindlin, 71-121

Rabbi Joel Rembaum, [“Medieval History”](#)

***Class Thirteen: Marriage, Love & Kosher Sex***

READINGS

Kushner, 226-230

Rabbi Shoshana Boyd Gelfand, [“Love, Marriage, Commitment”](#)

***Class Fourteen: From Birth to B’nai Mitzvah: Raising a Mensch***

READINGS

Kushner, pgs 215-226; 230-236

Rabbi Ed Feinstein, [“Childhood and Adolescence”](#)

***Class Fifteen: A Time to Mourn: Traditions for Death, Grief, & Healing***

READINGS

Kushner, 236-241

Recommended:

Feinstein, 31-39; 105-110

***Class Sixteen: Out of the Darkness: Stories from the Holocaust***

READINGS

Kushner, 259-277

Scheindlin, 199-215

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

Select several clips of Holocaust survivor testimony to watch, via the Shoah Foundation:

<http://dornsife.usc.edu/vhi/clipviewer/>

***Class Seventeen: Israel: Dreaming of Deliverance***

READINGS

Kushner, 243-257

Scheindlin, 217-248

Recommended:

Feinstein, 91-95

***Class Eighteen: The Jewish Mission to Heal the World***

READINGS

Kushner, 293-304

Recommended:

Feinstein, 51-56

Ruth Messinger, ["Am I My Sibling's Keeper If They Live Halfway Around the World?"](#)