Introduction & Jewish Ideas and Practices through the Ages

- Introduction to Judaism - What is Judaism\What is a Jew\Who are the Jewish People\Jewish Languages\Jewish Calendar
- Evolving Judaism -- Proto\Priestly\Rabbinic\Mystical\Chasidic\Messianic -- 2000BCE - 1800
- Modern Judaism -- Reform\Orthodox\Conservative\Reconstruction\Zionism\Jewish Renewal
- Secular Humanistic Judaism

Meeting 1 to discuss four Judaism lessons

Rhythms of Jewish Life--Evolution of Festivals & Life Cycle Events

- Rosh Chodesh\Rosh Hashana\Yom Kippur\Sukkot
- Shabbat\Chanuka\Tu Bishvat\Purim
- Pesach\Yom Hashoah\Yom Haatzmaut\Shavuot

Meeting 2 to discuss three festival lessons

- Life Cycles\Birth\Death\Mourning
- Education\Bar/Bat Mitzvah
- Courtship\Marriage\Intermarriage

Meeting 3 to discuss three life cycle lessons

History of the Jewish People

- Nomadic to Talmudic Period -- 2000BCE - 500
- Golden Age of Spain\Crusades\Inquisition\Ghettoization\Shtetl -- 500 - 1800
- Haskalah\Jewish Emancipation\Anti-Semitism\Zionism -- 19th century
- North America\Palestine\Holocaust\Israel -- 20th century
- Contemporary Jewish Issues

Meeting 4 to discuss five history lessons

Jewish Literature and the Arts through the Ages

- Ancient Writings -- T’nakh\Apocrypha\Pseudepigrapha\Dead Sea Scrolls
- Rabbinic Writings -- Talmud\Commentaries\Responsa\Shulchan Arukh\Siddur
- Secular and Enlightenment Jewish Writings
- Contemporary Secular and Religious Writings -- North America\Israel

Meeting 5 to discuss four culture lessons

- Jewish Culture -- music\art\drama\film\dance\prayer\food...  

Meeting 6 to discuss final culture lesson (can be joined with #5)

Required Texts and Reading:
1. *Introduction to Judaism: An Evolving Civilization* by Rabbi Eva Goldfinger (Notes for 20 Lesson Conversion Course) (electronic version included in cost of course)
2. *Basic Ideas of Secular Humanistic Judaism* $27.00 payable upon registration (or can be sent electronically at no cost) (lesson 4)
3. *Judaism in a Secular Age* (order from Oraynu) (lessons 4, 18 & 19)
4. *The Jewish Festivals* by Hayyim Schauss, Union of American Hebrew Congregations 1938 (Jewish Bookstore or Amazon.ca or purchase from Rabbi Goldfinger) (lessons 5-7)
5. *The Lifetime of a Jew* by Hayyim Schauss, Union of American Hebrew Congregations 1950 (AbeBooks.com or purchase from Rabbi Goldfinger) (lessons 8-10)
8. *Tanakh, The Holy Scriptures* The New JPS Publication (Jewish Bookstore or Amazon.ca) (lesson 16)

Humanistic Judaism Movement Websites:
www.oraynu.org
www.shj.org
www.iishj.org

Educational Websites:
www.jewishencyclopedia.com
www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org
www.myjewishlearning.com
http://en.wikipedia.org

For information on the Jewish Movements access their websites
For web searching, I recommend that you use www.goodsearch.com as your search engine. When you sign up under “Who do you Goodsearch for?” insert Society for Humanistic Judaism – SHJ (Farmington Hills, MI). Once you are established as a supporter, every time you use goodsearch, they will make a donation of $0.05 to the SHJ. It adds up and your help is always appreciated.

Further Readings and References:
• Biale, David. *Cultures of the Jews.*
• Cohn-Sherbok, Dan. *Atlas of Jewish History.*
• Eban, Abba. *Heritage: Civilization and the Jews.* (p140-148)
• Encyclopaedia Judaica
• Gaster, Theodor. *Festivals of the Jewish Year*
• **Gilbert, Martin. *Atlas of Jewish History.*
A wonderful book of maps showing lots of history. (bookstores or Amazon.ca) (lessons 11-14)
• **Holtz, Barry W, ed. *Back to the Sources: Reading the Classic Jewish Texts* (bookstores or Amazon.ca) (lessons 16-17)
• **Society for Humanistic Judaism. *Guide to Humanistic Judaism*, Volume XXI, Number III-IV (order from Oraynu or www.SHJ.org) (lesson 4)
• Strassfeld, Michael. *The Jewish Holidays: A Guide & Commentary.* This is a book giving a modern religious perspective on the festival

Oraynu Bookstore - a selection of items with Humanistic Jewish themes
• *Judaism in a Secular Age, An Anthology of Secular Humanistic Jewish Thought*, edited by Renee Kogel and Zev Katz, softcover $35
• *Judaism Beyond God* by Rabbi Sherwin Wine, hardcover $33
• *Staying Sane in a Crazy World* by Rabbi Sherwin Wine, softcover $23
• *Celebrating Jewish Holidays: An Intro for Secular Jewish Families*, published by CSJO, $30
• *Basic Ideas of Secular Humanistic Judaism*, written and compiled by Eva Goldfinger $27
• *The Early Modern Roots of Secular Humanistic Judaism*, written and compiled by Karen Levy $27
• *A Provocative People: A Secular History of the Jews*, by Rabbi Sherwin Wine softcover $35.00
• *Let Justice Well Up Like Water* by Bennett Muraskin $30
• *Holiday Booklets*, published by Society for Humanistic Judaism $10 *High Holidays, Sukkot, Hanukah, Tu B'Shevat, Purim, Passover, Shavuot, Shabbat*
• *Roots and Branches: A Humanist Haggadah for Passover* by Sandi Horwitz, Barry N. Olshen and Lisa Wright $10.00
• *Oraynu Sings*, a CD of 18 songs by the Oraynu Congregation Choir $20 (3 or more copies: $18 each)