

IKAR: The Essentials of Judaism

Class Schedule and Syllabus 2017—2018

Classes are located at Boulder JCC, 6007 Oreg Ave., Room 130, Boulder, CO 80303, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Thursdays.

Bonus: An optional class to introduce the High Holidays (such as Sukkot and Simchat Torah, which occur before the first mandatory IKAR class) is scheduled for **September 7, 2017** at Congregation Bonai Shalom, 1527 Cherryvale Road in Boulder.

Learning Block 1 - Instructor: Rabbi Hannah Laner

10/19/17 Class 1 – Bereishit: In the Beginning (See pp. 9-15.)

Segment 1 - What is this class about?

Segment 2 - How is Jewish time marked?

10/26/17 Class 2 – Rosh HaShanah (See pp. 16-30.)

Segment 1 - What is Rosh HaShanah?

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

11/2/17 Class 3 – Yom Kippur (See pp. 31-39.)

Segment 1 - What is Yom Kippur?

Segment 2 - What are Jewish values?

Learning Block 2 - Instructor: Rabbi Ori Har

11/9/17 Class 4 – Sukkot and Simchat Torah (See pp. 40-58.)

Segment 1 - What are Sukkot and Simchat Torah?

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

11/16/17 Class 5 – Shabbat (See pp. 59-71.)

Segment 1 - What is Shabbat?

Segment 2 - What are some ways Shabbat is celebrated?

11/23/17 NO CLASS – Thanksgiving Break

11/30/17 NO CLASS – Rescheduled

Learning Block 3 - Instructor: Rabbi Tirzah Firestone

12/7/17 Class 6 – Conversion (See pp. 72-77.)

Special guests: Rabbi Soloway, Rabbi Greene, Rabbi Har DiGennaro and Morah Fishman

Segment 1 - Who is a Jew?

Segment 2 - What is the conversion process like?

12/14/17 Class 7 – Chanukah (See Lesson 10 in the Reader, pp. 130-146.) *

Segment 1 - What does Chanukah commemorate?

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

12/21/17 Class 8 – 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?

12/28/17 NO CLASS – Winter Break

1/4/18 NO CLASS – Winter Break

Learning Block 4 - Instructor: Morah Yehudis Fishman

1/11/18 Class 9 – 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?

1/18/18 Class 10 – God (See pp. 147-166)

Segment 1 - Who is God?

Segment 2 - Why does God act as God does?

1/25/18 Class 11 – Tu B'Shevat (See Lesson 14 in the Reader, pp. 202-219.) *

Segment 1 - What is Tikun Olam?

Segment 2 - What is Tu B'Shevat?

Learning Block 5 - Instructor: Rabbi Ruthie Gelfarb

2/1/18 Class 12 – 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?

2/8/18 Class 13 – Denominations of Judaism (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?

2/15/18 Class 14 – Jewish History (See Lesson 17 in the Reader, pp. 262-278.) *

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

Segment 2 - How does Jewish history impact me?

Learning Block 6 - Instructor: Rabbi Fred Greene

2/22/18 Class 15 – Purim (See Lesson 15 in the Reader, pp. 220-242.) *

Segment 1 - What is Purim?

Segment 2 - What is Jewish mysticism?

- 3/1/18 NO CLASS – Purim**
- 3/8/18 Class 16 – 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?
- 3/15/18 Class 17 – 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 Marc Soloway

- 3/22/18 Class 18 – 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?
- 3/29/18 NO CLASS – Spring Break**
- 4/5/18 NO CLASS – Passover**
- 4/12/18 Class 19 – Shavuot** (See pp. 341-366.)
Segment 1 - What does Shavuot commemorate?
Segment 2 - What is the purpose of the commandments?
- 4/19/18 Class 20 – 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?

Make-up Session and Snow-date Instructor: Rabbi Ruthie Gelfarb

- 4/26/18 Class 21 – Intro to Jewish Community** (See pp. 367-376.)
Segment 1 - What are my options for community involvement?
Segment 2 - What questions do I still have?
- 5/3/18 Snow-date make-up class, if needed**

* These lessons are out of sequence from the course materials to accommodate the Jewish calendar. Please follow indicated page numbers.

Note: Yellow highlighting denotes schedule changes from the original plan.