

“Essential Judaism: 4000 Years in 18 Nights” – Beth Shalom Synagogue Course Reading List: 5777 / 2016-2017

The Jewish People have been called *am ha'sefer* (People of the Book) from time immemorial. In deference to this, the following books have been carefully selected to enhance your exploration and study of Judaism during the course. In addition, they will act as valuable resources on your bookshelf after the course for years to come. The reading list includes several general Jewish study books, a Hebrew workbook, and a Hebrew Bible. Please let me know if you are unable to obtain these for any reason. --Rabbi Natan

General Jewish Study

Green, Arthur. *Judaism's Ten Best Ideas: A Brief Guide for Seekers*. Jewish Lights Publishing, 2014.

Robinson, George. *Essential Judaism: A Complete Guide to Beliefs, Customs, and Rituals*, updated edition. Atria, 2016. Please check that you are purchasing the latest edition.

Shapiro, Rabbi Mark Dov, ed. *Gates of Shabbat, A Guide for Observing Shabbat*. CCAR Press, 2016. (25th anniversary edition) Please check that you are purchasing the latest edition.

Syme, Daniel B. *The Jewish Home: A Guide for Jewish Living*, revised and updated, URJ Press, 2004. This book is currently out-of-print; It is highly recommended but not required for the course. Used copies available from your favorite online sellers. Please check that you are purchasing the latest edition.

Also, highly recommend, but do not required: **Diamant, Anita. *Living a Jewish Life: Jewish Traditions, Customs, and Values for Today's Families, Revised and Updated Edition*. Harper Collins, 2007. Please check that you are purchasing the latest edition.**

Hebrew

Motzkin, Rabbi Linda. *Aleph Isn't Tough*. URJ Press (available from Behrman House), 2000.

For a Jewish Bible, choose one of the following:

Tanakh: The Holy Scriptures. The Jewish Publication Society, 1988. Paperback, 1985. Available English only, English and Hebrew; many formats. Quite simply the best English translation of the Hebrew Bible available today.

Berlin, Adele and Marc Zvi Brettler, ed. *The Jewish Study Bible*, Second edition, Oxford University Press. Please note that the second edition is not available in paperback. The same authoritative translation as above, with explanatory notes, introductory materials, and essays by leading biblical scholars on virtually every aspect of the text, the world in which it was written, its interpretation, and its role in Jewish life.