



SHORT COURSES

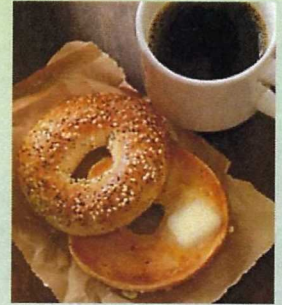
Excursions in Jewish History and Culture

Cliff Wilcox, Ph.D.

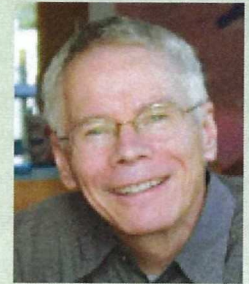
TBT Library

Tuesday Mornings, 10:15-11:30 am

Join us for coffee and bagels on Tuesday mornings to engage in discussion and study of Jewish culture and history. Our Excursions courses offer a weekly lecture/discussion series in which we will explore select topics in Jewish history, ideas, literature, and experience. We will spend 4-6 weeks per topic. Topics will include the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Jewish history, Zionism and its variants, Jewish ideas and philosophy, Jewish-American identity, and Jewish film and literature.



Cliff Wilcox serves as the Director of Education and Operations at Temple Beth Torah in Ventura, CA. He holds a Ph.D. in Intellectual History from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, and is currently pursuing an Executive M.A. in Jewish Education from the Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion.



Unpacking the Israeli/Palestinian Conflict: Context and History

5 weeks, 11/12, 11/19, 11/26, 12/3, 12/17

Following the October 7th attack on Israel by Hamas, Israel has been locked in war against Hamas and its allies. Yet the conflict between Israel and Palestine did not begin simply with the October 7th terrorist attack against Israel. Indeed, the conflict is longstanding, predating the establishment of Israel as a state in 1948. Over the course of five sessions, we will explore the origins, development, and implications of the bitter and ongoing conflict between Israel and Palestinian Arabs. We will explore the basic contours of the Israeli-Palestinian relationship and focus on the root cause of extended conflict. Our aim is not to try to find solutions to controversies, but rather to try to understand different sides of the conflict and perspectives of the participants. By thinking critically about the current conflict in Israel and its historical roots, we aim to understand better the challenges and potential options Israel currently faces.

Sessions

- Jews in 19th Century Europe: Emancipation, Antisemitism, and the Zionist Ideal
- Birth of Modern Israel
- Israel's Defining Wars - Suez, Six-Day, Yom Kippur - and the Challenges of Victory
- From Dreams of Peace to Intifadas
- October 7 and the Joint Traps of War and Ideology