

JUDAISM THROUGH FOOD

RELST 181
(Spring 2020)

Term List #1

TERM	GENERAL DEFINITION
Bimah:	Raised platform in a synagogue from which the Torah is read
Challah:	A braided egg bread common among Jews and used on Shabbat as a symbol of the sustenance provided by God
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.
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
Halakhah:	(Trans: "the going," as in a path or road); system of mitzvot ("commandments") and the rules / traditions surrounding how to obey them
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
Kashrut / Kosher:	System of dietary restrictions commanded by God, described in the Jewish sacred texts and elaborated over centuries by rabbis
Kippah / Yarmulke:	Skullcap worn by Jews as a sign of humility before God
Mitzvah:	(Trans: "commandment"); one of 613 commanded in the Torah (plural: mitzvot)
Rabbi:	(Trans: "my teacher"); religious teacher / judge – in the modern world: the head of a congregation
Shema:	(Trans: "Listen!"); central prayer in Judaism, proclaiming the one-ness of God
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)
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)