

What is Modern Orthodoxy Anyway? A Historic, Legal, and Theological Exploration

Session I: Engaging Reform – Initial American Confrontations with Modernity

Reading:

- *Modern Orthodox Judaism: A Documentary History*, pages 3-21.

Session II: Halakha in Various Denominations and Issues of Gender in Modern Orthodoxy

Readings:

- *Modern Orthodox Judaism: A Documentary History*, pages 27-38, 41-43.
- *Halakhah: The Rabbinic Idea of Law*, chapters 1, 3, and 4.

Session III: America: Golden Medine or Treif Medine?

Reading:

- *Modern Orthodox Judaism: A Documentary History*, pages 77-109.

Session IV: What is Modern Orthodoxy? The Conservative Challenge

Readings:

- *Modern Orthodox Judaism: A Documentary History*, pages 140-166.
- *Halakhah: The Rabbinic Idea of Law*, Chapter 9.
- *A Living Covenant: The Innovative Spirit in Traditional Judaism*, Chapter 8.

Session V: Modern Orthodoxy as a Movement

Reading:

- *Modern Orthodox Judaism: A Documentary History*, pages 188-194.

Session VI: Modern Orthodox Institutionalism: Life Beyond the Study Hall

Reading(s):

- *Modern Orthodox Judaism: A Documentary History*, pages 196-227.

Meeting VII: The Modern Orthodox Synagogue: Prayer as a Sanctuary and a Battlefield

Readings:

- *Modern Orthodox Judaism: A Documentary History*, pages 229-248.
- *A Living Covenant: The Innovative Spirit in Traditional Judaism*, Chapter 7 (Chapter 6 optional).

Session VIII: Woman and Orthodox Leadership and Modern Orthodox Belief

Readings:

- *Modern Orthodox Judaism: A Documentary History*, pages 250-277, 324-346.
- *A Living Covenant: The Innovative Spirit in Traditional Judaism*, pages 21-42 and Chapter 1.
- *Halakhah: The Rabbinic Idea of Law*, Chapter 5.

Session IX: Are We Truly Modern Orthodox?: Sliding to the Left and Sliding to the Right? and a Modern Diagnosis

Readings:

- *Modern Orthodox Judaism: A Documentary History*, pages 348-407.
- *A Living Covenant: The Innovative Spirit in Traditional Judaism*, Chapters 10 and 12.
- *Halakhah: The Rabbinic Idea of Law*, Chapters 13-14.