



Additional Adult Learning Opportunities

ARTISTIC EXPRESSIONS OF FAITH IN JUDAISM, CHRISTIANITY AND ISLAM: SACRED SPACES

Sacred Spaces will explore Jewish, Christian, and Islamic places of worship through films, commentary, and discussion, followed by visits to some of the community's most powerful and beautiful sacred spaces.

Reservations required. Call or check the website for times and fees.
513/721-ARTS or www.cincinnatiartmuseum.org

Opening Night: Sacred Space Through the Ages

Date: Wednesday, March 12, 2008
Location: Cincinnati Art Museum

Synagogue: From Tent of Meeting to House of Prayer

Date: Wednesday, March 19, 2008
Location: Skirball Museum, Cincinnati/ Plum Street Temple

Church: House of Worship

Date: Wednesday, March 26, 2008
Location: Taft Museum of Art/Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption

Mosque: The Focal Point of a Muslim Community

Date: Wednesday, April 2, 2008
Location: Islamic Center of Greater Cincinnati

Open History Lectures

Open History lectures are given by members of the Hebrew Union College Faculty and by invited guests from other academic institutions on subjects they are currently working on. Lectures are free of charge and open to all scholars, students, and members of the larger community.

All lectures take place from 12:30–1:45 p.m. in Mayerson Auditorium on the HUC-JIR Campus.

Israelite Astral Religion and Celestial Divination: A Reassessment

Date: Monday, February 11, 2008
Lecturer: Jeffrey Cooley

German Jewry Today: Opportunities and Challenges Posed by the Post-Soviet Immigration

Date: Monday, March 10, 2008
Lecturer: Michael Brenner

For additional information please call 513/221-1875.

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Academy for Adult Interfaith Studies
Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion
3101 Clifton Avenue
Cincinnati, OH 45220-2488



Spring 2008



Academy for Adult Interfaith Studies

REGISTRATION & INFORMATION

- A wide variety of non-credit courses in religious studies for the adult learner are offered.
- You will learn in a relaxed setting with men and women of different faiths and backgrounds with a shared desire to explore areas of religion in a spirit of free inquiry.
- Instructors are some of the most gifted scholars in the Greater Cincinnati community.
- The courses vary in length depending on the course material.
- **Registration fee per course is \$60 (Biblical Hebrew course is \$80).**
- Payment must be received *before* classes begin. *Refund of class fee only during the first week of class.*

BRING A FRIEND—SAVE ON REGISTRATION FEES!

You will receive 50% off your registration if you bring a friend/family member who has *never taken a class with us before*. Please note their name on your registration form. Your friend will pay \$60, and you will pay only \$30/course. *If you bring two friends who register at the \$60 fee, you can register for only \$10 a course!*

- **Discounts:**
 - 10% discount for all Skirball Museum, Cincinnati Members (Contact us about becoming a Skirball Museum Member!).
 - ILE and MARCC members receive a 10% discount.
 - HUC-JIR full-time students, faculty, and staff participate FREE.
 - 50% discount for all HUC-JIR spouses, partners, and children.
 - Based on need, a limited number of scholarships are available.
- **Contributions:** The tuition reflects only a fraction of the actual expenses incurred to offer these courses. Your financial support is greatly appreciated!

The Academy for Adult Interfaith Studies and HUC-JIR gratefully acknowledge the support of the Jewish Federation of Cincinnati.



Academy for Adult Interfaith Studies

A Program of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion



From Ezekiel to Madonna: A Taste of Jewish Mysticism

Why is Kabbalah so popular? Why are Hollywood celebrities reading the Zohar? In this course we will introduce the major themes of Jewish mysticism as they have appeared in history and in literature from biblical times to LA's Kabbalah Center. From the visions of the prophets to the ecstatic dances of the Hasidim, passing through Abulafia's letter meditation and the Ari's myth of God's withdrawal, we will explore the most distinctive ideas and present the most significant trends in the history of Jewish mystical literature.

Vadim Putzu is a doctoral candidate at HUC-JIR who specializes in Jewish mysticism and philosophy. A native of Torino, Italy, he studied philosophy at the local university, cultural sciences at the Fondazione Collegio San Carlo of Modena (Italy), compared history of religions at the University of Lausanne (Switzerland), and taught Italian at the University of Cincinnati.

Dates: Mondays, March 3, 10, 17, 31; April 7, 14
Time: 5:30–7:00 p.m.
Location: Mayerson Auditorium

Revelation, Angels, and Reason: The Burning Bush Story Through the Ages

The story of Moses at the Burning Bush has occupied the interest of Jewish and Christian interpreters from ancient times until the present. Religious thinkers have used this story as a basis for gaining insight into the nature of God, revelation, and human leadership because it recounts God's first act of revelation to Moses. In this class, we will study a variety of Jewish, Christian, and secular interpretations of the Burning Bush story, including Second Temple literature, rabbinic midrash, medieval philosophy and mysticism, modern philosophy, contemporary children's books, and modern cinema. In these various interpretations from different times and places, we can hear the collective voice of our traditions speaking across the ages.

Brian Stoller is a fifth-year rabbinical student at HUC-JIR and currently serves as student rabbi of United Hebrew Congregation in Joplin, Missouri. Deeply committed to Jewish Education, Brian has taught adult education classes at local synagogues and served on the faculty of the Cincinnati Reform Jewish High School. Before entering rabbinical school, Brian worked in Washington, DC as press secretary to a United States senator.

Dates: Tuesdays, March 11, 18, 25; April 8, 15, 29
Time: 12:00 noon–1:30 p.m. *NEW–Lunchtime class!*
Location: 2nd Floor Conference Room, Mayerson Hall

The Easter Narratives of Jesus' Burial and Empty Tomb

This course will explore the following questions: Was the empty tomb story deduced *before* Jesus' burial stories? Did Matthew, Luke, and John all misunderstand that Joseph of Arimathea was Jesus' *opponent* (not Jesus' supporter)? How was the presence of the women at the tomb a *theological* message? Why is it so significant that it took Matthew 27 words to lay to rest rumors that Jesus' body was stolen while John needed a mere 26? Why was Paul never asked to reconcile the tomb's *physical* emptiness with his insistence that the resurrected body was only "spiritual"?

Dr. Michael J. Cook is Professor of Intertestamental and Early Christian Literatures, and holds the Sol and Arlene Bronstein Professorship in Judaean-Christian Studies, HUC-JIR, Cincinnati. Dr. Cook's specialty is the New Testament and he has extensive expertise in the field of Jewish-Christian relations. He received both his rabbinic ordination (New York) and Ph.D. (Cincinnati) from HUC-JIR.

Dates: Tuesdays, March 4, 11, 18, 25
Time: 4:30–6:00 p.m.
Location: Mayerson Auditorium

Through Rose-Colored Glasses? King David in the Bible and his Reception in Jewish and Christian Tradition

This course will examine several narratives about King David as they appear in the Bible and against the background of the History of Ancient Israel and her neighbors. These same narratives will then be examined through the lenses of Jewish and Christian interpretation for what they can tell us about how Judaism and Christianity relate to the same sacred texts. The course will be jointly taught by Rev. Canon Joanna Leiserson of Christ Church Cathedral and Dr. Jason Kalman of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion.

Dr. Jason Kalman is Assistant Professor of Classical Hebrew Literature and Interpretation at HUC-JIR, Cincinnati. He received his Ph.D. from the Department of Jewish Studies at McGill University and is a research fellow affiliated with the University of the Free State, South Africa. He specializes in the history of Jewish biblical exegesis.

The Rev. Canon Joanna C. Leiserson is Canon for Christian Formation at Christ Church Cathedral. She holds a graduate degree in history from the University of California at Berkeley as well as a Master of Divinity from Gonzaga University, Spokane, Washington. She also serves as a member of the Episcopal Church's strategy team on education.

Dates: Tuesdays, March 4, 11, 18, 25; April 8, 15
Time: 6:15–7:45 p.m.
Location: Mayerson Auditorium



Faith in a Better World

Let justice flow like a mighty stream... (Amos 5:24)

Words of faith echo loudly as religious communities pursue justice in today's world. In this class, we will compare the call to justice in Judaism, Christianity, Islam, and Buddhism through texts, sermons, and case studies of social movements. We will learn about the local congregations' pursuit of justice through partnership with Cincinnati's Interfaith Hospitality Network and the Amos Project. This will guide us to an understanding of how faith and the pursuit of justice enhance each other. Focusing on the issues of homelessness, civil rights, and education, we will compare and contrast different religious approaches to creating just communities. We will discover the power of social change methodology in the context of religious communities and locate our own passions for change in context with our beliefs—turning faith to action!

Anna Levin is a fourth-year rabbinical student at HUC-JIR. She graduated from the University of Virginia with majors in Religious Studies and Anthropology. Trained in community organizing, Anna has worked with interfaith relations organizations in Jerusalem, Boston, and Philadelphia.

Dates: Thursdays, February 28, March 6, 13, 20, 27; April 10, 17
Time: 12:00 noon–1:00 p.m. *NEW–Lunchtime class!*
Location: 2nd Floor Conference Room, Mayerson Hall

Introduction to Biblical Hebrew

This class is designed for beginners with little or no prior knowledge of biblical Hebrew. Students will be introduced to the alphabet, basic vocabulary, and grammar, enabling them to read the biblical text in its original language.

Required Textbook: *The First Hebrew Primer: The Adult Beginner's Path to Biblical Hebrew* by Ethelyn Simon, Irene Resnikoff, and Linda Motzkin. Can be purchased from the HUC-JIR bookstore. Pre-orders recommended.

Benjamin Noonan is a third year Ph.D. student majoring in Hebrew Bible and Ancient Near Eastern Studies at HUC-JIR. His research interests include the Pentateuch as well as the usage of comparative studies for biblical interpretation.

8 week course — cost \$80 (plus the cost of textbook)
Dates: Thursdays, February 28, March 6, 13, 20, 27; April 3, 10, 17
Time: 6:00–7:30 p.m.
Location: Classroom Building

REGISTRATION FOR Spring 2008

I WOULD LIKE TO REGISTER FOR THE FOLLOWING COURSE(S):

- From Ezekiel to Madonna: A Taste of Jewish Mysticism**
- Revelation, Angels, and Reason: The Burning Bush Story Through the Ages**
- The Easter Narratives of Jesus' Burial and Empty Tomb**
- Through Rose-Colored Glasses? King David in the Bible and his Reception in Jewish and Christian Tradition**
- Faith in a Better World**
- Introduction to Biblical Hebrew**

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Name of friend registering for class _____

Number of courses _____ X \$60 = _____

Biblical Hebrew course _____ X \$80 = _____

TOTAL \$ _____

METHOD OF PAYMENT:

- Check (*Please make checks payable to HUC-JIR*)
- Visa MasterCard Discover American Express

Credit Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

TO REGISTER:

By mail: Academy for Adult Interfaith Studies
Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion
3101 Clifton Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45220-2488

By phone: 513/487-3053

By email: outreach@huc.edu

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
www.huc.edu/academics/continuing/adult/
513/487-3053 outreach@huc.edu