



BRISTOL & WEST PROGRESSIVE JEWISH CONGREGATION  
ADULT EDUCATION SYLLABUS 5778 (2018)

Classes meet Wednesdays, 7:15pm – 8:45pm at BWPJC  
unless otherwise noted.

Session	Date	Topic	Details
1	10 Jan (MM)	Jewish Movements 1	Was Judaism ever one movement? What led to the splitting into modern movements?
2	17 Jan (MM)	Life Cycle 1a – <i>Bar and Bat Mitzvah</i>	What does it mean to become <i>bar/bat mitzvah</i> ? Is all the fuss really necessary? How is the occasion celebrated in our community?
3	24 Jan (MM)	Prayer 2—Approaches to Jewish Prayer	What is prayer? What does it mean to pray Jewishly? How do we pray?
BRISTOL HMD	Fri, 26 January 13:30 – 17:00	You are invited and encouraged to attend the annual civic commemoration of Holocaust Memorial Day at Bristol City Hall. This year's theme is "The power of Words"	
4	31 Jan (MM)	Mitzvah learning 2: Welcoming the Stranger	What does our tradition teach us about being welcoming? How do we apply this? This session will be interactive and engaging.
5	07 Feb	Judaism: not just for synagogue-- Personal and Home Ritual objects	How can <i>tallit</i> , <i>tefillin</i> , <i>mezzuzah</i> , and other objects be used to enhance our worship and home experience?
6	14 Feb (MM)	Love and Sex in the Talmud	What did the Rabbis of the Talmud have to say about love, relationships, and sex?
7	21 Feb (MM/NF)	Disagreeing the Sanhedrin Way: Keep or Cancel the Controversial Speaker? You Decide!"	An interactive programme produced by Pardes Institute. Study the texts. Engage in a mock Sanhedrin exercise, and cast our community's vote!
HAMEN-TASCHEN BAKE	Sun, 25 February at 10am.	Our annual baking event for Purim parcels. Come along and bake. All materials provided. No hamentaschen-baking experience required.	
8	28 Feb (MM)	Festivals: Purim Themes and Responses	What themes come out of the Purim story and how do we relate and respond to them as Liberal Jews?

PURIM PARTY	Sun, 4 March	Communal Purim party with Purim shpiel, costume parade, hot dogs, hamentaschen, and fruit for dessert	
9	7 Mar	Jewish History 3— Medieval Jewish history	
10	14 Mar	Getting to grips with the <i>Omer</i>	What is the <i>Omer</i> ? Why should we count it? And what is the Jewish “bonfire” night?
11	21 Mar	Pesach 2: Getting into Pesach	The Haggadah, the strange ritual of bedikat chameitz, and getting ready for the seder!
12	28 Mar	NO CLASS—PREPARATIONS FOR COMMUNAL SEDER	
COMMUNAL SEDER	Fri, 30 Mar	6-10pm: 1 <sup>st</sup> night communal Seder at BWPJC	
13	4 April	TBC	
BREAK the CHAMETZ FAST	Fri, 6 April	For our April chavurah supper we will have pizza as well as other chametz-laden items to celebrate the end of the chametz drought for the year!	
YOM HASHOAH SERVICE	11 April	7:30PM—evening programme/commemoration of <i>Yom Hashoah</i>	
14	18 April	Book Discussion: <i>My Promised Land</i> , by Ari Shavit	Why did Israel come to be? How did it come to be? Can Israel survive? Please come having read the book.
15	25 April	CLOSED SESSION	
16	2 May	Modern Jewish Thinkers 1	A montage of modern Jewish thinkers: Hannah Senesh, Abraham Joshua Heschel, and Rav Kook.
17	9 May	FESTIVALS: Shavuot—It's not just about the cheesecake!	Unpacking the Ten Commandments: why do we celebrate them on Shavuot, and what is the point of studying all night? And why the book of Ruth?
18	16 May	Becoming a Jew I	Conversion and challenges around becoming a member of the tribe.
SHAVUOT	Sat/Sun 19/20 May	23rd – <i>Tikkun Leil Shavuot</i> —7:30pm – midnight. Come pray, study, eat, do some crafts, and be together to celebrate the receiving of the Torah / 24 <sup>th</sup> – <i>Shavuot</i> morning service at 10am. Symbolically stand together at Sinai and hear the reading of the Ten Commandments.	
19	23 May	Favourite topics	Join the Judaism from Scratch students as they present on their favourite topics in Jewish history
20	30 May	FESTIVALS: <i>Sukkot</i> & <i>Simchat Torah</i>	What purpose does a <i>sukkah</i> serve? Can you use an elephant as part of a <i>sukkah</i> ?

			What can observing <i>Sukkot</i> teach us as Liberal Jews?
21	6 June	Modern Jewish Thinkers 2	Who are the voices and thinkers of today?
BRISTOL LIMMUD	Sunday, 10 June	A fantastic, 1-day taste of Limmud Festival, offered for the first time in Bristol. Talks, workshops, shmoozing, food. What more could you want?	
22	13 June	Becoming a Jew 2: Going to the Beit Din	What happens when you go to the beit din? How you prepare, and what should you expect? Features personal reflections from individuals who have gone through the process.
DEAN FIELD WEEKEND	Fri 15 – Sun 17 June	Join the community on our annual weekend away at Dean Field Education Centre in Forest of Dean. It's a great way to get to know other people in a relaxed and social setting!	
23	20 June	Ask the Rabbi and end of the year party!	What have you always wanted to know about Judaism but were afraid to ask? Here's your chance. Please email your questions to Rabbi Monique no later than 13 <sup>th</sup> June.
LJ BIENNIAL	Fri 29 June – Sun 1 July	Join people from across the Liberal Movement in Birmingham for a fabulous 3-day conference of workshops, prayer, food, and speakers, including Rabbi Danny Frelander, president of World Union for Progressive Judaism (WUPJ). Sponsored space available.	