

Recommended by Rabbi Gilah Langner, Fabramen Member

Open Academy Learning

For the last few years, the Open Academy, a program of the Foundation for Jewish Studies, has been offering a four-year structured program of study leading to a certificate. This year we're expanding the program and making courses available on an "a la carte" basis as well. If you're looking for a serious program of study, particularly in Jewish history, thought, and texts, you might want to explore the Open Academy.

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Courses are offered in five areas: biblical civilization, rabbinic period, medieval, modern/contemporary, and cross-period cultural topics. The faculty are among Washington's best Jewish scholars -- Max Ticktin, Marsha Rozenblit, Leila Gal Berner, Marc Saperstein, Miriam Isaacs, and many others. This year's courses include:

- Text and Trowel: Biblical Archeology;
- The Celluloid Jew;
- Introduction to Kabbalah;
- Jewish Vienna and the Making of the Twentieth Century;
- Jews, Christians, and Muslims in the Middle Ages;
- Reading Rabbinic Texts;
- The Jewish Experience in the Second Temple Period;
- Robert Alter's "David;"
- Messianism;
- Women and Judaism; and there are more.

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Ten-week evening sessions begin the week of September 15 in DC (at Washington Hebrew Congregation) and Rockville (Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School). If you want to check out the program in more detail, go to www.foundationjewishstudies.org, or call 301-770-4787 for a brochure. □