



Miller Introduction to Judaism Program

OF AMERICAN JEWISH UNIVERSITY

INTRO 2.0 Texts + Contexts - Year I

Ready to go beyond Intro to Judaism ?

Imagine walking into the majestic reading room of a great university library, or into the comforting, dusty stacks of a classic used book store.

Texts + Contexts: Year I is a guided stroll through three millennia of Jewish literature and thought. Each week, we'll pick a different book off the shelf, sampling Jewish wisdom and learning about the sages, scholars, and dreamers who created them. From poetry to fan fiction, epics to dark comedy, we'll explore essential Jewish texts, the worlds they came from, and their present day meaning.

JANUARY 23 - JUNE 7, 2020

10 Sessions, Thursdays 7-9 pm @ AJU
Co-taught by Rabbi Adam & Rabbi Morris

Individual: \$150 | Couple: \$225

 310-440-1273

 intro@aju.edu

 www.aju.edu/intro

Course Outline

#1: **EPICS**: Classic stories of adventure, struggle, and transformation. Texts: Genesis, Exodus, 1 Kings (Jan 23)

#2: **FAN FICTION**: Prequels, sequels, and the wild rabbinic imagination. Texts: Talmud, Midrash (Feb 6)

#3: **POETRY**: Exploring the beautiful, seductive, and subversive power of poems. Texts: Psalms, Job, Song of Songs, Yehuda Amichai (Feb 20)

#4: **DARK COMEDY**: Dangerous satire and laughter's triumph over despair. Texts: Megillat Esther (March 5)

#5: **THEOLOGY**: Meeting with G-d, G!D or G?D. Texts: Maimonides, Heschel, Buber (March 19)

#6: **DRAMA**: Waiting for God(ot)- Leaving Egypt over and over again. Texts: Talmud, Haggadah (April 2)

#7: **PSYCHOLOGY**: What happens when the world falls apart? Texts: Mishnah, Talmud, Hasidic Writings (April 23)

#8: **HERESY**: Revolutionary perspectives and banned books. Texts: Talmud, Maimonides (May 7)

#9: **SHORT STORIES**: Surprising revelations in small packages. Texts: The Tales of Rebbe Nachman (May 21)

#10: **FINAL LEARNING SESSION AT INTRO SHABBAT RETREAT**



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