

Introduction to Judaism – Suggested Reading

Note: This is primarily a list of secondary sources intended to get you started and to build/expand your Jewish Library

Required for Class

- Jewish Literacy, Joseph Telushkin
- A Short History of the Jewish People, Raymond Scheindlin
- Judaism's 10 Best Ideas: A Brief Guide for Seekers, Arthur Green
- Entering Jewish Prayer: A Guide to Personal Devotion and the Worship Service, Reuven Hammer
- The Sabbath: Its Meaning For Modern Man Abraham Joshua Heschel
- Living a Jewish Life, Anita Diamant
- Finding God, Rifat Soncino and Daniel Syme
- Choosing a Jewish Life: A Handbook for People Converting to Judaism and for Their Family and Friend, Anita Diamant
- To Life! A Celebration of Jewish Being and Thinking, Harold Kushner

General

- Choosing a Jewish Life: A Handbook for People Converting to Judaism and for Their Family and Friends, Anita Diamant
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- Judaism's 10 Best Ideas: A Brief Guide for Seekers, Arthur Green
- Jewish Literacy, Joseph Telushkin
- These Are the Words: A Vocabulary of Jewish Spiritual Life, Arthur Green
- Myjewishlearning.com- Weekly Torah portion and commentaries

Jewish Library

- Back to the Sources: Reading the Classic Jewish Texts, Barry Holtz (ed)
- How To Read The Bible, Marc Zvi Brettler
- The Essential Talmud, Adin Steinsaltz

Shabbat

- Gates of Shabbat: A Guide to Observing Shabbat, Central Council of American Rabbis (Reform)
- The Shabbat Seder: The Art of Jewish Living, Ron Wolfson (Conservative)
- A Day Apart: Shabbat at Home Noam Zion and Shawn Fields-Meyer
- The Sabbath: Its Meaning For Modern Man Abraham Joshua Heschel

Holidays

- Seasons of Our Joy, Arthur Waskow
- The Jewish Way, Yitz Greenberg
- This Is Real And You Are Completely Unprepared: The Days of Awe As A Journey Of Transformation, Alan Lew

Prayer

- Talking to God, Naomi Levy
- Moral Grandeur and Spiritual Audacity: Essays, Abraham Joshua Heschel
- Entering Jewish Prayer: A Guide to Personal Devotion and the Worship Service, Reuven Hammer

Hebrew

- Teach Yourself to Read Hebrew, Ethelyn Simon and Joseph Anderson

Wisdom/Ethics/Philosophy/Jewish Thought

- Jewish Wisdom: Ethical, Spiritual, and Historical Lessons from the Great Works and Thinkers, Joseph Telushkin
- A Maimonides Reader, Isadore Twersky
- Standing Again at Sinai: Judaism from a Feminist Perspective, Judith Plaskow
- Sage Advice- Pirke Avot with commentary by Yitz Greenberg
- When Bad Things Happen to Good People, Harold Kushner
- I and Thou, Martin Buber
- Man's Search for Meaning, Victor Frankel
- This is my God, Herman Wouk

God

- Finding God, Rifat Soncino and Daniel Syme
- Radical Judaism, Arthur Green
- Sacred Fragments, Neil Gillman

Hasidism/Kabbalah

- Tales of the Hasidim, Martin Buber
- Ehiyeh: A Kabbalah for Tomorrow, Arthur Green

Israel

- Jewish Literacy, Joseph Telushkin (section on Israel)
- Israel: A Concise History of a Nation Reborn, Daniel Gordis
- Essential Israel: Essays for the 21st Century, S. Ilan Troen and Rachel Fish

History

- A History of the Jews, Paul Johnson
- A Short History of the Jewish People, Raymond Scheindlin
- The Story of the Jews: A 4000 Year Adventure, Stan Mack
- The Story of the Jews (documentary series), Simon Schama

Fiction

- As a Driven Leaf Milton Steinberg
- The Red Tent, Anita Diamant
- Exodus, Leon Uris
- The Chosen, Chaim Potok
- Rashi's Daughters (3 part-series), Maggie Anton

Culture

- The Book of Jewish Food: An Odyssey from Samarkand to New York, Claudia Roden
- The Big Book of Jewish Humor, William Novak and Moshe Waldoks

Movies

- The Ten Commandments
- Fiddler on the Roof
- Yentl
- The Frisco Kid
- Exodus
- School Ties
- Schindler's List
- Keeping the Faith
- Keeping up with the Steins
- Europa, Europa
- Ushpizin