



December Newsletter

As we do at the end of every year, we are asking you to **support the Swig Program in Jewish Studies and Social Justice**. It is with your assistance that we continue to provide robust and meaningful educational opportunities for our students and the broader community.

The past year presented remarkable challenges for everyone. As we transitioned to a shelter-in-place lifestyle, most of us had to figure out new ways of being in the world. Finding emotional and spiritual fulfillment required us to adapt to rapidly changing social and cultural conditions. As an educator, I looked for lessons from the challenging circumstances that I could teach my students as we struggled to cope with our new situation. I realized that the way we acclimated to our new realities as 2020 progressed showed the true resiliency of human beings to adapt in times of crisis. It dawned on me that I teach about this very idea every semester in the course "Jews, Judaisms, Jewish Identities," which is one of the required courses for the Jewish Studies and Social Justice minor at USF. One of the central ideas presented in the course is the understanding that Jewish cultural survival is partially based on the ability of Jews to adapt to the various challenging environments in which they lived throughout history. In this moment of crisis, human beings are showing their incredible strength and resiliency to adapt. The lessons from the class, and from Jewish history, emerged as central to the way I understand what is possible for the world.

In the midst of the uncertainty and tumultuous nature of our current lives, I hope that the educational opportunities we provide in the Swig JSSJ Program bring some stability and hope for a better tomorrow. **This program can only thrive with support from our community.**

By supporting the Swig JSSJ Program, you are ensuring that young generations of Jews and non-Jews are being educated about the core role

people worldwide. You are also helping us educate students about the profound diversity of Jews and Jewish identities. With your support we will continue working to fight bigotry and prejudice towards all people regardless of social identities.

Please consider making a year-end contribution to support our ongoing efforts. [Donate here](#) or by clicking the 'Give Now' button at the bottom of this email. We are eternally grateful for you and your support.

In peace,



Oren Kroll-Zeldin

Interim Director, Swig Program in Jewish Studies and Social Justice



Chanukah and Book-n- kah Celebration With Rabbi Angel

Tuesday, Dec. 15

12–12:45 p.m.

Join Rabbi Camille Angel for a special Chanukah celebration and

menorah lighting based on one of her family's holiday traditions. Bring your own lunch as well as a favorite book as a gift of inspiration and shared pleasure. It can be any book on any subject that you've read and enjoyed and want to share with others. We will light the Chanukah menorah, share our favorite book recommendations, and re-dedicate ourselves to learning, growing, and being helpers in making justice along our way. Jewish or not, all are welcome to celebrate the Festival of Lights with Camille Shira Angel, Rabbi-in-Residence.

[Register for the celebration here.](#)

Spring '21 Course Offerings

Course Name	Course No.	Days/Times	Instructor	Core Req.
Jews, Judaisms, Jewish Identities	THRS 130-01	TR 4:35–6:20 p.m.	Bar-Gabai	D-2
Ancient Near East	HIST 310-01	MWF 1–2:05 p.m.	Claussen	
Arabic (Second Semester)	ARAB 102-01	MW 4:45–6:25 p.m.	Mullick	Foreign Lang.
Government & Politics of the Middle East	POLS 349-01	MWF 10:30–11:35 a.m.	Zunes	
Hebrew (Second Semester)*	HEBR 102-01	MWF 12–1:40 p.m.	Gvirtzman	Foreign Lang.
Hebrew (Directed Reading and Research)	HEBR 398-01	TBD	Gvirtzman	
Holocaust and Genocide	THRS 136-01	MW 4:45–6:25 p.m.	Herr	D-3
Israeli-Palestinian Conflict Thru Literature & Film	THRS 238-01	TR 2:40–4:25 p.m.	Kroll-Zeldin	D-3; CD
Jewish-Christian Relations	THRS 230-01	TR 12:45–2:30 p.m.	Latteri	D-2
Mideast Peoples and Cultures**	ANTH 270-01	TR 12:45–2:30 p.m.	Kroll-Zeldin	E; CD
Paris-Berlin	GERM 350-01	TR 9:55–11:40 a.m.	Ramos	C-1
Queering Religion	THRS 131-01	MWF 1–2:05 p.m.	Angel	D-2; CD; CEL
Refugees: Justice and Ethics	THRS 236-01	TR 12:45–2:30 p.m.	Bar-Gabai	D-3; CD

* *This course can count for 6 credits rather than the usual 4.*

** *This course is pending approval for the JSSJ minor.*

For more information on the requirements for the JSSJ minor go to usfca.edu/artsci/jssj. Questions? Contact JSSJ Interim Director Oren Kroll-Zeldin (omkrollzeldin@usfca.edu).

BREAKING BREAD AND THE BINARY

THURSDAYS

Breaking Bread and the Binary

Dec. 10 – Bodhi Day

Continuing to meet every week through winter Break!

Qmmunity, in partnership with the **Swig Program in Jewish Studies and Social Justice** and **University Ministry**, hosts a popular weekly gathering for LGBTQIA and friends called Breaking Bread and the Binary. This event takes place every Thursday from 11:45 a.m.–12:45 p.m.