**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: Neil Gillman, "I Believe," (3-6)  "On Knowing God," (7-15) & "The Philosopher in Search of a Role," (89-104) in *God, Torah & Israel in Modern Judaism*.
2. Revelation: What Really Happened? ([SF] 1-38)
3. Religious Authority: Who Commands? ([SF] 39-62)
4. Knowing God: How and What? ([SF] 63-78)
5. Talking About God: Symbolic Language ([SF] 79-108)
6. Sensing God’s Presence: Empiricism ([SF] 109-138)
7. Proving God’s Presence: Rationalism ([SF] 139-162)
8. Encountering God: Existentialism ([SF] 163-186);
9. Suffering: Why Does God Allow it? ([SF] 187-214);
10. Ritual: Why Do We Need it? ([SF] 215-246);
11. The End of Days: What Will Be? ([SF] 247-274);
12. Doing Your Own Theology ([SF], 275-280)