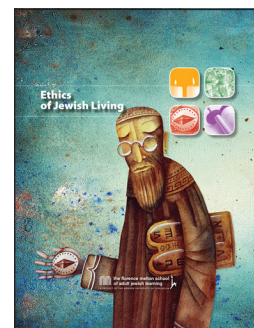
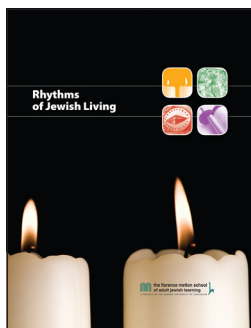


# What We Study

Melton's signature two-year learning experience consists of four text-based courses providing sophisticated pluralistic understandings of Jewish living, memory, and wisdom that invites adults to discover personal interests and meaning.



## Year One

### The Purposes of Jewish Living

Focusing on the big questions of Jewish thought and belief, this course explores both ancient and modern responses.

### The Rhythms of Jewish Living

This course examines a variety of significant classic and contemporary sources that reveal the breadth and depth of meaning to be found in Jewish holiday and lifecycle practices.

## Year Two

### Crossroads of Jewish History

Emphasizing the richness of Jewish memory, this chronological exploration focuses on the significant crossroads where Jews made decisions that shaped our identity and destiny.

### The Ethics of Jewish Living

This course sheds light on how Jewish scholars and thinkers with multiple approaches consider contemporary issues that affect us individually and as a community.



## Foundations of Jewish Family Living

This thought-provoking encounter with Jewish core values is designed especially for parents raising Jewish children. Through study of master stories and centuries of wisdom that have been gleaned from these narratives, parents discover their own understandings and consider the relevant ideas and method for bringing the conversation home. Corresponding videos and PJ Library books provide additional resources for the family.

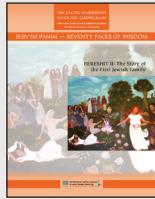
# Continuing the journey of Jewish learning

## CLASSIC JEWISH TEXTS

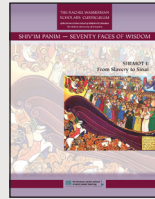
These deep explorations into the books of the Torah showcase the voices of traditional Jewish commentators, classic and modern midrash, and artistic understandings. This multi-layered study of Torah exposes students to the development of interpretation, historical influences, and contemporary perspectives from which they can draw deep levels of meaning.



**Bereshit (Genesis) Part I – From Adam to Abraham: The First 20 Generations \***



**Bereshit (Genesis) Part II – The Story of the First Jewish Family \***



**Shemot (Exodus) Part I – From Slavery to Sinai \***



**Shemot (Exodus) Part II – Revelation and Revolution \***



**Vayikra (Leviticus) – A Call to Holiness \***



**BeMidbar (Numbers) – Leadership Defied and Defended \***



**D'varim (Deuteronomy) \***  
*(in development for Fall 2020)*

## JEWISH LIFE, HISTORY AND CULTURE



### **Social Justice: The Heart of Judaism in Theory and Practice**

Designed by Ruth Messinger and written by Lisa Exler, this course draws on texts and

history to explore how social justice goes beyond addressing short-term needs and looks at structural causes of injustice. Topics include issues related to poverty, immigration and environmental degradation. Students are encouraged to identify issues that are particular to their own communities to explore in greater depth.



### **Beyond Borders: The History of the Arab-Israeli Conflict \***

The complexity of the conflict forces students to wrestle with issues of religion, politics, history, culture, economics, identity, and survival—all reflected through primary sources. (20 lessons)



### **From Sinai to Seinfeld: Jews and Their Jokes \***

Examining a treasury of ancient and modern Jewish jokes as our texts, this course explores the evolving concerns, styles, preoccupations and values that make us laugh as Jews.



### **Israeli Literature as a Window to Israeli Society \***

Reflections of the mythic Israel since 1948 are exposed by poetry and prose that is challenging and self-critical—offering profound insight into the Israeli psyche.



### **Exploring a Forgotten World: A Social History of Medieval Jewry as Revealed in the Cairo Genizah**

This course reveals how fragments of texts and other

manuscripts more than 1,000 years old open an otherwise hidden era of history. Learn about the discovery of the Genizah (a storeroom for timeworn sacred manuscripts) and its contents. The texts explore the daily lives and behaviors of Jewish men, women and families living along the Mediterranean during the Middle Ages. *(Available January 2020)*



### **Jewish Denominations: Addressing the Challenges of Modernity \***

Exploring the historical and ideological development of the major movements of

modern Judaism, students look at key topics such as religious expression, gender, assimilation, Israel and post-denominationalism.



### **Jewish Mysticism: Tracing the History of Kabbalah \***

The history and background of the Jewish mystical tradition through an examination of the texts that

speak to the deep mysteries of human existence.



### **Jewish Medical Ethics: A 21st Century Discussion \***

Written by Rabbi Elliot Dorff, PhD, Jewish Medical Ethics explores Jewish approaches to a number of 21st century

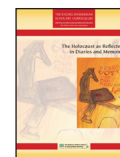
ethical issues, including human cloning, surrogate motherhood, genetic identity, assisted suicide, and genetic manipulation.



### **Jews in America: Insiders and Outsiders \***

Covering an expanse of 200 years, this course considers the American Jewish

experience from many angles including challenges of anti-Semitism and acculturation as well as successes in civil society and the flourishing of Jewish life.



### **The Holocaust as Reflected in Diaries and Memoirs \***

First-person accounts uncovered since the Holocaust describe this dark period with details of daily

life and profound accounts of the struggle for survival.



### **The Star and the Crescent: The Long Relationship of Judaism and Islam \***

The historical evolution of the relationship between Judaism and Islam, between Jews and

Muslims, broadening our understanding and challenging our assumptions.

[www.meltonschool.org](http://www.meltonschool.org)

Courses are 10 lessons each, unless noted. \* Part of the Rachel Wasserman Scholars Curriculum.