

HAVURAT TORAH, TEMPLE ISRAEL CENTER

5774 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

For Grades 8-12

Below are the **course descriptions** for the fall semester. Each course will meet from 7-7:50pm and will focus on a specific Jewish subject, while also developing skills that connect to secular areas of interest.

Registering for a course is easy!

Course descriptions:

Call Me Maybe?

Interest: Communication and Psychology

Relationships are complicated! This is your opportunity to discuss how to navigate these relationships in a safe space. We'll look at how relationships with our friends, parents, romantic interests and others differ and what makes one more (or less) complicated than the other. Through the exploration of Jewish texts, we will see that our ancestors had both healthy and non-healthy relationships and decide for ourselves if we can apply the lessons learned from their experiences today. We will also explore ways to strengthen our relationships and see examples of how pop culture influences our ideas of what a relationship should be like.

Educator: Ilene Bloom

Got Green? Shomrei Adamah: Guardians of the Earth Unite!

Interest: Environmentalism

What do you think it means to be a "guardian of the Earth? Take this class to find out and to learn more about becoming environmentally savvy! We will discover some of the major issues facing our planet and local community and discover how we can be a part of the solution. From the classroom to field trips into our local and natural environments, we will strengthen the awareness of the connection between ourselves and nature as we work together to create a better world. Do you have what it takes to become a Guardian of the Earth?

Educator: Rabbinic Intern Jordan Hersh

Breaking News: Current Events and Judaism

Interest: Journalism and Word News

Sport enhancing drugs; Racial profiling; Bullying; Suicide; Music; Gay Marriage; Poverty.

Judaism has a lot to say about these issues- issues that we see in the paper, hear discussed on the radio, and broadcasted on the news. As a teen, there is no doubt you have thoughts and opinions about these issues, too. Let's share them with each

other as we explore these current day problems and see exactly what Judaism has to say about all of this.

Educator: Nancy Parkes

Judaism and Social Justice: Bridges Interfaith Project

Interest: Social action

Sure, you've learned that social justice is an important part of Judaism. But what acts of social justice have you actually done? And why? As part of this group of tzadikim, or righteous individuals, you will learn what Jewish tradition has to say on topics of discrimination and diversity, focusing especially on interfaith and interdenominational relations. We will also explore such ideas as seeing yourself through the eyes of the other, the interplay of privilege, class and race, and the importance of acting locally and being a citizen in your own community. And, we won't only learn through texts and discussion! As representatives of TIC, we will join teens from Westchester Reform Temple and from the Youth Bureau of White Plains to come up with and tackle incredible service projects in the White Plains community. This is an excellent "hands-on" opportunity to make new friends in your area, expand your comfort zone, and give back to your community! I look forward to learning (and doing!) with you!

Educator: Rachel Rudman

The King David Narratives: Exactly what is greatness?

Interest: Leadership and History

After Moses, the most important figure, by far, in the Hebrew Bible is David. The stories of his life and his career (contained almost entirely in the Books of Samuel) make up the longest continuous narrative in the Tanakh. And, they contain military adventure, political intrigue, romantic love and sexual lust, wrestling with God and with self, a treasury of famous phrases, and some of the most universal ideas and struggles of the human race. We will read and analyze the stories of how David burst onto the scene in ancient Israel, his life as a fugitive, his triumph in a great and bloody civil war, his great sins, and his betrayal by his own sons. The overall question will be: Exactly what is greatness?

Educator: Rabbi Gordon Tucker

Zebra are you blind?!?! Specious calls from Referees and Rabbis.

Interest: Sports

In this class we will look at a series of moments in sports and use the Jewish tradition to appreciate many aspects of the situation. We will gain a greater knowledge of how Jewish tradition can be used to better understand the world around us. We will also gain a greater arsenal of snide, and Talmudic, japes to shout at sports games. Students will also be invited to provide their own sticky sports situations (from personal experience or favorites from the annals of history) to share with the class for analysis. We will not only learn how to apply the wisdom of those who have gone before us to our own situations but also how to go about finding that wisdom on our own.

Educator: Ethan Witkovsky

Authority, Responsibility, Decision-Making & Other Things You Want Your Parents to Know

For parents and teens

Life is pretty rough as a teenager - we get it. Sometimes you just need someone else to help your parents understand! Bring your parents to Havurat Torah on Wednesday night and let's start talking. *This unique class is for parents and teens to take together.* We will examine real life situations and the greatest stories in Jewish tradition, which we will see are still relevant today in many ways. We will tackle tough issues like who's in charge, who gets to make decisions and how to resolve conflicts and disagreements. Religious School - not just for kids anymore!

Educator: Erin Beser