

**Introduction and Requirements**  
**“Essential Judaism” at Beth Shalom Synagogue**  
**Fall-Winter 5777 (2016-2017)**

- Fill out questionnaire
  - Discuss syllabus
  - Class expectations.
    - Complete all Readings, come ready to discuss.
    - Review book list. No tests
    - Conversion class vs. “Intro to Judaism”
    - Review all approaching holidays in class
    - Hebrew learning independently and in groups
    - Weekly *d’var torah*
    - Attendance: No more than 3 missed classes
  - Each Class begins with student-led *D’var Torah* and chavruta text study.
  - “What is Judaism?” discussion.
  - Jewish time
    - Sanctifying time. Shabbat = “cathedral in time”
    - Jewish holidays. They tried to kill us. We won. Let’s eat
  - Judaism as a faith predicated on questions. “*Kol machloket shehi l’shem shamayim sofa l’hitkayem.*”
  - Other requirement:
    - “Try on” at least one Jewish practice each month (ie: some type of daily prayer, observing Shabbat in meaningful way, *kashrut*, tefillin, *tsedakah*, *tikun*)
    - Weekly Journal
    - Individual learning
    - Live Jewish holidays throughout the year
    - Attend Baton Rouge Jewish Festival in lieu of Class w/o January 11th
    - Regular attendance at prayer services: Friday night, Saturday morning, holidays
    - Final Project
  - **Remember:** There is so much to learn in Judaism, more than a lifetime. This is only the start of an awesome journey!
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