

Introduction to Judaism: Text Book List

Required Books

- Lieberman, Beth and Hara Person, eds., [*Honoring Tradition, Embracing Modernity: A Reader for the Union for Reform Judaism's Introduction to Judaism Course*](#) (New York: CCAR Press), 2017. Also available in a PDF electronic version.
- [*The Jewish Study Bible*](#), Oxford University Press, 2004 or 2014. \$45.00
- Washofsky, Mark. [*Jewish Living: Guide to Contemporary Reform Practice*](#), revised. URJ Press, 2010. The definitive guide for Reform Jewish practice

We also recommend you buy a guide for observing Shabbat. (Choose one)

1. Zion/Fields-Meyer, [*A Day Apart: Shabbat at Home*](#), Shalom Hartman Institute, 2004. \$24.95
2. Shapiro, Rabbi Mark Dov, ed. [*Gates of Shabbat, A Guide for Observing Shabbat, 25th anniversary edition*](#). CCAR Press, 2016. A practical and inspiring volume for a liberal approach to Shabbat observance. Please check that you are purchasing the latest edition.

Optional

- Diamant, Anita. [*Choosing a Jewish Life*](#). Schocken, (rev. ed.) 2016. \$14.95 - Highly recommended for participants interested in conversion.
- Scheindlin, Raymond. [*A Short History of the Jewish People*](#). Oxford University Press, 1998. \$17.95 - Recommended for participants interested in academic history on the subject.
- Strassfeld, Michael. [*A Book of Life: Embracing Judaism as a Spiritual Practice*](#). Jewish Lights, 2006. Traditional Jewish teachings presented as a guide to behavior and values for all the cycles of life.
- Pogrebin, Abigail. [*My Jewish Year: 18 Holidays, One Wondering Jew*](#), Fig Tree Books LLC, 2017. Jewish holidays through the eyes of a wondering Jew, with brief reflections from prominent rabbis and Jewish thinkers.
- Plaut, W. Gunther, ed. [*The Torah: A Modern Commentary, Revised Edition*](#), New York: CCAR Press, 2005. Available as an e-book. Updated edition of North America's most popular Torah commentary.
- Eskanazi, Tamara Cohn and Andrew L. Weiss, eds. [*The Torah: A Women's' Commentary*](#). New York: CCAR Press, 2008. A groundbreaking volume, with downloadable companion study guides also available.
- Heschel, Abraham Joshua. [*The Sabbath*](#). Farrar Straus Giroux, 1951. A classic work; republished many times.

Questions

Please contact the course facilitator, Director of Jewish Education [Alex Weisz](#).