

## JUDAISM THROUGH FOOD

RELST 181  
(Spring 2019)

### Term List #2

TERM	GENERAL DEFINITION
Aliyah:	(Translation: "to go up"); being called to read Torah during a service, or say the prayer before and after reading from it
Ashkenazi:	A reference to Judaism as practiced by Jews in / from Central and Eastern Europe
Bar Mitzvah:	(Trans: "son of the Commandment"); title given to a young boy who is reading from Torah for the first time as an adult (13 years old)
Bat Mitzvah:	(Trans: "daughter of the Commandment"); title given to a young girl who is reading from Torah for the first time as an adult (12 or 13 years old)
Beit Din:	(Trans.: "house of judgment"); a rabbinical court that adjudicates religious and civil disputes, including divorce
Bimah:	Raised platform in a synagogue from which the Torah is read
Brit Milah:	(Trans.: "covenant of circumcision"); the ritual of entering a Jewish baby boy into the Jewish community, which includes circumcision as well as blessings
Challah:	A braided egg bread common among Jews and used on Shabbat as a symbol of the sustenance provided by God
Chanukiah:	A specific kind of menorah (trans.: "candelabra") used for the candles lit each night of Hanukkah
Choseness:	Obligation of Jews to serve as humanity's representative to God, and God's representatives to humanity; requiring model behavior as elaborated in the 613 mitzvot
Chuppah:	The canopy under which a Jewish couple is wed
Covenant:	Promise made by God to Abraham to protect and provide for him and his descendants in exchange for his recognition of God as the One God.
Daven:	Jewish prayer, which includes bodily movement as well as spoken prayer
Diaspora:	The spreading of the Jews from the Promised land (Israel)
Dreidl:	A spinning top used as to teach the story of Hanukkah, used for fun
Eruv:	Boundary marking the area of a non-walled city / town in which a Jew may carry items on Shabbat
Exile:	The physical removal of Jews from the Promised Land, as well as the spiritual distance between God and humanity that Judaism seeks to overcome
Get:	A document of a Jewish divorce

Grogger:	A noise-maker used on Purim to drown out the name of the villain Haman
Haggadah	(Trans.: “the telling”); prayer book used for the Pesah seder
Halakhah:	(Trans: “the going,” as in a path or road); system of mitzvot (“commandments”) and the rules / traditions surrounding how to obey them
Hamantashn:	Triangular pastry eaten on Purim
Hametz:	Foods that are not kosher for Pesah
Havdalah:	(Trans: “separation”); ceremony marking the end of Shabbat and the beginning of the new week
Heksher:	Marking / symbol placed on food packaging to indicate it has been inspected by a rabbi or board of rabbis and judged to be kosher
Hevra Kaddisha:	(Trans.: “holy society”); committee of Jewish community members who prepare the Jewish body for the ritual of burial
Kashrut / Kosher:	System of dietary restrictions commanded by God, described in the Jewish sacred texts and elaborated over centuries by rabbis
Ketubah:	Jewish marriage contract, signed by the bride, groom, and two witnesses
Kippah / Yarmulke:	Skullcap worn by Jews as a sign of humility before God
Kittel:	A long white garment that represents ritual purity, traditionally worn by men at moments of transition: Pesah, Yom Kippur, their own wedding, when they are buried
Kol Nidre:	(Trans.: “all vows”); one of the opening prayers of Yom Kippur, seeking release from any promises made but not kept during the previous year
Latke:	A potato pancake traditionally eaten on Hanukkah as a remind of the miracle of the oil that burned in the Temple for 8 days
Lulav / Etrog:	The four species of plants connected to Sukkot – the lulav is a combination of palm, myrtle, and willow; the etrog is a citrus fruit (related to the lemon)
Mamzer:	(Trans.: “bastard”); a child born to parents not married to each other.
Matzah:	The un-risen bread eaten during Pesah as a reminder of the haste in which the Hebrews left Egypt
Mezuzah:	(Trans: “doorpost”); a small box placed on Jewish doorposts, containing a parchment on which is written the prayers related to the Shema, as commanded by God (Deuteronomy 6:9)
Mikveh:	Ritual bath used as part of the process by which one converts to Judaism; also used by some for ritual cleanliness before Shabbat
Minyan:	The necessary number of adult Jews (10) needed for certain public prayers
Mitzvah:	(Trans: “commandment”); one of 613 commanded in the Torah (plural: mitzvot)
Mohel:	The person who is trained to perform a brit milah - in both the ritual of

	circumcision and the prayers associated with the ceremony
Parve:	(Trans: “neutral”); foods (fruits, vegetables, spices, herbs, eggs, fish) that can be eaten either with milk-related products or meats
Rabbi:	(Trans: “my teacher”); religious teacher / judge – in the modern world: the head of a congregation
Sandek:	An honorary position given to a respected relative / elder who holds the Jewish baby boy during the brit milah
Seder:	(Trans.: “order”); the ordered meal eaten on the first night of Pesah (first two nights outside of Israel) that includes rituals meant to recreate the story of the exodus of the Hebrews from Egypt.
Sephardi:	A reference to Judaism as practiced by Jews in / from Southern Europe and the rim of the Mediterranean Sea
Shema:	(Trans: “Listen!”); central prayer in Judaism, proclaiming the one-ness of God
Shivah:	(Trans.: “seven”); the week of mourning following the death of a family member (parent, spouse, sibling, or child), in which the mourner engages in limited, in-house behavior.
Shofar:	A hollowed rams horn used as an instrument, traditionally sounded on Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur (unless they fall on Shabbat)
Shomer Shabbat:	(Trans: “Shabbat watcher”); one who observes all of the Shabbat-related restrictions and prohibitions
Shpiel:	(Trans.: “story” or “tale”); a staged performance – usually humorous – related to the story of Purim
Sufganiyot:	A jelly doughnut traditionally eaten by Sephardi Jews on Hanukkah, fried to recall the miracle of the oil in the Temple
Sukkah:	(Trans.: “booth”); a temporary structure built and used for meals during Sukkot
Tallit:	Prayer shawl worn by adult Jews during morning prayers when the Torah is read; carry fringes (tzitzit) on each corner, as commanded
Talmud:	Commentary / exploration of issues and themes from the Torah as they relate to halakhah
Tanakh:	Jewish sacred text, made up of the Torah, the works of the prophets (Nevi'im), and the “Writings” (Ketuvim)
Tashlikh:	(Trans.: “cast off”); the ritual of symbolically casting away sins before Yom Kippur, often accomplished by tossing bread crumbs into a river or other waters
Tefillin:	Small boxes worn (one on the forehead, one on the upper left arm) by adult Jews during non-Shabbat morning prayers, containing parchment on which is written the prayers related to the Shema, as commanded by God (Deuteronomy 6:9)
Temple:	If capitalized (as in “the Temple”), this is a reference to either the First Temple (built during the reign of King Solomon and destroyed by the Babylonians in 586 BCE) or the Second Temple (built after the return from the Babylonian Exile)

	ended in 536 BCE, and then destroyed by the Romans in 70 CE), both in Jerusalem
Torah:	First 5 books of the Jewish sacred text; often referred to as the “Five Books of Moses” (known in the Christian world as Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy)
Treyf:	(Trans: “unclean”); foods that are not kosher`
Yahrzeit:	The observation of the anniversary of the death of a family member, according to the Jewish calendar
Yiddish:	An every-day language – blended from German, Russian, Hebrew, and other languages – used by Ashkenazi Jews instead of Hebrew (which was reserved for prayer)
Yizkor:	(Trans.: “remembrance”); a community service to remember the dead, performed 4 times annually (Yom Kippur, Sukkot, Pesah, Shavu’ot)
Yom Tov:	(Trans.: “good day”); the designation for a holy day – a holiday designated in Torah – during which Shabbat-like restrictions are imposed