

AJL

AGENCY FOR JEWISH LEARNING

2012 / 5772

WINTER - SPRING COURSE CATALOG



JUDAIC CLASSES • HEBREW LANGUAGE ULPAN CLASSES • THE FLORENCE MELTON ADULT MINI - SCHOOL
SPECIAL GUEST LECTURES AND SEMINARS • CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION CLASSES

FLORENCE MELTON ADULT MINI - SCHOOL



THE GOALS

To convey a core of Jewish knowledge by integrating Jewish practices, ideas, language, law and history taught through a pluralistic approach to Judaism; to stimulate critical thinking and reflection in a non-judgmental environment with other adults; to transfer Jewish learning into the contemporary world, connecting Jewish study and Jewish life in a natural way.

The Courses

- *Rhythms of Jewish Living* - Central ideas which mold the traditional patterns of life cycles, holidays and practices which define and shape a Jewish life.
- *Purposes of Jewish Living* - Essential Jewish concepts and ideas as they unfold in the Bible and other sacred texts.
- *Ethics of Jewish Living* - Selected issues in Jewish ethics such as marriage, justice, sexuality and business as discussed in principal Jewish sources.
- *Dramas of Jewish Living* - Contemporary issues which Jews face such as assimilation, Anti-Semitism, as revealed in various times and places in Jewish history.

MELTON 55

2

This is an abbreviated Melton class held at Riverview Towers for those who wish to learn Melton texts in a separate format. This will include two 15 week sessions of the Rhythms of Jewish learning curriculum taught by Rabbi Aaron Herman. Rhythms focuses on central ideas which mold the traditional patterns of life cycles, holidays and practices which define and shape a Jewish life.

Thursday, 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM @ Riverview

Session 1: Beginning Feb. 23rd - May 31st

Session 2: June 7 - Sept. 20th.

Cost: \$200 (includes both sessions) plus \$36 for book fee

This program is generously sponsored by a grant from the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh

HEBREW CLASSES



All AJL Hebrew language classes begin the week of February 20. Classes end the week of May 21st. There are NO classes the week of March 5th (Purim) and April 9th (Passover).

BEGINNER'S HEBREW LEVEL 1

A Crash Reading and Conversational Hebrew Course

This course is designed for the absolute beginner. The audio-visual method and mnemonic devices are used to provide essentials of reading and basic vocabulary. The ability to read is a necessary tool for learning the language. You will definitely be able to read Hebrew with some comprehension after only one semester.

Thursday
12 sessions
Instructor: Tal Perel

7:00 - 8:30 PM
\$180
AJL Bldg. Classroom 1

BEGINNER'S HEBREW: CONVERSATIONAL LEVEL 1, 2 & 3

These courses are designed for the beginner who can read or has completed at least one or two semesters of Hebrew in our Adult Education Program (Ulpan). Emphasis is placed on conversational Hebrew and reading with comprehension. Script will be taught if needed. The audio-visual method is used to provide essentials of grammar, syntax and vocabulary. Great for following the prayerbook with comprehension, reinforcing your child's Hebrew, or for travelers to Israel.

CH1

Level 1:

Monday

5:30 - 7:00 PM

AJL Bldg. Classroom 1

Instructor: Nira Lion

12 sessions - \$180

CH2

Level 2:

Tuesday

5:30 - 7:00 PM

AJL Bldg. Classroom 1

Instructor: Tal Perel

12 sessions - \$180

CH3

Level 3:

Tuesday

7:00 - 8:30 PM

AJL Bldg. Classroom 1

Instructor: Tal Perel

12 sessions - \$180

HEBREW CLASSES

INTERMEDIATE HEBREW 1 & 2

Hebrew conversation in classic Ulpan style. Hebrew is the only language spoken in this class. Immerse yourself in the language. Designed for students who have completed at least two years of Hebrew in our Adult Education Program, or Intermediate Hebrew in our summer Ulpan or its equivalent.

Intermediate 1

Monday

7:00 - 8:30 PM

AJL Bldg. Classroom 1

12 sessions - \$180

Instructor: Nira Lion

Intermediate 2

Tuesday

6:30 - 8:00 PM

AJL Bldg.

12 sessions - \$180

Instructor: Nitsa Ford

ADVANCED HEBREW

For those who are fluent in Hebrew. Classical, biblical or modern literary selections are read and discussed. Items from the Israeli press are reviewed. Appropriate for students who have completed Intermediate Hebrew II or a semester of Advanced Hebrew in our Adult Education Program. Only Hebrew is spoken in this class.

Wednesday

7:00 - 8:30 PM

JCC Kaufmann Bldg.

12 sessions - \$170

Instructor: Haya Feig

INDEPENDENT STUDY

Tuesday 6:00 - 7:00 PM

AJL Bldg. Classroom 1

12 sessions - \$120

Instructor: Nira Lion

HEBREW CLASSES



To find out which Hebrew class is right for you, or to register, contact Nira Lion, AJL Hebrew Language Coordinator, 521-1101, ext. 3202.

All classes depend on minimum class registration and are closed at 15 students.

Free make-up time is available with Nira Lion if you miss a class or need extra help.
Tuesdays, 5:30 - 6:00 PM @ AJL

Call Nira Lion at 412-521-1101, ext. 3202 to make arrangements

5

Mark your calendar: **Israeli style Ulpan**

A semester of Hebrew in just 6 days.
19 hours of Hebrew on five class levels for new and continuing students in an engaging and joyful study with experienced faculty and impressive results.

Sun., June 3 - 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Mon., June 4 - 6:00 - 9:00 PM

Tues., June 5 - 6:00 - 9:00 PM

Thurs., June 7 - 6:00 - 9:00 PM

Mon., June 11 - 6:00 - 9:00 PM

Tues., June 12 - 6:00 - 9:00 PM

@ AJL

\$180

Includes light supper and refreshments on weekdays
and an Israeli lunch on Sunday

JUDAIC CLASSES

SHEMOT – (Part 2) REVELATION AND REVOLUTION

Rabbi Scott Aaron

Our new course follows the development of the emerging Jewish nation from their awe-inspiring encounter at Mount Sinai through the building of the tabernacle in the wilderness. The high points of divine revelation in “Ten Commandments,” “Encountering God,” and “Face to Face with God” are sharply contrasted with the low points of the “Golden Calf: Revolt or Reversion.” The text addresses some of the specific laws and regulations that were to become part of Jewish living as well as the meaning, purpose, and relevance to our lives today.

Monday

Feb. 6 - April 9

AJL

10:00 - 11:00 AM

\$100 + \$36 BOOK FEE

10 sessions

DEVOTIONAL POETRY OF JUDAH HA-LEVI

Danielle Kranjec

“My heart is in the east, and here am I, so far away in the West . . .” Judah Ha-Levi, rabbi, physician, philosopher, and poet, composed some of the most striking devotional poetry ever written in Hebrew. This course will provide a fresh reading of his most well known poems, as well as some rarer gems, in light of recent research on the pilgrimage he made to Eretz Yisrael at the end of his life. Meet a new Judah Ha-Levi and discover the Mediterranean world of the 12th century in which Ha-Levi addressed timeless Jewish theological issues through beautifully transcendent verse.

Tuesday

Feb. 21 - March 27

AJL

1:00 - 2:00 PM

\$60

6 sessions

JUDAIC CLASSES

CONVIVENCIA: CHRISTIANS, MUSLIMS AND JEWS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN, 900-1500

Danielle Kranjec

Much has been made of the notion of “convivencia” (peaceful co-existence) in medieval Spain. This course in medieval cultural history will address the reality of daily life for medieval Jews in Iberia and throughout the Mediterranean world of the Middle Ages, living as minorities in both Christian and Muslim kingdoms. Texts ranging from legal documents to poetry will be read that will show how some of the Jewish experience from a thousand years ago is very similar to our own, as well as how their lives as religious minorities affected the development of Jewish culture and resonates in our tradition even today.

Tuesday
Feb. 21 - March 27
AJL

7:00 - 8:00 PM
\$60
6 sessions

MODERN AMERICAN JEWISH THOUGHT: HESCHEL AND KAPLAN (part 2)

Rabbi Scott Aaron

This is a continuation of the fall course but any new participants are welcome! Two of the twentieth century’s most influential Jewish theologians were actually colleagues and rivals of the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York. From the same halls came two very different ways of thinking about Jewish beliefs and practice. The course will start the semester studying the theology of Abraham Joshua Heschel.

Tuesday
Jan. 31 - April 3
AJL

10:00 - 11:00 AM
\$100
10 sessions

JUDAIC CLASSES

MELTON RE-NEW – THEOLOGY (Part 2)

Rabbi Aaron Herman

Join Rabbi Herman in this very popular course designed to “revisit” melton curriculum examined on a deeper level with six difficult theological issues in Judaism: Chosen People; Is the Torah the Revealed Word of G-d (1);. Is the Torah the Revealed Word of G-d (2);Why do people suffer? ; Responses to suffering in the Holocaust; and Yemot Hamashiach. These topics include the concept of chosenness, revelation of Torah part 1 & 2, why do people suffer, responses to suffering in the Holocaust and Yemot Hamasiach.

Wednesday

Feb. 22 - March 28

AJL

9:00 - 10:30 AM

\$60

6 sessions

MELTON RE-NEW – THEOLOGY

Rabbi Aaron Herman

Do you remember the rich curriculum and stimulating discussion you experienced as a Melton student? Remember when time ran out before you were ready to leave? Does it seem that you just can't remember it all? We invite you to join us again as we rediscover Melton in a six week program designed to reacquaint the student on a deeper level with six of the most difficult Theological issues in Judaism; The Purpose of Mankind, Sin, Yetziat Mitzrayim, Mitzvot, Miracles and Hashgacha, and the Religious Significance of the State of Israel.

Wednesday

Feb. 22 - March 28

AJL

7:00 - 8:30 PM

\$60

6 sessions

The first series was so popular that we decided to offer it to our night time students.

JUDAIC CLASSES

ISRAEL: GOVERNMENT AND MORE

Ivan Frank, Ph.D

This course will emphasize the importance of Israel's political system that does not include a Constitution, but does have basic laws and a multi-party system that has a spread from the extreme right to the extreme left in it. We will examine an election system that provides small parties within the coalition government an opportunity to put their trademark on all policies and decisions. The multi-party system has been involved in important decisions that had major consequences for a young country. The situation in the Middle East has become more volatile; and the political makeup of Israel determines how Israel deals with it, and in which direction it will move domestically in the near future. This course will review the earlier history of modern Israel to explain how it arrived to this juncture in its very short history.

Wednesday
March 7 - April 11
AJL

10:00 - 11:00 AM
\$60
6 sessions

ISRAEL: OBJECTIVE HISTORY AND POLITICS...AS BEST WE CAN

Rabbi Ron Symons

Are you bewildered by the current state of Israeli politics and how we got here? Join us in exploring history from pre-State Israel through modern day Israel so as to better understand the foundations upon which we are building. Our explorations will include the history of movements and ideas, parties and associations, war and peace, individuals and organizations... We will do our best to be objective and when we are not, we will admit it and try to bring together people of assorted opinions. Guided by Rabbi Ron Symons and host of Pittsburgh based Israel experts. It all comes to head on April 26, 2012, the 5th of Iyar 5772, Israel Independence Day!
(There is no class on April 12th)

Thursdays
Feb. 9 - April 26
Temple Sinai

10:00 - 11:00 AM
\$100
10 sessions

CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION CLASS (2 Session Class)

*Monday, February 27, 2012
@ Tree of Life*Or L'Simcha
5898 Wilkins Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15217*

*9:00 AM - 12:15 PM
\$100 (includes both sessions) 3 Ethics Credits*

*SHARI'A LAW (Part 1)
Haider Ala Hamoudi, Assistant Professor of Law
University of Pittsburgh School of Law*

This session will open with a brief discussion respecting the principles of Islam and the fundamental role of shari'a in setting forth the norms and practices by which Muslims are expected to live. This session will then discuss some core aspects of how the shari'a operates as law, from both a civil and criminal perspective, in the modern world. The session will begin with a discussion of particular areas of interest in public law. Specifically, criminal law and constitutional law will receive the greatest focus. From this, we will turn to an examination of the two areas of private law with the greatest salience in modernity, which are the law of personal status (essentially, family law and inheritance) as well as Islamic finance. These will be discussed both in the context of their use and application in Islamic societies, as well as thorny issues that arise when they are applied in non Islamic societies.

9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

2 Ethics Credits



CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION CLASS (Continued)

*LEGISLATING THE SACRED: A HISTORIC OVERVIEW OF THE INTERACTIONS
OF SHARIA AND HALACHA (Part 2)*

Rabbi Scott Aaron, J.D, AJL Community Scholar

Islamic and Jewish law evolved for a time in the same geographic and historic milieu. This session will highlight some interesting divergences and overlap between the two systems and discuss their historic encounters during the Golden Age of Spain. When it comes to our legal systems, Judaism and Islam have more in common than we realize!

11:15 AM - 12:15 PM

1 Ethics Credits

This program is sponsored by the AJL and the PAJC

AJL

Agency for Jewish Learning

PAJC

PITTSBURGH AREA JEWISH COMMITTEE

an independent affiliate of the American Jewish Committee

JUDAIC CLASS

11

JEWISH MEDICAL ETHICS

Rabbi Scott Aaron

Judaism has historically embraced the medical sciences as the means of doing G-d's commandments to preserve and encourage life. However, advances in modern medicine presents Judaism with challenges that historic ethical parameters do not necessarily envision. This class will provide an overview of the basic tenets of Jewish medical ethics and look at examples of tensions between medical science and Jewish tradition.

Thursday, February 9 and 16

7-8:00 PM

@ Temple David in Monroeville

\$20



AJL is proud to sponsor the:

**4th Annual Community Wide
TIKKUN LEIL SHAVUOT
Erev Shavuot**

May 26th, 2012 — 10:00 pm - 1:00 am

Jewish Community Center - Squirrel Hill

The rabbis and scholars of our Pittsburgh community will be offering multiple simultaneous study sessions in three time slots:

10:00-10:50 pm , 11:00-11:50 pm, 12:00-12:50 am

Refreshments will be served.

Sessions will be offered from every possible Jewish perspective, in what promises to be an extraordinary festival of Torah!

Watch your mail for details!!!



COURSE SELECTIONS

x	CODE	COURSE	Date/Time	FEE	DUE
	MELT	Melton 55	Thu. 2:00 PM	\$200 *	
	BH	Beginner Hebrew 1	Thu. 7:00 PM	\$180	
	CH1	Beginner Hebrew level 1	Mon. 5:30 PM	\$180	
	CH2	Beginner Hebrew level 2	Tues. 5:30 PM	\$180	
	CH3	Beginner Hebrew level 3	Tues. 7:00 PM	\$180	
	INT 1	Intermediate Level 1	Mon. 7:00 PM	\$180	
	INT 2	Intermediate Level 2	Tues. 6:30 PM	\$180	
	ADV	Advanced Hebrew	Wed. 7:00 PM	\$170	
	SHM	Shemot (Part 2)	Mon. 10:00 AM	\$100*	
	DEV	Dev. Poetry of Judah Ha-Levi	Tues. 1:00 PM	\$60	
	CMJ	Christians, Muslims & Jews	Tues. 7:00 PM	\$60	
	MOD	Mod. Am. Jewish Thought	Tues. 10:00 AM	\$100	
	RENEW 2	Melton Re-New (Part 2)	Wed. 9:00 AM	\$60	
	RENEW 1	Melton Re-New	Wed. 7:00 PM	\$60	

*+ book fee of \$36

x	CODE	COURSE	Date/Time	FEE	DUE
	GOVT	Israel: Govt. and More	Wed. 10:00 AM	\$60	
	HIST	Israel: Hist. and Politics	Thu. 10:00 AM	\$100	
	CLE	Continuing Legal Ed	Mon. 9:00 AM	\$70	
	MON	Jewish Ethics	Thu. 7:00 PM	\$20	
	ULP	Ulpan	19 hrs in a week	\$180	

REGISTRATION

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP

E-MAIL

PHONE (DAY)

PHONE (EVENING)

AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$

CLASS SELECTION

CARD NUMBER

VISA/MC

EXP DATE

EMAIL ADDRESS

Send to: Agency for Jewish Learning, 2740 Beechwood Blvd. Pittsburgh, PA 15217 or call Amy Karp at 412-521-1101 x3204 or Nira Lion at 521-1101 x3202 to register by phone, or fax to 412-521-1120, or e-mail akarp@ajlpittsburgh.org. Minimum registration is required in order to run a class.

The AJL admits students of any race, nationality and ethnic origin to its programs. However, adherence to the Jewish faith is a requirement of some of our programs.

Beneficiary Agency of
Jewish Federation
OF GREATER PITTSBURGH



CONVERSATION FOR A JEWISH FUTURE-SPEAKER SERIES

Sponsored by the Centennial Fund for a Jewish Future

Date: Tuesday, May 15, 2012 7 pm

Rabbi Dr. Elliott Cosgrove

“What About Me? Personal Meaning and My Future in our Jewish Community”

Jewish Community Center, Robinson Building, Squirrel Hill

Date: Wednesday, September 5, 2012 7 pm

Dr. Steven M. Cohen

“Enough Talk, Now Prove it: Predicting the Future of our Community with Real Data”

Jewish Community Center, Robinson Building, Squirrel Hill

Registration Is online at

www.jewishfederationpittsburgh.org/conversations.aspx.

Cost is \$10 advance , \$15 at the door.

Part of the Series on Conversations for a Jewish Future

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