

BCHSJS - SPRING 2018

SUNDAY COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

PERIOD 1 8TH - 9TH GRADE

Busting Bible Boredom

grades 9-12 Period 1

Ms. Yardena Bannett

Think reading the weekly Torah portion (Parshah) is just some rite of passage for your Bar/Bat Mitzvah? Think Again! Every week we will examine the Parshah and discover lessons which are both meaningful and relevant to our lives today. *This class is a continuation of the fall semester. New students may register for it.*

Fact or Fiction?

grades 8-9 Period 1

Rabbi Gary Hoffman

Join us as we travel throughout the world with scientists and archaeologists as well as with Biblical scholars in search of the mythical and exotic. We will examine Jewish primary and secondary textual sources as well as view videos about the Garden of Eden, Noah's Ark, the real "sin cities" of Sodom and Gemorrah, the splitting of the Red Sea, the Ark of the Covenant, Solomon's gold, the Queen of Sheba, the Ten Lost Tribes as well as the Bible Codes. This promises to be an exciting and informative experience with much lively discussion.

How To...

grades 8-9 Period 1

Ms. Tova Sklar

Ever think to yourself, "I've heard of that practice, but I have no idea what it is or how to do it...?" Mitzvot infuse meaning into our lives, although they sometimes may seem complicated, confusing, or random. We will go over the reasons explaining why we do certain practices and how to perform them step-by-step. Learning the basics will enable us to continue practicing the traditions passed down from generation to generation.

Jewish Infused Improv +

grades 8-12 Period 1

Dr. Mark Silk

You already know that improv improves communication, cultivates leadership skills, and reinforces Jewish values. Deepen your improv skill-set through participation and analysis of a variety of increasingly more complex improv activities. *This course is open to students with prior improv experience at BCHSJS or with the instructor's permission.*

The Shmooze

grades 8-9 Period 1

Ms. Avital Moss

What is the Jewish response to issues facing teens today? Did Moses have advice on college apps? What would Leah say about the person you're dating? This discussion based class will reference traditional Jewish texts to glean insight into today's challenges.

You Be the Judge I

grades 8-9 Period 1

Mr. Bruce Prince

"You Be the Judge" is an exercise in values clarification. Through the presentation of different cases depicting moral dilemmas, we will explore underlying issues that confront and challenge us in our everyday lives. The class will be run in a courtroom fashion and students will be required to debate and participate. *You may enroll in this class if you took "You Be the Judge II" last spring or "You Be the Judge III" this fall as this semester we are using Book I.*

PERIOD 1

10TH - 12TH GRADE

American Jewish Short Stories

grades 10-12 Period 1

Ms. Deborah Stack

We will explore a new short story each week, with a focus on great American authors. Each student will have a chance to read aloud from influential American Jewish authors spanning the past two centuries, followed by analysis and discussion. Explore American Jewish history through the authors who lent their voices and experiences to tell the American Jewish story.

Busting Bible Boredom

grades 9-12 Period 1

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The Ethicist

grades 10-12 Period 1

Dr. Daniel Rynhold

You rent a house with some other students who give you permission to host a party. After the party you discover that a housemate has borrowed a bike and left it in a downstairs hallway. The bike has been vandalized, presumably by a party guest. Given that no one will confess to the crime, are you responsible for the repairs? Every weekend, the New York Times Magazine article *The Ethicist* takes a moral dilemma like this and offers an answer. Taking some of the very same dilemmas as our starting point, we will explore what a Jewish perspective can add to the discussion. *Former students may enroll in this class again as there are all new issues.*

Jewish Infused Improv +

grades 8-12 Period 1

Dr. Mark Silk

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Senior Seminar

grade 12
Required Period 1

Mr. Barnett Goldman

Mandatory for all high school seniors. This course will challenge students to think about their own Jewish identity. Where do they fit in the American Jewish experience and how will religion play a part in their lives in the future? We will prepare you for the potential challenges you will face as a Jew on your college campus, including handling anti-Zionism and anti-Semitism on the college campus, and we will also help you process the end of a great journey through BCHSJS and your path following high school we will help prepare you for your life ahead while setting the groundwork for staying in touch in college and beyond.

PERIOD 2

8TH - 9TH GRADE

Crafting Jewish History (Add'l Fee \$60)

grades 8-12

Period 2

Ms. Deborah Stack

Explore Jewish art history through a variety of projects which celebrate and explore the symbols, images, and themes that carry through thousands of years of Jewish ceremonial objects. Learn about the history of stained glass in synagogues while creating your own stained glass project. Learn about traditional Jewish imagery by making your own tile mosaic. Learn about the lost wooden synagogues of Poland and recreate the colorful paintings which covered their walls. This hands-on class allows students to create crafts and art throughout the semester as they learn about Jewish Art History.

How Do I Decide?

grades 8-9

Period 2

Ms. Tova Sklar

High school is a time of greater independence, when one must begin making mature decisions and taking responsibility for those decisions. The many issues that teenagers face today are complex and trying, more so than they were a generation ago. The threat of nuclear war; the exploration of space; the emergence of new, experimental patterns in family and sexual behavior - these are but a few of the exciting, sometimes frightening changes that combine to make the ethical challenges confronting you so difficult. There are role models to help and guide you - parents, teachers, counselors, rabbis, friends. But there is also our Jewish heritage that has been developing for about four thousand years. It can also offer you significant assistance in your decision making.

Jews in Space

grades 8-9

Period 2

Dr. Daniel Rynhold

Science fiction takes us to weird and wonderful worlds that seem very different from our own. But can Star Trek and Doctor Who teach us important moral lessons that apply to our lives and even to our Judaism? Through a combination of video clips and texts, you're going to find out.

Oy! The Place We Will Go!

grades 8-9

Period 2

Mr. Barnett Goldman

We will look at many examples of children's literature to see if they make the grade. We will look at some controversial books, as well as some fun books that can be used for teaching children of all ages. We may even finish by being authors ourselves. This class will bring out your inner child with stories for all ages, lots of fun reading, and deep thinking about what we are actually teaching our kids.

Reconformadox

grades 8-9

Period 2

Rabbi Gary Hoffman

What do different branches of Judaism believe about God, Torah, and Israel? How do they address mixed-marriages, same-sex marriage, and the host of contemporary issues faced by Jews living in modern society? How are they similar and how do they differ?

PERIOD 2 **10TH - 12TH GRADE**

Cardiac Jews: Is it Enough to Just Feel Jewish? The Role of Mitzvot in Our Lives

grades 10-12 Period 2

Ms. Yardena Bannett

Most people are familiar with mitzvot such as giving charity and lighting the menorah, but what about the other 611 commandments in the Bible? Do we need them? We will explore the significance of mitzvot in general, and delve deeper into the what's and why's of some of the stranger commandments!

Crafting Jewish History (Add'l Fee \$60)

grades 8-12 Period 2

Ms. Deborah Stack

Explore Jewish art history through a variety of projects which celebrate and explore the symbols, images, and themes that carry through thousands of years of Jewish ceremonial objects. Learn about the history of stained glass in synagogues while creating your own stained glass project. Learn about traditional Jewish imagery by making your own tile mosaic. Learn about the lost wooden synagogues of Poland and recreate the colorful paintings which covered their walls. This hands-on class allows students to create crafts and art throughout the semester as they learn about Jewish Art History.

The Jewish Law Review: How Do I Decide?

grades 10-12 Period 2

Dr. Mark Silk

How would you react if your best friend returned your iPad with a cracked screen? Should your (former?) friend replace your iPad, repair the cracked screen or do nothing since you lent it to him/her. We will consider similar situations and decide how one should act. Then armed with Jewish law as found in the Mishnah, students will reconsider their decisions.

#NoFilterIsrael

grades 10-12 Period 2

Ms. Avital Moss

Find out where your #selfie belongs in today's Israel and the real challenges to lasting peace in the Middle East. Delve into Israel's rich history, Israel-Arab relations, and how the media covers it all.

The Week in Review

grades 10-12 Period 2

Mr. Bruce Prince

The major newsworthy events of the week will be examined in light of their effects upon Israel and Jews everywhere. How do the happenings in the Middle East affect you? What happened at the White House this week? Who's who in the Jewish world? These and many more questions will be answered each week as we take an in-depth look at the world around us. *Former students may enroll in this class again.*

PERIOD 3

8TH - 9TH GRADE

From Birth to Death: A Deeper Look at the Jewish Life Cycle

grades 8-9

Period 3

Ms. Yardena Bannett

Come discover what Judaism has to say about what babies do before they're born, why your Bar/Bat Mitzvah is so significant, what really happens at a Jewish wedding, death, the afterlife and more!

Jewish Volunteer Corp

grades 9-12

Period 3

Mr. Barnett Goldman

In the Jewish tradition, there is a mitzvah to honor the elderly. In this service-learning class, we will learn together as well as be actively involved in volunteering with a group of seniors. Approximately half of our class sessions will take place (during school hours - transportation provided) at The Daughters of Miriam. We will build relationships with a group of seniors and learn their Jewish histories. This class is for those who want to make a difference for the young at heart and to build a bridge to the generations that came before us. *New students are welcome.*

Semites, South Park, and the Simpsons

grades 8-9

Period 3

Dr. Mark Silk

Homer Simpson may be rude and crude, but can we learn about religion from him and the residents of South Park? We will explore ethical questions through the eyes and words of Hillel, Shamai, Homer, and Cartman.

Small Miracles

grades 8-9

Period 3

Ms. Tova Sklar

Miracles can be major sources of inspiration. Since Biblical times, the Jewish people have been exposed to direct workings of the Divine. But what if "miraculous" occurrences are merely coincidences? Maybe people just get really lucky from time to time. We will read different modern day miracle stories each week, analyze what makes these stories "miraculous", and discuss how we're meant to respond to extraordinary situations. Jewish philosophers have a lot to say about this topic as well, and their views on miracles may not be what you'd expect.

Tell Me a Story

grades 8-9

Period 3

Ms. Deborah Stack

Visit the rich oral history of Jewish storytelling tradition. We will read aloud from a collection of stories from across Jewish history. Revisit (or enjoy for the first time) the classic stories which have been passed down through generations of Jewish families, and then retell them to your own family!

The Week in Review

grades 8-9

Period 3

Rabbi Gary Hoffman

The major newsworthy events of the week will be examined in light of their effects upon Israel and Jews everywhere. How do the happenings in the Middle East affect you? What happened at the White House this week? Who's who in the Jewish world? These and many more questions will be answered each week as we take an in-depth look at the world around us. *Former students may enroll in this class again.*

PERIOD 3

10TH - 12TH GRADE

Challenges and Choices

grades 10-12 Period 3

Mr. Bruce Prince

Learn the secret philosophy of BEING A COOL JEW - there's Kabbalah and there's MUSSAR. In Mussar, we'll learn and understand the essence of ethical behavior, humility, envy, responsibility, trust, gratitude, patience, and loving-kindness.

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Jewish Thought Through the Ages

grades 10-12 Period 3

Dr. Daniel Rynhold

Jews have been thinking about the big questions concerning God, the universe, and everything for thousands of years. We will see how different philosophers at different times have come up with some VERY different and unusual answers. *This is a continuation from the fall semester. New students are welcome.*

Rabbis in Residence

grades 10-12 Period 3

Rabbi Dr. David Fine and other local Rabbis

Study with various area rabbis on their approach to Judaism, what challenges they grapple with, and how they respond to our concerns. *This is a continuation from the fall semester. New students are welcome.*

When You Wish Upon a Psalm

grades 10-12 Period 3

Ms. Avital Moss

Murder plots of innocents, absentee parents, love stories, all in musical form are only the beginning of the parallels between your favorite Disney films and the poetry of King David. David's life was threatened by his father-in-law, his own son wanted to kill him, and overall he had a pretty rough life, and yet he was still able to see the beauty in the world. Explore the meaningful life lessons in his work, as well as Mr. Disney's.