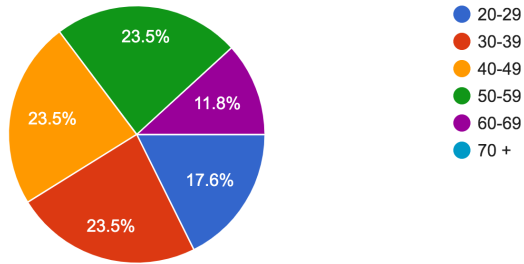


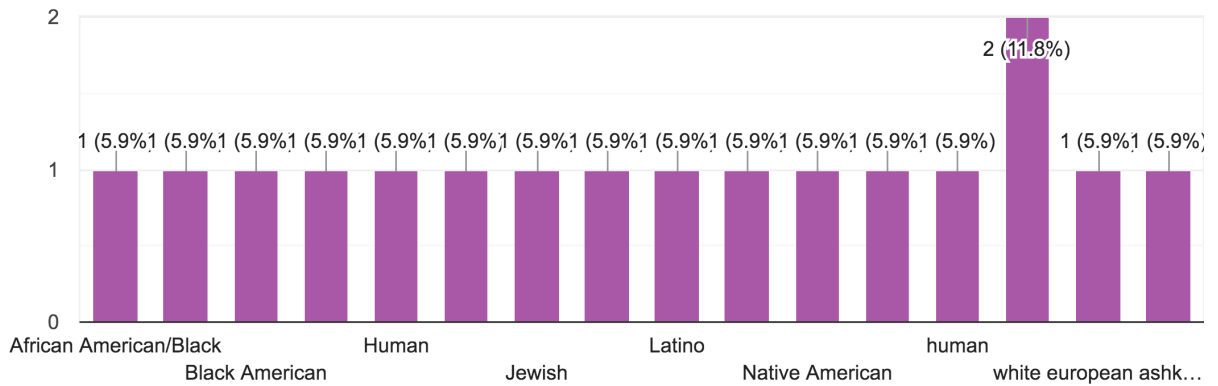
Congregation Sha'ar Zahav
San Francisco, CA

Judaism 101, Fall 2020: Evaluation

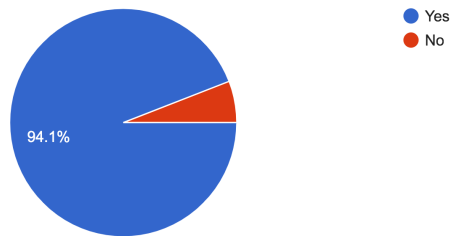
My age is
17 responses



My ethnic/racial/cultural identity is ...
17 responses

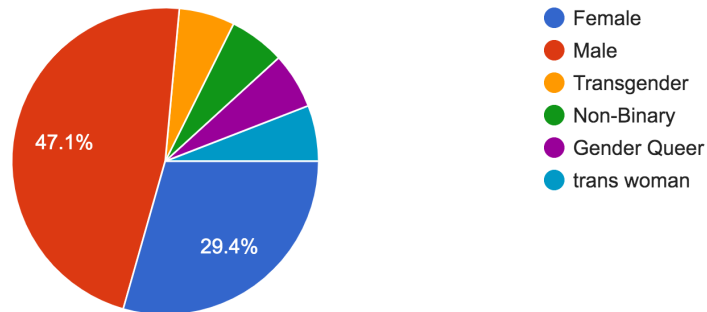


I am LGBTQ identified
17 responses



On the gender continuum I am

17 responses



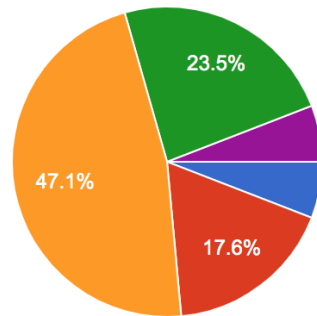
The religion I was raised with is

17 responses

1. Mennonite-Christian
2. Catholic (3)
3. Jewish
4. Episcopalian
5. very lite mix of christian/jewish
6. Native American
7. Christianity
8. None
9. Christian
10. I wasn't
11. Episcopalian...kind of. More like none.
12. All and none
13. Jewish non-observant reform
14. Jehovah's Witness
15. New age(from my mom) and Catholicism(Grandmother)

In a non-COVID world I would have

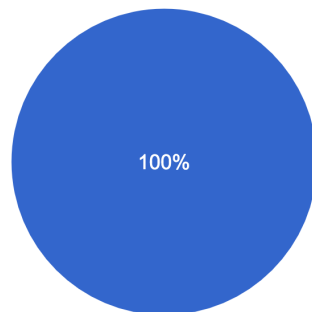
17 responses



- loved to take this class on Zoom anyway because it made it possible for me
- loved to take this class on Zoom anyway because it made it easier for me
- totally taken this class in person because in-person learning is just better
- really loved a hybrid where I could meet up a couple of times but done most of...
- Not been able to participate at all because I live in Oregon! SO thankful...

The padlet was

17 responses



- great - super helpful
- fine for what we did in class; but I never revisited it
- confusing and hard to use
- we had a padlet?

One new learning for me was:

1. The meaning and practice of the rituals (head to heart).
2. All the Mitzvot that there are! It was truly a new concept for me that I have researched a bit more. Jewish Ethics was one of my favorite lessons and I wished that we had spent more time on it as well.
3. The varied meanings of G-d, what the Talmud and other books were, general culture stuff
4. loved learning about the conflict and politics of Israel
5. Openness to where I am on my journey to Judaism
6. Judaism as a practice-based religion rather than belief-based
7. Great Feedback
8. So much history and rituals
9. Torah and Text, and love Jewish history
10. Everything
11. Details about the Amidah

12. That the chanting pieces in the liturgy are actually pieces from the Torah and they are chanted because they are done with trope!
13. How varied life experiences folks had in the class. It made the discussions lively in a fun way.
14. Jewish circle of life, it was such a nice theme and I loved learning about it
15. That there are Jewish meditation practices
16. just about everything about Israel, many of the holidays outside of Passover, Hanukkah, the High Holidays and Sukkot,
17. Some of the 613 Mitzvah I was unaware of

One challenging or surprising idea to me was:

1. The "fluidity" of the meaning of Jewish-ness for many Jews by birth who are truly open to Jews by choice.
2. How much similarity there is between all the branches of Judaism. There are obvious differences, not as many as I had once believed. Maybe this will deviate a bit as I learn more, but it was definitely surprising to me.
3. How much wonderful discussion/discourse we had in this class
4. How many people attended throughout
5. Some aspects of Jewish law
6. the 613 mitzvot. important historical context to know, but felt very restrictive and archaic
7. I like camera off
8. Rituals
9. Zionism
10. Nothing was particularly challenging or surprising.
11. Hmm...having a hard time thinking of one for this at the moment, sorry!
12. This question is hard for me. I was challenged by the thinking but it was a good challenge.
13. The mitzvots, I was very surprised to learn the good actions
14. God (challenging, not surprising)
15. to actually learn the history of Zionism...prior to the class I just tried not to think about it. Also to dismantle my pre-conceived notions about being a Jew of Color and how that would help/hinder me in finding community
16. I don't recall being surprised or particularly challenged

One really interesting activity we did was:

1. I really enjoyed the breakout rooms; the Padlet with its many resources will continue to be a cherished resource for me.
2. The history of Judaism, and the Jewish people, detailed on a map that we can scroll through and relate different momentous times in Jewish history.
3. talking about how we saw G-d
4. All

5. Explore meaning of Jewish identity
6. all of the small group work - that was wonderful and a nice chance to connect with others. particularly the discussion of text.
7. Group discussion
8. the history of Judaism/Identities
9. Lifecycle
10. Watching the BibBam videos
11. Answer garden
12. Looking at the different ideas of God in Judaism. Definite "aha" moment regarding being able to choose which parts resonate most clearly!
13. I really love the group activities.
14. The small groups debates, it was so nice to discuss about Judaism and also get to know other people that go to this class! Everyone is great :)
15. the chat stream
16. They were all pretty fun. I'm not the most enthusiastic group activity person and I enjoyed them so that's saying a lot. I like listening and thinking about things.
17. I liked the last exercise we did matching the concepts to the event.

One thing I could have skipped was:

1. For me, skipping was never an issue. I always wanted more. . .
2. Liturgy.
3. nothing
4. Loved it all
5. Some parts of history
6. i appreciated Sue being so responsive to participant questions but sometimes i wasn't that interested in some of the questions and would have rather had more time to focus on the planned content in the syllabus
7. Reading to much
8. I didn't really want to skip anything.
9. Not sure
10. I think this is a well thought out course and can't think what I would edit out.
11. Honestly, I don't know! I enjoyed all the activities, the only thing that bothered was the time zone, but it was worth it!
12. it was all good
13. Honestly I can't think of anything.
14. I don't think any of this needs to be skipped.

One topic I wish we had covered or done more learning about is:

1. The various nuances between the Jewish denominations and how that matters to Jews (or not).
2. Conversion and Israel
3. life cycles

4. Jewish Mysticism - Kabbalah - I know that's a whole thing
5. LGBT identity within Judaism
6. it would have been great to have a lesson on queer jewish practice. this was certainly infused throughout the sessions, but would have been fun to focus on it specifically and what it looks like to be a queer jew in more depth
7. Jewish Racism
8. Ethics Social Justice
9. Prayers (maybe I missed that session)
10. Types of Judaism
11. More details about the different denominations within Judaism
12. Could be interesting to do a section on ways that Jews are (re)creating Judaism today - but there is already so much material. I felt very happy with what was covered.
13. Timing is a hard thing to get right in any class. So I highly admire how much we were able to cover in ten weeks.
14. I think we covered it all!
15. a little background on LGBTQ congregations
16. I think we covered quite a bit and I'll definitely be going back to the pallet. I feel like I learned enough to really launch me in
17. Israel. I know I was listening while working but I expected a more lively debate, but I feel like the class was directed away from some of the more controversial aspects of this topic.

One Jewish practice I learned about is:

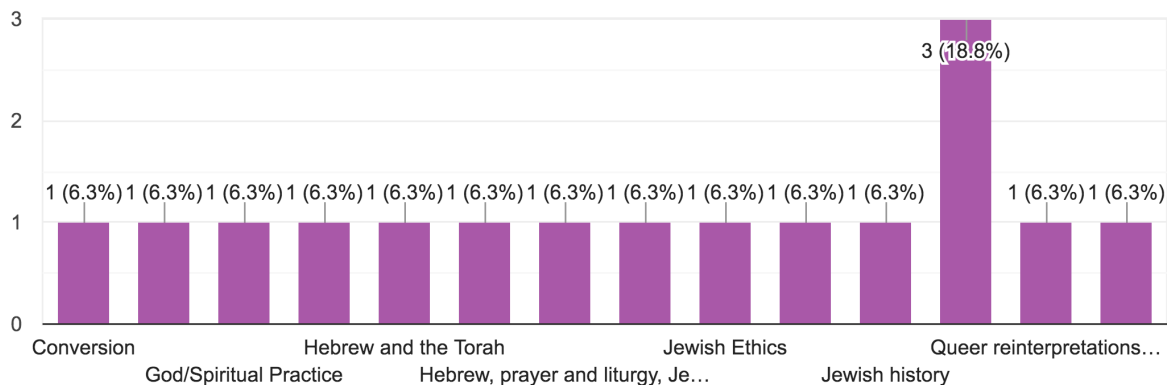
1. More about the elements of "conversion;" loved visiting Sha'ar Zahav's Hanukkah service; and Central Synagogue in NYC; and the ritual of Hannukah candle lighting ceremony
2. The Mezuzah!
3. close readings/ideas of study
4. Loved learning details about Hanukkah
5. Holidays beyond Yom Kippur and Chanukah
6. Ask questions
7. study of the Torah
8. Get
9. Havdalah
10. the tisch
11. Mourning practices.
12. The different ways todo mitzvots
13. laying refilling
14. I appreciated the time we spent really learning about Shabbat, I hadn't given much thought to making it my own
15. I liked the segment that talked about time in nature. At the beach I feel the most connected to the mystical.

One Jewish activity or practice I would like to try is:

1. I have been lighting the Hannukah candles every night and reciting the blessings; I touch the mezzuzah on my doorpost to my office each day and say the Shema in Hebrew; I'm interested in other rituals and hope to learn more about them over time.
2. A Law of Return Trip
3. all of it
4. Torah study
5. Reading Hebrew
6. Learning more about the Hebrew Language
7. Studying the Torah
8. Havdalah
9. Talmud study...possibly with Svara...
10. Study Torah.
11. Fasting
12. Attend High Holy Days services
13. either journaling or writing my own drash for an entire year
14. While I have listened to discourse on the torah, getting to the point where I have enough knowledge to talk in a minion about the parshah would be fantastic

One topic I am looking forward to studying more about is

16 responses



And I also want to say:

1. Thank you to Sue for her excellent teaching style and engagement; a model of religious pedagogy; I've learned a lot from her just on that point; also, many thanks to Sha'ar Zahav for offering this course; it means so much to me that we worship in the same space (I in the Mennonite congregation) soaking up the Spirit of each tradition in that

sacred and beautiful synagogue. I look forward to meeting you, Sue, and others face-to-face some day sooner than later. God bless you all.

2. You have been amazing Sue. You were a phenomenal instructor and extremely funny. This was a smooth and enjoyable process, I have a lot to reflect on.
3. thank you :)
4. Sue is an exceptional instructor. Her knowledge and teaching style is very inclusive and made the entire experience very enjoyable.
5. Sue was an amazing teacher. I want to learn more.
6. Thank you for group!!!
7. I really enjoyed this class and am looking forward to the next class.
8. Thank you Sue!!!!
9. Sue is a great teacher and I really enjoyed the class!!!
10. Thank you
11. I feel like sometimes I was rude or took too much time/space - it was truly out of excitement and I apologize if this took away from anyone's learning experience. I tried to temper myself in the latter part of the course because I realized I might be being rude. My apologies!!! Also, I just want to say that I totally loved this class. I looked forward to it every week and am very sad that it is over. I came into it feeling like I already knew a fair bit about Judaism, but every session I learned so many new things and it was a joy to remember that there will ALWAYS be more I can learn about Judaism and that the journey will never end. Thank you for guiding the way!
12. Thank you!
13. Thank you for your empathy and for being an amazing teacher!
14. thank you so much
15. One note on the evaluation - for gender I should be able to select all that apply. Transgender is only the adjective, but we need to be able to also identify that we are a woman, man, etc. There are also people who consider themselves transgender and non-binary. Having to pick only transgender leaves out part of the story. Other than that, like everyone said as we parted ways, this class was great, and definitely helped me feel more comfortable in my Jewishness and find community.
16. You have been a fantastic teacher. I very much appreciate all of the hard work, time, and effort you have put into this course. You also made it look like you Zoom is an old hat for you and executed the class on it very well. Thank you.