

NVHC lifelong learning class, 2020-21

“Examining Jewish History via Biography”

Fall-Winter 2020

October 18—Section I, Introduction, Moses

October 25—Section I, King David

November 8—Section I, Hillel; context of rabbis and Pirkei Avot

November 15—Section I, Rabbi Akiva and end of Jewish sovereignty

December 6—Section II, Maimonides and Jewish philosophy in Middle Ages

December 13—Section II, Maimonides and Rashi and Biblical commentators

NO CLASS ON THESE DATES: November 1, 22, and 29, December 20 and 27, January 3, February 14, March 28, April 4 and May 9

Winter-Spring 2021

January 10—Section II, Rashi and Gracia Mendes, patrons and history of Marranos

January 17—Section II, Spinoza, Jewish philosophy in a new age

January 24—Section II, Gluckel of Hameln, Jewish women’s lives in 17th-18th centuries

January 31—Section II, The Vilna Gaon

February 7—Section II, Moses Mendelssohn

February 21—Section IIIA, Eliezer Ben Yehuda and rebirth of Modern Hebrew

February 28— Section IIIA, David Ben-Gurion; context on Theodor Herzl and Chaim Weizmann

March 7— Section IIIA, David Ben-Gurion; context on religious Zionism and Rav Kook

March 14— Section IIIA, Menachem Begin and Ze’ev (Vladimir) Jabotinsky, Revisionist vs. Labor Zionism

March 21— Section IIIA, Golda Meir, example of her generation with Eshkol, etc.

April 4— Section IIIA, Yitzhak Rabin as political/military leader; context on Moshe Dayan

April 11— Section IIIA, Yitzhak Rabin and rivalry/bond with Shimon Peres, legacy

April 18— Section IIIB, Albert Einstein as scientist, views of Jewish people and humanism

April 25—Section IIIB, Leo Baeck and Martin Buber and legacy of German Jewry

May 2—Section IIIB/C, Primo Levi and Elie Wiesel; on Emanuel Ringleblum, Oneg Shabbat group

May 16—Section IIIC, Emma Lazarus and Salo Baron as examples of writers, scholars

May 23—Section IIIC, Supreme Court Justices Brandeis and Bader Ginsburg, wrap up of class