**Doing Your Own Theology: Searching for G!d Through *Sacred Fragments***

On Zoom: [**https://tinyurl.com/mryfd93b**](https://tinyurl.com/mryfd93b)**. If needed, Meeting ID: 844 4077 4349, Passcode: 170087**

Rav Aubrey L. Glazer, Ph.D

Mondays 12-1PM EST (zoom)

***Question:*** Must a Jew believe anything? If there is no credo or dogma to Judaism, then what must a Jew believe, if anything? Are there any foundational questions that a Jew must be familiar with and then grapple with to make life meaningful and refine one’s own personal convictions?

***Competencies***

Students who complete this course should be able to:

* Summarize key ideas of Jewish theology.
* Identify & explain approaches to foundational concepts by these theologians.
* Correctly use key philosophical terms for discussing foundational concepts.
* Articulate objections to a theological argument.
* Explain how theologians respond to contemporary issues.
* Articulate one’s own understanding of theological foundational concepts.

***Course requirements***

1. Read all assigned materials in advance of class.
2. Reflect and journal on all key questions of theology to formulae their own theology.

**DESCRIPTION:** There arefoundational questions that a Jew (and the Jewish curious) must be familiar with and then grapple with to make life meaningful and refine one’s own personal convictions, In this course our quest for meaning will follow the path of *Sacred Fragments* in (re)discovering how Jewish living enables and processes the struggle to for meaning-making while living in our secular world. Rabbi Gillman’s roadmap in *Sacred Fragments* offers a unique approach to building a personal theology—an articulation of a personal relationship with the divine. Through our readings of *Sacred Fragments* we will encounter ideas and exercises to renew the Jewish spirit in a search for answers to the most difficult theological questions of our time, including the existence of God, the purpose of ritual, and the ability to believe in Judaism after the horrors of the *Shoah*. Each session will an interactive presentation of a range of authentic Jewish perspectives, retaining the *Sacred Fragments* of traditional belief and rethinking them within the framework of the modern world. This course will serve as a stimulation of your own core values and personal convictions, that will prove to be a rewarding step to exploring and restoring Jewish theology at a time when belief is continually challenged and yet so very needed. Let’s do our own theology by searching for G!d through *Sacred Fragments.*

**Required Books:**

[SR] Neil Gillman, *Sacred fragments: Recovering theology for the modern Jew*. Jewish Publication Society, 1990.

**SCHEDULE OF READING & TOPICS:**

**SYLLABUS:**

1. Introduction to Jewish Theology and Philosophy: Leo Strauss, "The Mutual Influence of Theology and Philosophy" (1954)
2. Neil Gillman, Revelation: What Really Happened? (1-38)
3. Neil Gillman, Religious Authority: Who Commands? (39-62)
4. Neil Gillman, Knowing God: How and What? (1-38)
5. Neil Gillman, Talking About God: Symbolic Language (1-38)
6. Neil Gillman, Sensing God’s Presence: Empiricism (1-38)
7. Neil Gillman, Proving God’s Presence: Rationalism (1-38)
8. Neil Gillman, Encountering God: Existentialism (1-38)
9. Neil Gillman, Suffering: Why Does God Allow it? (1-38)
10. Neil Gillman, Ritual: Why Do We Need it? (1-38)
11. Neil Gillman, The End of Days: What Will Be? (1-38)
12. Shaul Magid, “Renewal: Between Paradigm Shift and Neo-Hasidism" *Tikkun*
13. Neil Gillman, Doing Your Own Theology (275-280)