

INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM

This is a comprehensive course of eighteen weeks including an orientation session. The class meets once a week for two hours. Courses are usually offered on weekday evenings and typically begin at different seasons of the year and in a variety of locations across the Southland.

INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM is designed to be a meaningful educational experience for any person interested in knowing and understanding Judaism and Jewish life. The course organizes instruction according to the major holidays and events in the Jewish life cycle. Topics to be covered include:

Marriage and Family
Conversion to Judaism
Living a Jewish Life
Jewish Holidays
Jewish Values and Ethics
Jewish History and Culture
Anti-Semitism and the Holocaust
Israel and Zionism
Jewish Peoplehood
Worship and Spirituality
Jewish Ideas of God
The Importance of Shabbat
Major religious ideas such as revelation, messiah, afterlife, sin and repentance



PLUS (LOS ANGELES ONLY)

Shabbaton: A Shabbat worship experience at a local congregation that includes a learner's service, Shabbat songs, Israeli folk dancing, and a festive meal.

Visit to the Skirball Cultural Center to learn about the history of the Jews from 2,000 BCE to 2,000 CE through arts and culture.

INSTRUCTORS

Instructors are rabbis ordained from the Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion, the seminary for Reform Judaism. These liberal rabbis encourage student questions and spirited discussions on all topics.

INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM reflects the approach of Reform Judaism. This two-hundred year old Jewish movement includes the largest number of religious Jews in America. It has forged a dynamic synthesis of tradition and modernity which allows for an encompassing yet flexible Jewish consciousness.

Every student in INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM is encouraged to select a *Sponsor Rabbi* to be his/her mentor and guide. All Reform rabbis in Southern California have indicated their readiness to become *Sponsor Rabbis* when asked. The course instructor can help students select a *Sponsor Rabbi*.

FEE

Tuition for the INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM course is \$240. This tuition fee allows *either one or two people* to attend the classes. We encourage couples to register together or singles to invite an interested friend. Tuition includes a non-refundable \$50 registration fee. For dues-paying members of a URJ-affiliated Reform congregation, the tuition is \$170.

The tuition fee does not include text books required for the course. Along with acquiring an understanding of the basic beliefs and practices of Judaism, you will purchase a small, basic library of Jewish resources for your own use. A booklist is available on the URJ website.

DATES

For information about the entry dates and locations of INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM classes, please contact Rabbi Sabine Meyer at the URJ office in Encino (818) 907-8740 or visit our website at <http://urj.org/intro>

New classes start in October, November, December, January and April. They will be taught at different locations in Southern California, from Santa Barbara to San Diego. Ask for the availability of classes near to your home or place of work.

WHY?

For some things in life, it is never too late. Somehow, when you were younger, you didn't learn what you'd like to know about the culture and religion of the Jewish people. Perhaps you were not yet ready to appreciate the Jewish education you were offered. Perhaps your parents didn't think you needed a Jewish education. Whatever the reason, INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM offers you a time and place to broaden your Jewish awareness.

Perhaps you are now seeking a way to live a fuller and richer Jewish family life. Perhaps your partner is not Jewish and you would like to introduce him/her to the rich world of Judaism. Perhaps you've grown up in a different faith tradition but now desire to embrace Judaism and seek conversion.

INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM can launch you on a path to authentic personal Jewish identity. This course can help you acquire a basic Jewish vocabulary. You can gain intellectual and experiential knowledge of Judaism. You can acquire the skills necessary to "do Jewish."

If you know a rabbi, make an appointment with him or her to discuss why INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM could be right for you. Or call me to talk.

Rabbi Sabine Meyer

Director,
URJ INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM

INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM

is sponsored by the

UNION FOR REFORM JUDAISM
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Encino, CA 91436
Phone: 818-907-8740
<http://urj.org/intro>

For more information contact

Rabbi Sabine Meyer, Director
smeyer@urj.org

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

An official Certificate of Completion will be granted from the URJ to any person who satisfies all the requirements of the INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM course. A Certificate of Completion is usually required by the rabbis who help a non-Jew to convert to Judaism. Every rabbi may establish his/her own standards for conversion. Anyone considering conversion to Judaism must contact a "Sponsor Rabbi" for that purpose. A list of your area's Reform congregations and their rabbis is available on the URJ website, <http://congregations.urj.org/>



INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM

***A comprehensive program
for people of all backgrounds
—Jewish or non Jewish—
to participate more
comfortably in Jewish life***

- Our 18-week course teaches the basic principles and practices of Judaism
- You will be offered an intellectual, emotional and spiritual approach to the traditions of the Jewish people

**Starting on November 11, 2009,
Rabbi Neal Comess-Daniels will teach
the *Introduction to Judaism* course at
Beth Shir Sholom, Santa Monica.
Members and non-members are
welcome.**