

Israeli Culture—Teen Perspectives - Arad Levertov

The course goal is to understand what is going on in Israel of 2010 from teen perspectives. We will try to get into an Israeli teenager's shoes and talk about the topics she is interested in, including: The high school experience in Israel; How do Israeli teenagers have fun; Popular sports in Israel; Israeli- Palestinian conflict and its affect on day to day life; Military service in the eyes of an Israeli teenager

Bibiodrama – Rachel Galper

We will explore and create "bibiodrama" around the weekly Torah portions, write and read readers' theatre pieces for biblical and other stories, and learn how to create a "String of Pearls" or a running d'var Torah where each person picks up where the other leaves off.

What IS Jewish Theology? Can There be Such a Thing? (Pt. 2)- Judith Roth

This year-long class explores "Jewish Theology" focusing on God, creation, revelation, redemption, covenant/chosenness, and Halacha, Jewish law. Students will learn about the basic ideas of major Jewish philosophers and theologians in these areas: Maimonides, Spinoza, Luria, Buber, Soloveitchik, Rosenzweig, Kaplan, Heschel including several feminist thinkers, Rachel Adler and Judith Plaskow. We will discuss death, living with anxiety in modern life, what is knowing and not-knowing, finding meaning and purpose in our lives. We will include the impact of two critical experiences in the 20th century: the Shoah and the establishment of the State of Israel. This class is intended to provide students an opportunity to begin a life-long dialogue with themselves about what they mean when they talk about God, Judaism, and their identity as Jews.

***Ask The Rabbi* - Rabbi Steve Kirschner**

Is there a question you have always wanted to ask a rabbi but never had the chance (or never dared)? Here is your chance! Bring questions to Rabbi Steve Kirschner on the first day of class and he will research the answers, bring the answers to future classes and lead a discussion on the topics. No question is too "out there!" Can a Jew fall in love with a vampire? Should American Jews support the State of Israel? What does Judaism really say about homosexuality? Can I still be Jewish if I don't believe in God? Why is everyone so interested in Kabbalah these days? These are some of the questions Rabbi Steve has thought of – what are yours??

J-teens: Social Connections in a Jewish Context - Ariel and David Krusch

Originally based on the book "J-girls Guide", we have adapted this class to be co-ed. We will focus this semester on different kinds of social connections in a Jewish context. Some of our discussion topics include forgiveness; friendship; peer pressure; honoring parents; community involvement; and being Jewish in American society.

Ma Nishtana to Matisyahu: The Journey of Jewish Music—David Bernay

Music is an integral part of Jewish life and history. As music triggers a spiritual and emotional response in the listener as well as the performer, it is no surprise that Jews have integrated music in prayer and in celebration, in sadness and in hope throughout their history.

Both religious and secular, musical performance is also a method of self-expression and self-identity. Through interactive lessons and group performances, this class will explore what makes music "Jewish." Styles from classical liturgy, Jewish folk, Mizrahi and Middle Eastern, to modern rap, hip-hop and reggae will be sampled in hopes of broadening our understanding of Jewish music, its function in history and today.

Yiddish Language and Culture: The Best-Kept Secret of American Jewry ” – Dr. Sheva Zucker

For many Jews Yiddish is the language their parents or grandparents used when they did want them to understand what they were saying. No wonder then that many think of it as a language of swear words, curses and vulgar jokes, but surely over 1000 years of Jewish life in Eastern Europe have produced much more than that. In this course we will learn about the history of the Yiddish language, the Yiddish alphabet, proverbs, some major writers, music, Holocaust literature, the lives of Yiddish-speaking teenagers before WWII, and Yiddish in Israel and in present day America. Experience the richness of your culture.

***Parshanut (Bible Commentaries)*—Rabbi Steve Kirschner**

Learning how to read and interpret a challenging text is a very important skill you can develop for college and beyond. We will learn from the great Jewish commentators—the “parshanim” - who interpreted the world’s greatest book—the Bible. Perhaps you have already heard of Rashi’s commentary on the Torah; but in addition to Rashi’s masterful interpretations, we will also study the commentaries of other great scholars such as David Kimchi, Abraham ibn Ezra, Moses ben Nachman and Sforno. We will look at a variety of texts in translation, beginning with commentaries on the Garden of Eden story and the binding of Isaac.

Jewish Art – Rachel Galper

We will explore and reproduce works from famous and not so famous Jewish artists in diverse 2D and 3D media. Chagall, Chicago, Gottlieb, Schapiro, Rothko, are just a few that come to mind. For each artist, we will read about and discuss his or her life and work to gain a better understanding of what inspired them to create the things they did. One guiding question will be, "Is there such a thing as Jewish art?"

Taste of Hebrew—Arad Levertov

This class will focus primarily on developing skills in spoken modern Hebrew. No previous knowledge of Hebrew is required.

Jewish Wisdom for Teens -Yehudis Bluming

Traditional Judaism is full of wisdom that is relevant for living our lives today. We’ll talk about things that are important to our lives, like romance and cliques, friendship and fame, rebellion and happiness—but we’ll add the wisdom of traditional Judaism to the discussion.

Kabbalah and the Teenage Soul - R. Zalman Bluming

We will interactively study exciting Kabbalistic themes and some of the most mystical and intriguing parts of Jewish life. We’ll apply these mystical teachings to our own lives. This Kabbalah class will leave you amazed, surprised and enriched in spirituality.