

RABBINICAL  
ASSEMBLY



ONTARIO  
REGION

COURSE OF STUDY IN JUDAISM  
5782 SESSION January 2022 – December 2022

The course is intended as an introduction to Judaism offering a broad survey of Jewish history, prayer, Biblical and Rabbinic literature, beliefs, and practices. In addition, the course teaches basic Hebrew readings skills and a working knowledge of the Friday evening and Shabbat morning prayer services.

**Duration:** The course is scheduled for forty (40) sessions divided into three unequal trimesters. Classes meet weekly for two hours.

**Course Dates and Times:** Classes are held on Tuesday evenings from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. except as otherwise noted. The first class is scheduled for **January 4, 2022**.

**Location:** Until such time that classes can be held in person, all class sessions will be on Zoom. Should the COVID restrictions be lifted, enrollees will be alerted. At that time, information regarding the in-person classes will be shared.

**Fees:** Tuition is set at \$925.00. It may be paid in one lump sum at the initial registration or in three installments. The first installment for \$325.00 is due and payable by the first class. Two further installments for \$300.00 each are due by April 20, 2021 and September 9, 2021 respectively. The fee includes instruction only. Students are expected to purchase or borrow all books used in class.

**Withdrawals:** Registrants who fail to secure a sponsoring rabbi will be asked to withdraw. Registrants may withdraw voluntarily as well. No refunds will be issued for any trimester after the fourth session of that trimester.

**Requirements for Registration:** Every student enrolling in the course must have a sponsoring **rabbi** who is **listed on the roster of the Rabbinical Assembly Ontario Region**. The sponsoring rabbi will meet periodically with the student, recommend further studies, and be available for any counseling and guidance.

In cases where non-Jewish students have spouses or fiancées, their **Jewish partners are expected to attend the course with them at no additional charge**. All students are expected to become integrated into Jewish communal life by attending synagogue regularly and involving themselves in a full range of Jewish activities and causes.

**Registration:** Candidates for the course register by e-mail. A completed application must be sent to Rabbi Wayne Allen ( [rabbiallen.is@gmail.com](mailto:rabbiallen.is@gmail.com) ). All payments are made through e-transfer to the Treasurer of the Rabbinical Assembly Ontario Region ( [OntarioRAtreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:OntarioRAtreasurer@gmail.com) ). Password is: RabbiAllen.

### **Course Requirements:**

1. Hebrew - Proficiency in Hebrew reading is essential for participation in Jewish prayer services. Hence, students are expected to practice Hebrew reading daily. Students randomly will be asked to read at each class.
2. Examinations - Students will be tested at the end of each trimester. The examination will be based on the lectures and the reading. A complete syllabus will be distributed at the first class. All grades will be communicated to the students and to the sponsoring rabbi. No student in financial arrears will be permitted to write exams.
3. Class Attendance - Attendance will be taken at every session. No more than five absences will be excused over the duration of the course.
4. Synagogue Attendance - Each student is expected to attend weekly Shabbat services and all holiday services. Attendance lists will be circulated and periodic reports will be submitted to sponsoring rabbis.

### **Requirements for Conversion:**

1. Students assume no obligation to convert to Judaism by enrolling in this course, nor are the rabbis who sponsor or instruct candidates obligated to accept any student as a convert.
2. It is solely the student's responsibility to arrange for periodic meetings with the sponsoring rabbi.
3. It is the responsibility of the sponsoring rabbi to enter into a personal discussion with candidates who successfully complete the course to determine whether conversion is warranted.
4. Those who elect and are accepted for conversion will be required to undergo ritual immersion in a *mikveh*. Arrangements will be made through the sponsoring rabbi.
5. Male candidates for conversion who have not been circumcised, must be circumcised by a rabbinically approved *mohel*. Males who have been previously circumcised must undergo the ritual of *hatafat dam brit* (taking a drop of blood). Arrangements will be made through the sponsoring rabbi.

6. A fee of \$650.00 will be charged to successful candidates who go on to conversion to cover all the related costs. (This fee is subject to change.) Approval for conversion is solely subject to the determination of the sponsoring rabbi. Each sponsoring rabbi is responsible for making necessary arrangements.

**Required Reading:**

- **A Day Apart: Shabbat at Home** by Rabbi Noam Zion
- **A Guide to Jewish Religious Practice** by Rabbi Isaac Klein
- **A Short History of the Jewish People** by Raymond Scheindlin
  - **Prescription for an Ailing World** by Rabbi Wayne Allen
  - **Becoming Jewish** by Rabbi Ronald Isaacs
  - **Modern Conservative Judaism** by Rabbi Elliot Dorff (available through the Rabbinical Assembly on-line bookstore)
  - **Entering Jewish Prayer** by Rabbi Reuven Hammer
- **Holy Scriptures** (Masoretic, that is, traditional Jewish text) Jewish Publication Society edition only
- Any **Jewish Calendar** for 5781 and 5782 (including candle lighting times for Toronto, weekly Torah portion, and secular and Hebrew dates)
- **The Koren Siddur (Sacks translation)** - pocket edition
- Any **Passover Haggadah** (traditional and complete version)
- **Night** by Elie Weisel
  - **Learn Hebrew Today** by Yedwab and Bogot
- All males students are required to purchase a *Tallit* and a set of kosher *Tefillin*.

All books may be purchased from local Jewish Bookstores or from on-line sources:

Israel's: The Judaica Center 1172 Eglinton Avenue W. (near Bathurst)  
 Springfarm Plaza (Clark and Hilda, Thornhill)  
 Alef Bet Judaica 3453 Bathurst Street (Between Lawrence and Wilson)

RABBINICAL  
ASSEMBLY



ONTARIO  
REGION

INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM COURSE January – December 2022

Please PRINT legibly:

Applicant's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Fiance(e) or partner (if applicable ) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (day) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (eve) \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

**NO APPLICATION WILL BE PROCESSED WITHOUT THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:**

Have you (and your partner) met with sponsoring rabbi? \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No

Sponsoring Rabbi \_\_\_\_\_

The registration fee is \$925.00. Please indicate your preference:

1. \_\_\_\_ I choose to pre-register. I will pay in three (3) installments: \$325.00 now, \$300.00 by April 5, 2022 and \$300.00 by Sept. 6, 2022.

2. \_\_\_\_ I choose to pre-register. I will pay \$925.00 in full at this time.

SEND THIS FORM TO: Rabbi Wayne Allen ( [rabbiallen.is@gmail.com](mailto:rabbiallen.is@gmail.com) )

SEND PAYMENT TO: [OntarioRAtreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:OntarioRAtreasurer@gmail.com) Password: RabbiAllen

For Office Use Only:

Received \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Received \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Received \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_