

Syllabus: Kabbalah (Kol Rina)

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Beginning October 30, 2013

What is Kabbalah? Is it theology, cosmology, psychology or poetry? An exploration of the many facets of this ancient Jewish mystical tradition will open doors for everyone and answer these questions and many more. Learn about the Jewish mystical tradition through a combination of historical-textual and experiential approaches.

Readings:

- Daniel Matt, *The Essential Kabbalah*
- Basic reader: [KR Kabbalah Reader.pdf](#) (chronology chart, with summary extracts from Ezekiel, Hagigah, Hekhalot and Sefer Yetzirah, plus chart of the sefirot)
- Expanded Readings
 - Ezekiel Chapter 1 and commentaries
 - Talmud *Hagigah* extracts
 - Hekhalot literature
 - Sefer Yetzirah
 - Sefer Ha-Bahir
 - Hebrew originals to texts in Matt's *Essential Kabbalah*
 - Pages from Zohar
 - Cordovero: *Or Ne'erav, Tomer Devorah* (Hebrew)
 - Other
- Recommended: Gershom Scholem *Major Trends in Jewish Mysticism*

NOTE: The Kabbalah Reader will be handed out in class and is also available on the website. A link to the Expanded Readings will be provided on request—email reblen@aol.com.

Session 1: Chronological overview, Ezekiel, Hagigah, Hekhalot

Session 2: Sefer Yetzirah, excerpts from Matt on Ein Sof and Sefirot

Session 3: Excerpts from Matt — Zohar

Session 4: Experiential synthesis of Kabbalah