



COMMUNITY LEARNING COURSES

SUMMER 2020

June 2020 / Kayits 5780

Dear friends,

We are excited to share with you the vast array of summer online learning opportunities available to teens and adults in the Greater Boston area through Hebrew College.

I invite you to take a closer look and discover:

- The growing thirst for Jewish learning in our wonderful and diverse community
- The many talented teachers who delight in sharing their wisdom and expertise with learners of all ages and walks of life
- The many different ways you personally can connect and pursue your own intellectual and spiritual interests

I also invite you to let us know if you're looking for something that's not here. Our dedication to community education is fueled by a deep and enduring commitment to making high quality content available to all those who seek to learn more about Jewish literature and life, in ways that are accessible, inclusive, and inviting, and help strengthen bonds of friendship and connection throughout our community.

I want to take this opportunity to express my profound gratitude and appreciation to Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Greater Boston for being for being such a vital, generous, and visionary partner in this work. From our nationally regarded Me'ah program, to our cherished programs for Jewish parents and grandparents, to our innovative Open Circle program which is growing in leaps and bounds, CJP's sustained leadership, collaboration, and support has made lifelong learning in our community a priority, and has helped turn it from a dream into a thriving reality.

Most importantly, as we begin the summer, I invite you to go deeper in your own Jewish learning. Martin Buber once remarked, "To be old is a glorious thing when one has not unlearned what it means to begin." Whatever your age, whether you are a first-time participant or a veteran learner, I invite you to take this opportunity to begin again. Look through this amazing catalog of programs and courses, and find a place to start. And consider inviting a friend, a *hevruta*, a study partner, who might want to join you!

May our community continue to be strengthened and sustained by a shared love of learning, and may you find a place for yourself in the wonderful opportunities reflected here. And, please be in touch if you have any questions, suggestions, or ideas you'd like to share!

Sincerely,



Rabbi Sharon Cohen Anisfeld
President, Hebrew College

Hebrew College is a Boston-area institution of Jewish learning and leadership that offers community learning programs for all ages and stages within a pluralistic environment of open inquiry, depth, creativity, and compassion, as well as graduate programs in rabbinical, cantorial, education and Jewish studies. Hebrew College community programs welcome students from all faiths, cultures, and experiences.



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Note: Course listings are up-to-date as of June 15, 2020. Additional courses may be added. Please check the Hebrew College website at hebrewcollege.edu/summeratHC for course updates and changes.

HEBREW LANGUAGE: HEBREW AT THE CENTER



Hebrew at the Center (HATC) is dedicated to revolutionizing Hebrew teaching and learning. Providing cutting-edge pedagogic and assessment tools, we work to educate school leadership, develop Hebrew language, leadership and empower teachers with the tools and expertise to maximize each student's success. Hebrew College is a co-sponsor of this course.

Registration: hebrewcollege.edu/summeratHC

Program information: hebrewcollege.edu/programs/digital-pedagogy-of-literacy-overview/

Contact: Anna Katsevman | akatsevman@hebrewcollege.edu

TEACHING HEBREW FROM ANYWHERE: DIGITAL PEDAGOGY TO INCREASE STUDENT PROFICIENCY

Instructor: Mira Angrist, HATC Director of Professional Learning | Online
Sundays, 2-3 pm, July 26-September 13

Note: This course will be conducted in Hebrew

Cost: \$445 | \$400 for Prizmah members

How will Hebrew classes look in the fall? There is no one answer. However, Hebrew learning can be adapted to a variety of settings. If you want to start the year being systematically equipped to teach in virtual, hybrid, or modified in-person modalities, join this course. Through the integration of technology in second language instruction, using the Proficiency Approach, you will be able to maximize Hebrew learning and enhance your learners' communicative performance. The course is intended for modern Hebrew teachers who want to learn how to integrate technology and the Proficiency Approach into their instruction during this fluid time. No prior knowledge of the Proficiency Approach or of educational technology is required for participation. At the end of the course attendees will receive a certificate of participation (Required: 80 percent participation in webinars and 80 percent completion of assignments).

HEBREW LANGUAGE ULPAN

Ulpán is an immersion Hebrew language program that teaches grammar, reading comprehension, and conversation skills through the lens of Israeli culture. Summer classes (levels 1-10) are full.

Please visit hebrewcollege.edu/ulpan to learn about fall offerings.

Program Information: hebrewcollege.edu/ulpan

Contact Information: Iris Schor | ischor@hebrewcollege.edu



Journey through Jewish texts and ideas from biblical times to the present through Hebrew College's two-year Me'ah Classic program, which begins each fall. Or dive into a particular historic period, time, or personality through Hebrew College's one-semester Me'ah Select classes.

Registration: hebrewcollege.edu/summeratHC

Program Information: hebrewcollege.edu/programs/meah

Contact: Marilyn Stern | Associate Director, Me'ah | meah@hebrewcollege.edu

THE HISTORY OF NOW: WHAT AMERICAN JEWISH HISTORY TEACHES US ABOUT CONTEMPORARY JEWISH ISSUES

Instructor: Rabbi Dan Judson | Online

Fridays, 7:30-8:45 am, June 26-July 24

Cost: \$150

In this course we will explore 5 topics of contemporary concern through the lens of American Jewish history. All of the issues facing the Jewish community today, including world changing pandemics, have a history. These challenges have been discussed, debated, and faced before by the Jewish Community. We will look extensively at archival material and newspaper accounts to ground ourselves in the historical worlds we will enter. Topics include: 1. Pandemic: The Jewish Response to the Spanish Influenza Epidemic of 1918; 2. Synagogues in Trouble: The First Synagogue Schism in American History and the Creation of Reform Judaism; 3. Heretics and Heresy: Yom Kippur Balls and Other American Jewish Heresies; 4. Antisemitism: The Civil War and the First Outbreak of Judeophobia; 5. Race and Judaism: The Melting Pot and Jewish Ideas about Race in the Early 20th century.

JEWISH SHORT STORIES ON RUPTURE & REPAIR

Instructor: Dr. Jacob Meskin | Online

Tuesdays, 7-9 pm, July 21-August 18

Cost: \$150

This course deals with the challenges of disruption, of what happens when an individual's, a family's, or a group's seemingly-stable way of life breaks down. The stories constitute a first response because they preserve memory for future generations. Topics include: complex relations between different generations in families, the Russian Jewish experience, the ways in which recent Jewish history has affected romance and marriage, and the challenges of trying to reclaim religion in our contemporary situation.

JUDAISM AND CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL THOUGHT

Instructor: Rabbi Leonard Gordon | Online

Sundays, 5-7 pm, July 12-August 9

Cost: \$150

Our course will consider a variety of Jewish texts on politics from Biblical times through today. We will explore the topics of Living in Diaspora (Source: The Book of Esther); How to rebuild after catastrophe (Source: Pirkei avot- Sayings of the Sages); The challenges of living in our

homeland (Source: Yossi Klein Halevi's "Like Dreamers"). We will also look at rabbinic texts on the traits of a leader and then move to contemporary Jewish Feminist insights on developing a new politics. All texts will be studied in translation and no prior knowledge is assumed.

"O PEOPLE OF THE BOOK": THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ISLAM AND JUDAISM AS SEEN THROUGH CLASSICAL SOURCES

Instructor: Dr. Shari Lowin | Online
Tuesdays, 9:30-11:30 am, July 7-August 4
Cost: \$150

While many are aware that Jews are the "People of the Book," few are aware that this title was bestowed by Islam. But was it a compliment, as it is generally taken to be? We will investigate the relationship between Islam and Judaism, beginning from Islam's very founding. We will look at the attitude of the Qur'an to Jews and Judaism and the relationship between Muhammad and the Jews of Medina; the portrayal of Jews in the classical and later Islamic sources; the relationship between Muslim and Jewish exegetical materials; and, Islamic legal rulings on Jews and Judaism. We will end with a discussion of the medieval polemics between Muslims and Jews, from both the Muslim and Jewish perspectives.

PROFILES IN LEADERSHIP AND RESILIENCE: EXPLORING BIBLICAL, RABBINIC & JEWISH HISTORICAL PERSONALITIES

Instructor: Rabbi Benjamin Samuels | Online
Wednesdays, 9:30-11:30 am, July 15-August 12
Cost: \$150

This series seeks to find inspiration and uplift in the narratives of Jewish personalities whose encounters with life's challenges serve as enduring lessons in leadership and resilience. Over the course of five sessions, we will interactively study the biblical personalities of Abraham and Sarah; the rabbinic personalities of Rachel and Rabbi Akiva; and Beruria and Rabbi Meir; and the Jewish historical personalities of Moses Maimonides, Gluckel of Hameln and Rabbi Nachman of Breslov. Each session represents a study in the courage and determination, and our study of all of them together, will help us discover and strengthen our own hidden resources of leadership and resilience.

SAGES & DREAMERS: THE LIVES OF THE RABBIS OF THE TALMUD

Instructor: Rabbi Neal Gold | Online
Mondays, 9:30-11:30 am, July 6-August 3
Cost: \$150

Who were the spiritual geniuses who shaped Judaism in its formative stages? In this course, we'll analyze the lives of some of the most important figures in Jewish history: the sages of the first and second centuries of the common era who inherited Biblical religion and, in the wake of tragedy, transformed it to speak to a new generation. Using primary sources found in the Aggadah (stories of the Talmud and Midrash), we'll explore the legacies of Rabban Yochanan ben Zakkai, Rabbi Akiva, Beruria and Rabbi Meir, and more.

PARENTING & GRANDPARENTING THROUGH A JEWISH LENS

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cjp 



Register: hebrewcollege.edu/summeratHC
Program Information: hebrewcollege.edu/parenting
Contact: Ahava Rosenthal | arosenthal@hebrewcollege.edu

PARENTING THROUGH A JEWISH LENS

Instructor: Rabbi Getzel Davis | Online
Sundays, 8:30-10 pm, July 12-August 16
Cost: \$95 for one person | \$155 for two people

Join together with other parents of young children in this six-session class to explore how Jewish values, traditions, and wisdom can support us as we navigate our parenting journeys, especially in these challenging times. Engage in meaningful discussions around Jewish text study that build community and friendships in a safe space for sharing the ups and downs of parenting.

GRANDPARENTING THROUGH A JEWISH LENS

Instructors: Leann Shamash and Ruth Nemzoff | Online
Tuesdays, 7-8:30 pm, July 14-August 4
Cost: \$80 for one person | \$130 for two people

Grandparenting can be a rewarding and challenging experience. But in these days of social distancing amid the fear of a pandemic that seems to stretch far ahead of us, being an active grandparent has become especially fraught. In Grandparenting Through a Jewish Lens, you'll explore how Jewish wisdom can help us navigate our roles in our children's and grandchildren's lives, both in the day-to-day reality of living with COVID-19, as well as in contemplating what being reunited with our families will look like. We will also explore our personal grandparenting journeys: what came before us, and what we will leave behind.

OPEN CIRCLE JEWISH LEARNING



In Hebrew College's Open Circle Jewish Learning discussion groups, you can ask big questions, explore relevant topics, and find meaning in Jewish sources of wisdom. Delve into Jewish texts, learn and make a difference through a social justice community group, or participate in a conversation group focused on mysticism and mindfulness.

Register: hebrewcollege.edu/summeratHC
Program Information: hebrewcollege.edu/OCJL
Contact: Helaine Denenberg | hdenenberg@hebrewcollege.edu

DAF YOMI

Instructor: Layah Lipsker | Online
Mondays and Thursdays, 9-9:45 am, July 6-August 13
Cost: \$150

This is your opportunity to join Jews around the world in the daily study of Talmud. Layah will lead a 45-minute study two times each week, on Mondays and Thursdays, to discuss themes in the daily Daf and its relevance for the modern Jew. This is a beginners Talmud class and is entirely in English.

THE MUSSAR BRIDGE

Instructor: Rabbi Eric S. Gurvis | Online
Tuesdays, 7:15-8:45 pm, July 14-August 18
Cost: \$150

Many regular Mussar students/practitioners find that their Va'adim (Mussar groups) take a break in the summer. In Summer 2020, faced with the challenge of our lives, this is not a time for "a break from our Mussar." In this series we will explore "off-the-beaten path" middot (soul traits) and reconsider well-traveled paths in light of our current existential reality. Mussar study and practice need not go on summer break—especially as we need our Mussar to ground us in these uncertain times.

MUSSAR FOR EVERYONE

Instructor: Merry Arnold | Online
Thursdays, 7:15-8:45 pm, July 9-August 13
Cost: \$150

We will use the class to look at and practice middot (traits) that could assist us to cope in new ways with the demands placed on us by COVID-19. We might also look at how the middot can help us gain a new understanding of the High Holy Days. Each class will have a settling in period, reflections on the week past, introduction of a new middah, and text study. Weekly practice of the new middah will be strongly encouraged.

POETRY AS A SPIRITUAL EXERCISE

Instructor: Roslyn Weiner | Online
Wednesdays, 12:30-2 pm, July 15-August 19
Cost: \$150

Listening for what is meaningful to you is a sacred act. Poetry can help us access spiritual insights and emotional truths. This course will introduce a unique process that invites personal reflection through the experience of hearing poetry. Participants need not be well versed in studying poetry; the class will be quite interactive with voluntary sharing and participation.

YETZIRAH CHAVURAH

Instructor: Jackson Mercer | Online
Tuesdays, 8-9:30 pm, July 14-September 22
Cost: \$150

Utilizing traditional Jewish texts and Jewish studying concepts, alongside the traditional meaning-making and storytelling process of songwriting, Yetzira aims to steward and cultivate creative, authentic, and intimate relationships with Judaism. The Chavurah will be open to serious Jewish musicians, who will take part in an hour-and-a-half, weekly virtual Beit Midrash and spend personal time in between focused on composing Jewish music inspired by Jewish texts found in liturgical settings.

OPEN CIRCLE SOCIAL ACTION

Through Hebrew College's Open Circle Social Action groups, you can delve into Jewish texts, find meaning in Jewish sources of wisdom, and make a difference in the world around you.

Register: hebrewcollege.edu/summeratHC
Program Information: hebrewcollege.edu/OCJL
Contact: Helaine Denenberg | hdenenberg@hebrewcollege.edu

JEWISH APPROACHES TO ECONOMIC JUSTICE IN THE TIME OF COVID-19

Instructor: Tyler Dratch | Online
Mondays, 7:30-9 pm, July 6-August 10
Cost: \$96

The Covid-19 pandemic has shaken our community. It has us questioning many of the assumptions we have made about our governing institutions and has shined a spotlight on the vulnerabilities many in our society face. A number of questions feel pertinent now: How do we ensure that people have access to food, housing, and healthcare? How will we share natural resources as we find they are more limited? How do we balance immigration and community protection? In this course we will look at biblical and rabbinic texts that approach these topics and others. We will use the spiritual technology of our Jewish texts to spark a conversation about what a just society means in our time, and make commitments to take impactful and sustained action.

LIVING SANCTUARIES: IMMIGRATION AND JEWISH TRADITION

Instructor: Ryan Lezner | Online
Tuesdays, 7-8:30 pm, July 7-August 11
Cost: \$96

This course explores the sanctuary movement in the United States of America through the lens of our ancient texts. Together we'll dive deep into our ancient texts to examine what it says about immigrants, as well as deliberate how our tradition impacts our world today. We'll ask questions about responsibility, activism, and showing up for those who need it. Active volunteers in the sanctuary movement are welcome, as are those who are curious to learn more. Come to class with an open mind and an open heart, as we explore together how we can best support those seeking sanctuary.

RITUAL HEBREW CALLIGRAPHY: BRINGING CHANGE THROUGH TRADITIONAL CRAFT

Instructor: Rachel Jackson | Online
Tuesdays, 6-7:30 pm, August 4-September 8
Cost: \$111 (\$96 + \$15 materials fee)

When you imagine a sofer, a scribe—what do you think of? Is it someone from your community? Often, it is not. This class will have two components: a practical introduction to sofrut (ritual Hebrew calligraphy), and text learning about how, as individuals and communities, we can make choices that align with our values. This information is often inaccessible, and this class aims to shift the realities of who writes and repairs Torahs by training students to pursue the skills, and understand the issues needed to do our holiest work. Students will share with their home communities how what they have learned can be applied to their specific practice. Recommended reading: www.etsy.com/listing/772611587/the-soferets-apprentice.

SPIRALING THROUGH TIME: RADICALLY RETHINKING OUR RELATIONSHIP TO LAND

Instructors: Rabbi Getzel Davis and Leora Mallach | Online
Tuesdays, 8-9:30 pm, July 14-August 18
Cost: \$96

How can Shabbat, Shmitah (sabbatical), and agricultural cycles disrupt our assumptions about what it means to own, rest, and relate to the earth? Join us in study and contemplation as we delve into rabbinic and biblical agricultural wisdom. We'll use these as our guide to inform and transform our contemporary understanding and practice in our relationships with the land and each other.

WITNESS AS ACTIVIST: THE LESSONS OF ELIE WIESEL

Instructor: Rabbi Ariel Burger | Online
Mondays, 12-1:30 pm, July 6-August 10
Cost: \$96

We will explore the practical legacy of Nobel Prize winner, Holocaust survivor, author, and human rights activist Elie Wiesel. Drawing on his own book, "Witness: Lessons from Elie Wiesel's Classroom," and especially his chapter on Activism, Rabbi Ariel Burger will explore questions including: What did Elie Wiesel teach us about our role as activists? What does it mean to bear witness? How might we cultivate courage and compassion, so that we can put our courage in the service of our compassion? Ample time for conversation and shared contemplation will be included, so bring your questions.

OPEN CIRCLE JEWISH LEARNING *20s and 30s*

Through Hebrew College's Open Circle Young Adult programs, connect with other young adults in their 20s and 30s, discuss issues that matter to you and your peers, and expand your community through through-provoking conversations.

Register: hebrewcollege.edu/summeratHC

Program Information: hebrewcollege.edu/programs/opencircle_20s30s/

Contact: Joel Stanley, Young Adult Programs | jstanley@hebrewcollege.edu

JEWISH MYTH BUSTERS

Instructor: Elisha Gechter | Online

Mondays, 7:30-9 pm, July 13-August 17

Cost: \$72

Ever heard that Jews with tattoos can't be buried in a Jewish cemetery? Well it's just a misconception. Come learn with us as we bust this and other myths about Judaism. Sex through a sheet, Jews and horns and other taboos—let's get to the bottom of these myths and explore how we relate to modern Jewish perceptions.

MYSTICAL UNDERPINNINGS OF TESHUVA

Instructors: Rabbi Getzel Davis and Rabbi David Curiel | Online

Thursdays, 8-9:30 pm, August 20-September 24

Cost: \$72

Mystical tradition has it that the 40 days between the start of the month of Elul and the end of Yom Kippur constitute an auspicious period during which to engage in teshuva (forgiveness and return). This soul-accounting and forgiveness process can be one of the most intense spiritual practices in Jewish tradition, and it is most rewarding. Dive into a textual and experiential exploration of teshuva during the month of Elul with Rabbis Getzel Davis and David Curiel as we prepare for the Days of Awe and Teshuva. The core texts we will be studying together will be those of Rebbe Nachman of Breslev, Rav Kook, and the stories of those in this group. No prior knowledge of Hebrew language, Jewish mysticism is necessary; simply an open mind and heart.

ZIVUG: FROM FINDING LOVE TO TRANSITIONING TO MARRIAGE

Instructor: Rabbi Getzel Davis | Online

Thursdays, 8-9:30 pm, July 9-August 13

Cost: \$72 per person

Join Rabbi Getzel for a 6-class series directed toward couples on love, 'beshert,' and the conscious transition to marriage. Through Jewish wisdom, text study, guided exercises, and frank conversations, we will explore the growth and maintenance of vibrant relationships. Open to couples (all gender and multifaith expressions of partnership strongly welcome) in the year preceding or following a wedding.

PROZDOR



With more than 5,000 graduates, Prozdor offers Sunday morning classes ranging from politics to philosophy, humor to hands-on social justice, and Talmud to art, as well as Modern Hebrew. Next year, Prozdor is expanding its Hebrew options, shifting to a three hour program, and creating a new Prozdor Immersives track.

Register: hebrewcollege.edu/summeratHC

Program Information: hebrewcollege.edu/prozdor

Contact: Laura Bellows, Youth Programs | lbellows@hebrewcollege.edu

JEWISH TEENS TALKING TO JEWISH TEENS

Instructor: Rabbi David Ehrenkranz | Online

Thursdays, 7:30-8:30 pm, June 25 - July 23

Cost: \$150

This first-of-its-kind Prozdor summer course we will meet once a week (for 5 weeks) with a diverse group of Jewish teenagers from many Jewish backgrounds and communities to discuss big topic issues including: dating, shabbat, fasting, women & Judaism, pluralism, and What does it mean to be a Jew? As a facilitator, Rabbi David Ehrenkranz who has taught at Prozdor and Maimonides High School since 1996, will encourage authentic and open dialogue between and among all teenagers in the class. The class will usually begin with a brief introduction to the topic as well as a short text, and then all of the students will discuss the issue at hand as it relates to them in both a personal and interpersonal way. There will be occasional guest speakers who will also join us to help invigorate the discussions and inspire genuine and meaningful dialogue.

TEEN BEIT MIDRASH



Teens who love to learn come together to explore the big questions and issues of today through Talmud. The Teen Beit Midrash (TBM) online experience includes lively *hevrutah* (partner) study guided (in the original Hebrew and Aramaic or in full translation) by excellent faculty. Teens will have the opportunity to learn, debate, decode, and explore this timeless biomedical

debate, building a supportive TBM community with teens from across the country. TBM is a pluralistic and inclusive program; all levels of knowledge and Jewish identities are welcome.

SO ONE MAY LIVE: A CASE STUDY OF CONJOINED TWINS

Instructor: Rabba Claudia Marbach | Online
Tuesdays, 4-6 pm, June 23 - July 28
Cost: \$360

In the fall of 1977 twin girls were born in New Jersey who were conjoined from shoulder to hip. They shared one six chambered heart and a liver. Their heart could fail at any moment. The surgery organized a committee to discuss and decide the ethical and halachic (Jewish legal) issues involved, as the parents were committed Jews. The key question was: is it permissible to separate the twins, resulting in the immediate death of one twin but enabling the other to live? One of the people on the committee was Rabbi Moshe Feinstein (1895-1986), a prominent thinker and decisor of the 20th Century. In this class we will analyze cases from the Talmud that were fundamental in analyzing the moral and ethical issues raised by this case. Some questions that we will discuss include: Is it permitted to kill one person in order to save another? Is there a difference between actively causing a death and passively causing a death? What should be done if the death of one person can save many lives? Does the legal status (halachah) change if one person is pursuing another? How are these legal principles implemented in real life?

HEBREW COLLEGE OFFERS JEWISH LEARNING FOR EVERY AGE AND STAGE

Our community programs for teens and adults include:

PROZDOR AND PROZDOR INTENSIVE (high school)

JEWISH TEEN FOUNDATION OF GREATER BOSTON (high school)

TEEN BEIT MIDRASH (high school)

GESHER ISRAEL SEMINAR (high school)

YOUNG ADULT LEARNING: OPEN CIRCLE JEWISH LEARNING (20s and 30s)

PARENTING THROUGH A JEWISH LENS (For parents of young children, tweens, teens, and grandparents)

OPEN CIRCLE JEWISH LEARNING (Discussion-based learning and social action programs)

ME'AH CLASSIC (100 hours of Jewish learning at the college level)

ME'AH SELECT (Semester-long learning at the college level)

RABBINICAL, CANTORIAL, AND GRADUATE EDUCATION COURSES (Select courses are open to the community on a non-credit basis)

HEBREW LANGUAGE ULPAN (Intensive Hebrew language courses)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (Miller Center, Hebrew at the Center, Early Childhood Institute, Congregational Education Initiative)



HEBREW COLLEGE is a Boston-area institution of Jewish learning and leadership with a dual focus on community learning and graduate leadership – each of which strengthens the other – within a pluralistic environment of open inquiry, depth, creativity, and compassion.

