

Washington Coalition of Rabbis
Introduction to Judaism 5787 (2026-2027)
Sundays, 7:00-8:30 p.m

Sess.	Date	Subject
1	10/11/26	Welcome to the Class! Meet and Greet, Class Logistics, Affinity Groups Overview of the Conversion Process What is a Jew? What is Judaism?
JEWISH FOUNDATIONS		
2	10/18/26	Origins of Judaism. The Jewish Bible: Torah, Prophets, Writings
3	10/25/26	The Development of Rabbinic Judaism: Midrash, Mishnah, Talmud
4	11/1/26	Jewish Law, Values and Ethics: Halacha, Codes, and Responsa
5	11/8/26	Jewish View(s) of God
6	11/15/26	Jewish Approaches to Text and Text Study
7	11/22/26	Jewish Space and Time: The Calendar, The Synagogue, and Other Institutions of Jewish Community and Practice
JEWISH PRACTICE		
8	11/29/26	Hebrew: The History and Development of the Language of Judaism
9	12/6/26	Hebrew: Learn your Aleph-Bet. The Language of Prayer and Practice

10	12/13/26	The Structure and Meaning of Jewish Liturgy. Highlights from the Siddur. Varieties of Jewish prayer.
11	12/20/26	Kashrut and The Jewish Home, Daily practice
12	12/27/26	Shabbat: Theory and Practice
13	1/3/27	Shabbat: Debrief from Site Visits
14	1/10/27	Year Cycle: High Holidays
15	1/17/27	Year Cycle: Sukkot, Shmini Atzeret, Simchat Torah
16	1/24/27	Year Cycle: Hanukkah, Tu B'shvat, Purim
17	1/31/27	Year Cycle: Passover, Omer, Shavuot; Tisha B'Av
18	2/7/27	Life Cycle: Birth, Welcoming Children, Circumcision. Jewish views of Adoption, Abortion, etc.
19	2/14/27	Life Cycle: Marriage and Partnering, Divorce. Ethics of Relationships.
20	2/21/27	Life Cycle: Becoming a Jewish Adult: B'nai Mitzvah and Conversion
21	2/28/27	Life Cycle: Death and Dying, Mourning Rituals; Ethics of End-Of-Life
JEWISH IDEAS		
22	3/7/27	Jewish Views of the Afterlife
23	3/14/27	Mysticism: Kabbalah and Hasidism
24	3/21/27	Mussar and Values for Daily Jewish living: <i>shmirat lashon</i> , <i>chesed</i> , <i>pikuach nefesh</i> , etc.

25	3/28/27	Tikkun Olam: Social Justice and Environmentalism
26	4/4/27	Gender and Sexuality
27	4/11/27	Messianism; Contemporary Spirituality
28	4/18/27	History and Forms of Antisemitism
JEWISH PEOPLE		
29	4/25/27	Judaism and Christianity: Origins and Today
30	5/2/27	Topics and Trends in Medieval Jewish History: Expulsion, Migration, Settlement. Jewish Ethnicities and Languages.
31	5/9/27	Responses to Modernity: Denominationalism
32	5/16/27	Responses to Modernity: Varieties of Zionism
33	5/23/27	Growth and Development of American Judaism
34	5/30/27	Judaism in the 20 th Century: Immigration, Holocaust, Israel
35	6/6/27	Demographics and Issues of the Contemporary Jewish Community
36	6/13/27	Open Q&A and SIYYUM!