

# IKAR: The Essentials of Judaism

## Schedule of Classes 2016/17

### Block 1 Instructor: Morah Yehudis Fishman

**9/8/16** Lesson 1 – Bereishit: In the Beginning  
Segment 1 - What is this class about?  
Segment 2 - How is Jewish time marked?

**9/15/16** Lesson 2 – Rosh HaShanah  
Segment 1 - What is Rosh HaShanah?  
Segment 2 - What are some of the ways Rosh HaShanah is commemorated/celebrated?

**9/22/16** Lesson 3 – Yom Kippur  
Segment 1 - What is Yom Kippur?  
Segment 2 - What are Jewish values?

### Block 2 Instructor: Rabbi Sarah Bracha Gershuny

**9/29/16** Lesson 4 – Sukkot and Simchat Torah  
Segment 1 - What are Sukkot and Simchat Torah?  
Segment 2 - What are the major books of Judaism? How are they connected?

**10/13/16** Lesson 5 – Shabbat  
Segment 1 - What is Shabbat?  
Segment 2 - What are some ways Shabbat is celebrated?

**10/27/16** Lesson 6 – Conversion  
Segment 1 - Who is a Jew?  
Segment 2 - What is the conversion process like?

**Block 3                    Instructor: Rabbi Hannah Laner**

- 11/3/16**      Lesson 7 – Rituals of Birth through Adolescence  
Segment 1 - What are Jewish rituals surrounding birth?  
Segment 2 - What are Jewish rituals surrounding adolescence?
- 11/10/16**    Lesson 8 – Marriage and Divorce  
Segment 1 - What are Jewish rituals surrounding marriage?  
Segment 2 - How does Judaism address divorce?
- 11/17/16**    Lesson 9 – Death and Afterlife  
Segment 1 - What are Jewish rituals surrounding death?  
Segment 2 - What are the Jewish beliefs concerning afterlife?

**Block 4                    Instructor: Rabbi Ori Har**

- 12/1/16**      Lesson 10 – Chanukah  
Segment 1 - What does Chanukah commemorate?  
Segment 2 - What are some ways Chanukah is commemorated and celebrated?
- 12/8/16**      Lesson 11 – God  
Segment 1 - Who is God?  
Segment 2 - Why does God act as God does?
- 12/15/16**    Lesson 12 – Prayer  
Segment 1 - What is the importance and value of prayer?  
Segment 2 - What are some different models of Jewish prayers?

**Block 5                    Instructor: Rabbi Marc Soloway**

- 12/22/16**    Lesson 13 – Denominations of Judaism  
Segment 1 - How did Judaism come to look as it does today?  
Segment 2 - What unites the different denominations?
- 1/5/17**        Lesson 14 – Tu B'Shevat  
Segment 1 - What is Tikun Olam?  
Segment 2 - What is Tu B'Shevat

**1/12/17** Lesson 15 – Purim  
Segment 1 - What is Purim?  
Segment 2 - What is Jewish mysticism?

**Block 6 Instructor: Rabbi Ruthie Gelfarb**

**1/19/17** Lesson 16 – Passover  
  
Segment 1 - What does Passover commemorate?  
Segment 2 - What are some ways Passover is commemorated and celebrated?

**1/26/17** Lesson 17 – Jewish History  
Segment 1 - What is the role of history? Memory?  
Segment 2 - How does Jewish history impact me?

**2/2/17** Lesson 18 – Anti-Semitism  
Segment 1 - What is the history of Anti-Semitic feelings and actions?  
Segment 2 - How does the Holocaust impact us today?

**Block 7 Instructor: Rabbi Fred Greene**

**2/9/17** Lesson 19 – Zionism and Israel  
Segment 1 - How did Israel come to be?  
Segment 2 - What is the current situation in Israel?

**2/16/17** Lesson 20 – Shavuot  
Segment 1 - What does Shavuot commemorate?  
Segment 2 - What is the purpose of the commandments?

**2/23/17** Lesson 21 – Intro to Jewish Community  
Segment 1 - What are my options for community involvement?  
Segment 2 - What questions do I still have?

**3/2/17** SNOW DATE

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