



Karaite Jewish University

Karaite Jewish University Application Packet for

INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM (For Jews of Patrilineal Descent)

This packet contains:

- Introduction to Judaism Course Information Sheet
- Introduction to Judaism Application Checklist
- Family Tree Form
- Introduction to Judaism Application



Introduction to Judaism (for Jews of Patrilineal Descent) Course Information 2009

Karaite Jewish University (KJU) was founded in 2005 in order to provide religious education about Karaite Judaism. Our Mission is to promote Tanakh and the views of the Karaite Sages to the Jewish World, to promote Karaite Jewish studies, music, historical research and scholarship as well as to teach Karaite Judaism to both Jew and Gentile who seek to gain the knowledge and wisdom of the most authentic Jewish experience available.

KJU is an independent organization that collaborates with a broad spectrum of Karaite Jewish institutions including Karaite Jews of America, the World Karaite Movement, and the Karaite Jewish Mo'eseh Hakhamim/Council of Sages based in Ramla, Israel. The Council of Sages, an institution recognized by the State of Israel as representing Karaite Jews, has authorized KJU to teach an Introduction to Judaism course.

In December 2006, the Council of Sages met with representatives of the Karaite Jewish University and welcomed its activities in teaching students interested in learning to keep the commandments of the Holy One, blessed be He. The chairman of the Council of Sages wrote the following about our activities:

'Recently, an organization called the "Karaite Jewish University" was formed. Made up of a number of members who are zealous for the word of the Lord; the organization has made its goal the teaching of the Karaite halakha, to keep, observe, and perform in practice, the keeping of the commandments. The activities of the Karaite Jewish University were presented to the Council of Sages, and meetings and discussions were held concerning their activities. We see the Karaite Jewish University as an entity that has the ability to teach the Karaite halakha to anyone interested.'

In July 2007, fourteen non-Jewish graduates of the KJU Introduction to Judaism course converted through Karaite Judaism at the Karaite Jewish synagogue (B'nai Israel) in Daly City, California. The conversions were carried out under the auspices of the Karaite Jews of America and with the approval of the Council of Sages.

KJU's Introduction to Judaism course is a distance-learning program that extends beyond the duration of an academic year. The course requires a good deal of reading and studying. Most lessons are presented in PDF format and come with a quiz to test the student's comprehension. Some lessons are recorded as audio lectures. There are regular audio sessions held on Paltalk (or equivalent technology) and an e-mail discussion group, both of which are required for successful completion of the course. Students need to have access to a computer with broadband Internet in order to participate in the course. Sometime during the course, every student is required to meet in person with a KJU staff member. Our next Introduction to Judaism class is expected to commence in October 2009. The Introduction to Judaism course is designed to familiarize Jews of all denominations with Karaite Judaism and to facilitate those non-Jews who desire to convert to the religion of Israel out of love for the God of Israel, His holy Tora, and His people.

Course Fees and related expenses:

- **Application Fee:** A non-refundable application fee of \$10.00 USD (United States Dollars) must be paid by PayPal, money order, or credit card. Cash or cash-equivalents are not accepted.
- **Tuition Fees:**
Jewish Students: The non-refundable course fee for Jewish students is \$500.00 (USD) per individual and \$600.00 (USD) for husband and wife (couple). Jews do not need to convert in order to become Karaite Jews and therefore the expense and requirements of the course are less than for non-Jews. Financial aid in the form of a payment schedule may be made available in special cases. If necessary, this schedule can be arranged by contacting the Treasurer at info@kjuonline.com after your application has been reviewed and approved.
- **Text Books**
Students will also be required to purchase textbooks not exceeding the cost \$100.00 (USD).

Course Requirements:

- You must have Internet access, a microphone & speakers (or headset), telephone access, a civic address and a Gmail address.
- You must download Adobe Acrobat PDF reader from www.adobe.com
- The language of the course is English. Therefore all students must have a college-level command of the language in order to successfully participate in the course.
- You must be in regular class attendance until the conclusion of the course.
- You are required to check your Gmail email address every day, excepting Shabbath, and to promptly reply to emails by the KJU staff. No email exchanges are to be carried out on Shabbath.

- You are required to complete reading assignments, quizzes and tests for each class returned within the time constraints outlined in the Student Information Pack to be given to students upon approval of their Application.
- You will be required to write a final essay on an approved topic of your choice. The academic staff, to assure your mastery of the subject matter, will review your essay.

The success of this class depends upon honest communication, and an exploration of Judaism shared by students and teachers.

Pre-Requisites for Affiliation with Karaite Judaism:

- A Jew married to a fellow Jew who is seeking affiliation with Karaite Judaism must affiliate together with his/ her spouse.
- A non-Jew married to a Jew who is seeking affiliation with Karaite Judaism must take the Introduction to Judaism course for Potential Converts and convert.
- Applicants must provide the KJU with a copy of their parent's and their paternal grandparent's Kethubah, if possible.

Requirements for Affiliation:

- Accept the basic beliefs and principles of Karaite Judaism.
- Demonstrate an integration of Karaite Jewish knowledge and practice (including, but not limited to, observance of Shabbath and Kashruth)
- Meet in person with a representative of KJU and KJA

KJU Introduction to Judaism Course 2009 Application Check List

Preliminary Check List

Things to do before you consider applying:

- ❑ Learn more about Karaite Judaism. A good place to start is www.karaite-korner.org
- ❑ Read through the Karaite Jewish University website to understand better what we are all about.
- ❑ If you are not Jewish through your father's side or cannot supply the KJU with a copy of your parent's Kethubah, please download the Introduction to Judaism Application For Potential Converts.
- ❑ Married couples: husband and wife must download their own, separate application.

Application Consideration Check List

Important (but not exhaustive) list of financial and religious concerns to consider before you apply:

- ❑ Carefully read the *entire* application more than once to understand what is required of you.
- ❑ Understand that you need reliable Internet access to join the course. You will need to have the ability to download lessons, take exams online, and interact with others during live online classes.
- ❑ Understand that you must check your Gmail email account daily and respond to all staff emails in a timely manner, ie promptly and without delay.
- ❑ Understand that you are expected to read and understand all assignments.
- ❑ You are expected to complete all quizzes, tests and assignments on time.
- ❑ Understand that the KJU does not conduct any business transactions on the Shabbath or the Holy Days. Please be certain to take this fact into account for all your dealings with the University. You must also take into consideration the various time zones when conducting any transactions with the University.

- ❑ Understand that tuition payment must commence no later than 7 days prior to the Orientation Session.
- ❑ Understand that if you have a disability that affects your capability to access the course and you require specialized software and/or equipment, you will be responsible for purchasing that software and/or equipment.
- ❑ Understand that you will be required to purchase your own textbooks that should cost no more than \$100.00 (USD).
- ❑ Understand our **Copyright Agreement**: Karaite Jewish University will be providing you with a number of lectures, reading material, videos, and other course material. These are only for your personal use and may not be redistributed, posted on the Internet or otherwise used by any student commercially.
- ❑ Understand that all students will be required to meet with KJU and KJA representatives in-person. All students have the choice to meet at a graduating class' conversion ceremony or during the summer break of the upcoming course. This may require traveling significant distances. Location of meetings will depend upon where you live.
- ❑ Understand that a Jew married to a fellow Jew seeking affiliation with Karaite Judaism must affiliate together with his/ her spouse.
- ❑ If you are male, you must be fully circumcised within three months of course commencement.
- ❑ All male children must be fully circumcised within three months of course commencement.
- ❑ Understand that by affiliating with Karaite Judaism, you acknowledge that you are obliged to teach your children the ways of Karaite Judaism.
- ❑ Understand that the non-refundable tuition fee for Jewish participants is \$500.00 (USD) per individual and \$600.00 (USD) for a couple (husband and wife).
- ❑ Understand that the KJU reserves the right to conduct background checks of its potential students, and that by signing the Candidate Affirmation the student grants the KJU permission to carry out a full background check by the use of any agencies that they deem necessary.

Application Checklist

- ❑ After having read the *Application* and having taken into consideration the financial and religious obligations required, fill out the application **printing legibly in black ink** (this makes the application easier to read having been scanned)
- ❑ Remember there are **two** places to sign on the application.
- ❑ Complete the *Family Tree* form **printing legibly in black ink** (using separate form for a spouse, if applicable).
- ❑ Please scan any **Application/s, Family Tree/s, Kethubah/s, marriage certificates, divorce decrees and color copies of government photo ID/s** (such as a driver's license or passport for identity verification) **for each person applying**. Remember to use separate applications and identifications for married couples or your applications will be considered incomplete.
- ❑ Please provide a colored passport sized picture for each applicant, these will be used later for your dossiers.
- ❑ Please provide a stamped copy of your marriage certificate or divorce decree if applicable. This should be a stamped version (True' copy) from the county/district of issue.
- ❑ Email your **complete, scanned application/s, Family Tree/s, Kethubah/s, marriage certificates, divorce decrees and scanned color copies of government photo ID/s for each person applying**, to **dean_of_students@kjuonline.com** It is preferable that all items listed above be included in **one** single attachment, if possible.
- ❑ If you cannot send the application/s, family tree/s and scanned ID/s through email, please send them in **one** envelope to:

Karaite Jewish University

P.O. Box 1971
Hedgesville, WV
U.S.A. 25427

- ❑ **By submitting your application, you certify that you have thoroughly read, considered, understood, and agreed to abide by the requirements of the course including all of its financial and religious commitments.**
- ❑ Once the Dean of Students has approved the form for completeness, you will be billed a non-refundable \$10.00 (USD) application fee by the KJU Treasurer. An invoice will be sent to your Gmail address via PayPal. It is requested that you pay the fee through that system. You also have the option to pay by money order or

credit card. Cash or cash-equivalents are not accepted. Send your cheque or money order to the P.O. box address listed above.

- ❑ Once the KJU receives the non-refundable \$10.00 (USD) application fee, your application/s will be submitted to the KJU staff for review and approval.
- ❑ You will be notified via email whether or not you have been accepted into the University.
- ❑ If you are accepted, you will receive further information about obtaining course materials such as books, registering for our Internet forum, and paying tuition.

REMEMBER:

**THE KJU WILL NOT ACCEPT AN APPLICATION WITHOUT ALL
REQUIRED PARTS.**

If you have any questions regarding the application process, please contact the Dean of Students at **dean_of_students@kjuonline.com**

May Yehovah be with you!

Hazzan Yochanan Zaqantov
Dean of Students
Karaites Jewish University
dean_of_students@kjuonline.com



KARAITE JEWISH UNIVERSITY
INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM APPLICATION
October 2009

MARRIED INDIVIDUALS NEED TO FILL OUT SEPARATE APPLICATION FORMS

BEFORE FILLING OUT THIS APPLICATION, PLEASE CAREFULLY READ THE INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM COURSE INFORMATION SHEET AND CHECKLIST, INCLUDING THE CANDIDATE AFFIRMATION AT THE END OF THE APPLICATION, WHICH MUST BE SIGNED. FAILURE TO COMPLETE THE APPLICATION AS INDICATED WILL SERIOUSLY DELAY THE PROCESSING OF YOUR APPLICATION. PLEASE SEND A COPY OF YOUR PARENTS KETHUBBA.

Section A
Personal Details

1. Surname or Family name:

2. First name/s:

2a. Hebrew Name:

3. If married female, indicate maiden name:

4. Date of Birth **D/** **M/** **Y/**

5. Place of Birth:

6. Gender **Male** **Female**

7. Nationality:

8. Native Language (If other than English):

9. Occupation or Profession:

10. Marital Status **Married** **Divorced** **Separated**
 Widowed **Single** **Other:**

11. Living Situation: please indicate whether you are:

- living alone,
- living with roommate/s,
- living with family,
- in a relationship living with that partner,
- in a relationship, but not living with that partner

Use this space, if needed, to further explain your living situation.

12. If male, are you circumcised?

13. Address:

14. Mailing address (if different from the above):

15. Contact phone number

Home:

Work:

Mobile:

16. Email addresses:

17. PARTNER'S DETAILS

Surname or Family name:

First name/s:

Hebrew Name:

If married female, indicate maiden name:

Date of Birth

D/

M/

Y/

Gender

Male

Female

Nationality:

Native Language (if other than English):

Occupation or Profession:

If male, are you circumcised?

18. PLEASE LIST APPLICANT'S AND/OR PARTNER'S CHILDREN, IF ANY

Birth Name/Hebrew Name:

Date of Birth
D/M/Y

Gender

If male,
circumcised?

With whom does
the child live?

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

19. Do you have any specific learning, physical, or communication disability that would make accessing the course difficult?

Section B Religious Background

1. What is your father's, Grandfather's, Great grandfather's Hebrew names. If unavailable, what were their birth names? If they are no longer alive, please provide their dates of death and cemetery name/s.

2. What branch of Judaism have you identified yourself with in the past?

3. What religious group/s have you identified yourself with in the past?

4. Have you ever considered converting to other religious group/s?

5. Do you have your own website that reflects your religious beliefs?

6. Do you believe that YHWH is the one and only God?

7. Do you believe in any prophet outside of the TaNaKh?

8. Do you believe in the TaNaKh in its entirety as the sole religious authority to the exclusion of all other writings? Clarification: Tanakh, also called "Miqra" or "Kara" refers to what Christian erroneously call the "Old Testament", in Hebrew: Genesis through Chronicles (in the English order: from Genesis through Malachi)

9. Do you believe Jesus/Yesu/Yesua/Yahshua etc. is a god/messiah/prophet/righteous teacher, other? If so, please explain.

10. Do you have aspirations of living in Israel?

11. Do you work with any non-kosher foods?

12. From what you know about Karaite theology, are there any issues that you disagree with?

Section C Educational Background

PLEASE TELL US ABOUT YOUR GENERAL EDUCATION

Name of high school:	Year completed:	Did you graduate? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
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Name of college:	Year completed:	Did you graduate? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
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Please tell us about your formal Jewish education, if any:

Please tell us anything else that you feel is important to disclose:

I understand that there is a non-refundable processing fee of \$10.00 USD application that will be sent to me via a PayPal invoice. The Introduction to Judaism course serves four different categories of students, including but not limited to, (i) gentiles who are seeking to currently convert to Judaism, (ii) Jews who are seeking to learn more about their faith (iii) gentiles who are unable to currently convert because of extraneous circumstances, and (iv) those seeking knowledge. KJU makes no representation that any particular candidate will be accepted by the admissions committee.

Applicant's Signature:

Date:

Candidate Affirmation Read Carefully & Sign

1. Karaite Jewish University does not accept or receive email, nor conduct commercial transactions on the Shabbath.
2. I am aware that giving false information is a violation of the Tora and will invalidate my registration in the course. I hereby affirm that all the details on this form are correct.
3. I accept the obligation to fulfil all the University's regulations extant today and those that will be enacted during my studies.
4. I hereby affirm that I will be required to purchase textbooks at my own expense.
5. I hereby affirm that I understand that tuition for the Introduction to Judaism course is \$500 USD for an individual and \$600 USD for a couple. Financial aid, in the form of a payment schedule, may be granted in some cases. Such arrangements will be determined through the Treasurer (info@kjuonline.com), after payment of Application fee or fees (in the case of a couple) and after review and approval of application by KJU staff. If I cannot afford the tuition, it is my responsibility to inform the Treasurer before the commencement of the course.
6. **Copyright Agreement:** Karaite Jewish University will be providing me with a number of lectures, reading material, videos, and other course material. These are only for my personal use and may not be redistributed, posted on the Internet or otherwise used by any student commercially.
7. I understand that I must fill out and complete the separate "Family Tree" form, which includes information about parents and grandparents. As with all other information in my application, I will be certifying that my family tree is accurate and correct to the best of my knowledge.
8. I understand that I must include a copy of my copy of my parent's and paternal grandparent's Kethubah, if possible.
9. I understand that if I require special software or equipment to access the course due to the nature of my disability, that I will be responsible for purchasing and/or obtaining that software and equipment. (Please note: The KJU is willing to facilitate to the needs of your disability to the best of our abilities, i.e. being given more time to complete assignments and exams in order to complete the course).
10. I understand that if my living situation changes, I will inform the university as soon as possible.
11. By submitting my application, I certify that I have thoroughly read, considered, understood, and agreed to abide by the requirements of the course including all of its financial and religious commitments.
12. I agree that the Karaite Jewish University reserves the right to conduct background checks of its potential students. I therefore grant absolute permission to the KJU to carry out a full background check upon myself, by the use of any agencies that they deem necessary.

X _____
Applicant's Signature

My Family Tree

