

A History of Hatred: The Ever-Present Threat of Antisemitism

Course Description

Antisemitism has been described as a virus that mutates. In each historical period, hatred of Jews takes on a different form or focus, often as a reaction to the prevailing ideology of the time – be it religious, racist, or political.

In the aftermath of the October 7 massacre and the ongoing war in Gaza, antisemitism is, once again, reaching levels not seen since the Holocaust. Therefore, it is crucial for learners to understand the historical processes that have given rise to today's antisemitism. This understanding will help them comprehend the underlying forces and the recurring tropes used to depict Jews and the Jewish State over time.

In this six-part course, learners will explore pivotal periods, such as the interactions between Jews and early Christianity and Islam, medieval manifestations in Christian Europe, the rise of racially motivated antisemitism leading to the Holocaust, the influence of communism and Islamism on perceptions of Jews, and the contemporary landscape of antisemitism, encompassing both extreme right-wing and left-wing ideologies.

Join us to deepen your understanding of the development of antisemitism since ancient times.

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

Course Description

Enjoy a front-row seat to the drama, gossip, legal transactions, and other daily intrigues of Jewish life in the Middle Ages. This 10-session course brings to life an exotic era in Jewish history, revealing the inner thoughts of real-life characters through the Cairo Genizah, a collection of 400,000 worn-out scraps, text fragments, and documents buried for centuries. Interpreting textual evidence yields new insights into the daily interactions and behaviors of Jewish men, women and families living along the Mediterranean more than 1,000 years ago—and at root, how similar they are to our own family dynamics, business ventures and communal concerns today. Join us for a historical journey of intrigue and adventure!

Foundations of Jewish Family Living

Course Description

Open the Jewish bible and explore the timeless stories of our ancestors and how they relate to 21st Century Jewish life. Discover the values embedded in these stories and in our holidays and traditions and leverage these lessons to bring the conversation home to your family and friends with confidence and enthusiasm. This eye-opening journey will give you the tools to impart the beliefs, richness, and beauty of our tradition to your loved ones, from one generation to the next.

Jewish Journeys: Collective Memories Through Place and Time

Course Description

Embark on a captivating exploration of Jewish history and culture, as we delve into the power of collective memory. This six-part course – ***Jewish Journeys: Collective Memories through Place and Time*** – will take you on a journey through time and space, examining how our shared past shapes our present and future.

In this course, you will:

- **Uncover the forgotten:** Explore the hidden stories and untold narratives of Jewish communities in Greece, Spain, Morocco, Poland, and Israel.
- **Trace the threads of history:** Delve into the rich tapestry of Jewish history, from ancient times to the modern era, focusing on key events and figures that have shaped Jewish identity.
- **Challenge the narrative:** Examine different perspectives on Jewish history and culture and question the dominant narratives.
- **Connect with the past:** Discover how memory is constructed, preserved, and evolves over time, and how collective memory informs the present and can inspire and empower us to build a better future.
- **Consider the future:** Understand the impact of collective memory on contemporary Jewish identity and its potential implications for the future.

Join us as we unravel the mysteries of the past and explore the enduring legacy of our Jewish heritage.

Members of the Tribe

Course Description

In this short six-session quest, we'll dive deep into a fundamental, challenging question: "What is the overarching purpose of living Jewishly?" We'll discuss the responsibilities, pressures, and misconceptions that come with being called "the Chosen People." Together, we'll learn the meanings behind rituals like kashrut, symbols like mezuzah, and why Israel matters so much. A deeper understanding of "the Tribe" informs and enriches both the nation's collective actions as well as individual responses to life's big questions.

Pray it Forward: God, Gratitude, and Gathering Together

Course Description

Prayer provides a means to express gratitude. Prayer can be silent. Prayer can be communal. Prayer expresses our deepest needs and appreciation. This course follows the development of prayer, from the Tabernacle in the wilderness of Sinai, to the Temple in Jerusalem, to the Synagogue of today. The course will also explore some of the concepts behind prayer and blessings, as well as the power of meditation, as we link our past, present, and future, to the immediate and the transcendent. This is a journey of the soul.

The Jewish State: Examining the Jewish Identities of Israelis

Course Description

This course seeks to uncover the diverse and complex faces of Jewish Israeli identity. Beginning with the current state of Jewish Israeli identity as reflected in contemporary Israeli discourse, the lessons then proceed to explore the roots at the foundation of this complex tapestry. The course provides a historic overview of the early Zionist vision, the emergence of the New Jew, and the institutions that shaped the country, providing insights into how Israeli society today reflects the dreams, aspirations, and endeavours of those who settled the Land of Israel. After establishing the historic foundation, the course examines themes, including the evolving religious landscape, the intricate relationship of politics and religion, the interplay of the Mizrahi and Ashkenazi Jews, the dynamic between Israel and World Jewry, and Jewish Renaissance agents in Israel.

Course author Dr. Elan Ezrachi is a Jerusalem-based researcher, teacher, and writer who specializes in areas of Jewish peoplehood and Israel-Diaspora relations.

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