

JUDAISM IN 2015 – AN A – Z ACCESS COURSE  
**Specially prepared for members and friends of  
Sukkat Shalom Reform Synagogue and Woodford Liberal Synagogue by  
Rabbis Larry Becker and Richard Jacobi.**

Welcome! Thank you for your interest in this course. As course tutors, we aim to provide you with a programme and format that provides:

- All the essential education in Judaism needed by someone choosing to become Jewish.
- Stimulus and learning for those already Jewish who want to enrich their Judaism (by attending the whole course, or individual sessions).
- A complement to experiencing Jewish life at home and in synagogue community.
- A launch-pad for further learning, both formal and informal.

Teaching will be mainly by us, supplemented by others as required. For those converting to Judaism, your sponsoring rabbi will act as your personal tutor throughout the course.

### **Course Structure**

The course will consist of:

1. Background reading / research before each class, usually prompted by questions.
2. Classes, usually on Wednesday evenings after the Hebrew class, starting around 8:30pm and finishing at 10:00pm.
3. As you become more experienced, possibly leading a class, with your preparation supported by one of the tutors;
4. For those converting to Judaism in the Liberal movement, and others who might wish to consolidate their learning, essays on two selected subjects. More details will be given to those people needing or wanting them.
5. Opportunities to spend time with and learn from other members of the communities. Apart from attending services and other congregational activities, and 'getting stuck in', we will aim to give each person converting to Judaism a contact person to mentor them; other participants might also want someone to help them in their learning.

### **Hebrew**

Those who are converting to Judaism will need to achieve a basic proficiency in the Hebrew of the prayer book (siddur). The Hebrew class is meeting on Wednesday evenings at 7:30pm (before the Access to Judaism class) and the cost of the class will be shared among the participants in it.

### **Venue**

The course will be swap roughly every half-term between Woodford Liberal Synagogue (WLS) and Sukkat Shalom Synagogue (SSRS).

**Rabbis Richard Jacobi and Larry Becker  
December 2014**

JUDAISM IN 2015 – AN A – Z ACCESS COURSE

**Course Syllabus – as at 25<sup>th</sup> November 2014**

We will notify you of any changes to the arrangements listed.

Date	Teacher / Venue	Theme	Topic
Jan 7	AL / SSRS	The Jewish Year	Calendar overview and new years
14	AL / SSRS	The Jewish Year	Believing and Doing: Judaism, Jews, and God
21	AL / SSRS	The Jewish Year	Shoah and its legacy (Holocaust Memorial Day (27/1))
28	AL / SSRS	Symbols of Judaism	The Jewish Home
Feb 4	AL / SSRS	Symbols of Judaism	Synagogue
Friday 6	SSRS	Tu Bishevat - Special Seder, begins at 7:30pm	
11	AL / SSRS	Symbols of Judaism	Tallit, tefillin, etc.
18	NO CLASS – Half Term		
25	?? / WLS	The Jewish Year	Purim (5/3) and Chanukkah (7/12)
Mar 4	Erev Purim at your synagogue		
11	RJ / WLS	The Jewish Year	Shabbat and its special status
Fri. 13	RJ / WLS	The Jewish Year	Erev Shabbat together - at Woodford 18:45
18	RJ / WLS	The Jewish Year	How do you 'keep Shabbat'?
25	RJ / WLS	The Jewish Year	Pesach, Slavery and Freedom
Apr 1	NO CLASS – Pesach (1 <sup>st</sup> Seder – Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April; Communal Seder Sat. 4 <sup>th</sup> )		
8	NO CLASS – Pesach break		
15	SSRS	Erev Yom Hashoah Commemoration 8:00pm	
22	RJ / WLS	The Jewish Year	Israel and Yom Ha'Atzmaut (23rd April)
30	RJ / WLS	The Life Cycle	Pre-Birth
May 6	RJ / WLS	The Life Cycle	Birth and early years
13	RJ / WLS	The Life Cycle	Coming of Age
20	RJ / WLS	The Jewish Year	Shavuot (and Revelation)
Sat 23	Bet Tikvah	Tikkun Leil Shavuot	
27	NO CLASS – Half Term		
June 3	RJ / WLS	The Life Cycle	Marriage / Divorce
10	LB / SSRS	The Life Cycle	Death and Mourning
17	LB / SSRS	Prayer and Liturgy	Overview
24	LB / SSRS	Prayer and Liturgy	Shema and its blessings
July 1	LB / SSRS	Prayer and Liturgy	Amidah
8	LB / SSRS	Prayer and Liturgy	Service for the Reading of the Torah

JUDAISM IN 2015 – AN A – Z ACCESS COURSE

<b>Date</b>	<b>Teacher / Venue</b>	<b>Theme</b>	<b>Topic</b>
15	LB / SSRS	Prayer and Liturgy	Kaddish and other prayers
22	LB / SSRS	Prayer and Liturgy	High Holy Day liturgy and prayers
SUMMER BREAK			
Sept 2	LB / SSRS	The Jewish Year	Teshuvah / Repentance
9	LB / SSRS	The Jewish Year	Rosh Hashanah (14/9)
16	LB / SSRS	The Jewish Year	Yom Kippur (23/9)
23	NO CLASS – Yom Kippur		
30	LB / SSRS	The Jewish Year	Sukkot (28/9) and Simchat Torah (5/10)
Oct 7	LB / SSRS	Symbols of Judaism	Kashrut and Food
14	LB / SSRS	Jewish Teachings	Ethics, good and evil, social justice
21	LB / SSRS	Jewish sources	Torah
28	NO CLASS – Half term		
Nov 4	RJ / WLS	Jewish sources	Tanakh
11	RJ / WLS	Jewish sources	Rabbinic works
18	RJ / WLS	Jewish sources	Early commentators
25	RJ / WLS	Jewish sources	Later commentators
Dec 2	RJ / WLS	Jewish sources	Jewish responses to Enlightenment
9	RJ / WLS	Jewish sources	Progressive Judaism today (Chanukkah)
16	RJ / WLS	Jewish Teachings	Jewish (hi)story and Siyyum (Ending)