



ḲARAITE JEWISH UNIVERSITY

**Ḳaraite Jewish University Application Packet
For Course in**

ḲARAITE JEWISH STUDIES

This packet contains:

- Course Information Sheet
- Application Checklist
- Application



KARAITE JEWISH STUDIES

Course Information Spring 2018

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, scholarship, and 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 Karaite Jews of Europe, Universal Karaite Judaism. The Karaite Jewish Mo'eseh Hakhamim/Council of Sages based in Ramla, Israel, an institution recognized by the State of Israel as representing Karaite Jews, has authorized KJU to teach courses in Karaite Jewish Studies.

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 "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 as 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 converted to Judaism at the Karaite Jewish synagogue (Benai 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 course in "Karaite Jewish Studies" is a distance-learning program that extends for the duration of an academic year. The course requires a good deal of reading and studying. Most lessons are presented in PDF format while some maybe recorded as audio lectures. There are also regular audio sessions held via a web conferencing portal as well as a Facebook group for discussions, both of which are required for successful completion of the course. Quizzes and tests are administered in order to assess the student's comprehension. Students need to have access to a computer

with broadband Internet in order to participate in the course. Our next course in Karaite Jewish Studies is expected to commence in the spring of 2018. The 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.

Please note that the duration of the course in Karaite Jewish Studies is for approximately 40 academic study weeks. There are a limited number of places therefore acceptance onto the course is operated on a first come first served basis.

Course Fees and Related Expenses:

- **Application Fee:** A non-refundable application fee of \$25.00 USD (United States Dollars) must be paid by PayPal, money order, bank transfer, or credit card. Cash or cash-equivalents are not accepted.
- **Tuition Fees:**
The non-refundable course fee is \$2,000.00 (USD). Financial aid, in the form of a payment schedule, may be granted in some cases. If necessary, this schedule can be arranged by contacting the Treasurer at zaqantov@gmail.com after your application has been reviewed and approved.
- **Text Books:**
Students may 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 email address.
- Download Adobe Acrobat PDF reader www.adobe.com
- The language of the course is English. All students must have a college-level command of the language in order to successfully participate in the course.
- You must be in regular attendance of online classes and participate in the KJU Forum until the conclusion of the course.
- You are required to check your Gmail email address every day, excepting the Shabbath, and to promptly reply to emails by the KJU staff. No email exchanges are to be carried out on the Shabbath and Jewish Holy Days.
- Reading assignments, quizzes and tests must be completed within the time constraints outlined in the Student Handbook 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 course depends upon honest communication and an exploration of Judaism shared by students and teachers.

Additional Information:

- Successful completion of the KJU course in Karaite Jewish Studies is a prerequisite for all Gentiles who desire to convert to Karaite Judaism, and for all Jews of patrilineal descent who wish to affiliate to Karaite Judaism.

- Successful completion of the course does not automatically guarantee conversion or affiliation.
- Conversion and affiliation to Karaite Judaism can only be conducted by an official Karaite community: in the USA, Karaite Jews of America; in Europe, Karaite Jews of Europe; and in Israel, Universal Karaite Judaism. Please note each community might have their own specifications peculiar to them.
- If students may choose a Hebrew name if they don't already have one. Upon successful completion of the course if the student possesses a Hebrew name it will appear on their qualification certificate along with their legal name.

KJU Course in Karaite Jewish Studies 2018 Application Check List

Preliminary Check List

Things to do before you consider applying:

- Read up on Karaite Judaism. A good place to start is <https://thekaraitepress.com> or purchase a copy of *Karaite Anthology* by Leon Nemoy
- Married couples: husband and wife must download their own **separate** applications.

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, i.e. 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 the non-refundable tuition fee is \$2,000.00 (USD).
- ❑ Understand that successful completion does not guarantee, suggest, or imply that you will be permitted to convert or affiliate via one of the official Karaite communities.

Application Checklist

- ❑ After having read the *Application* and having taken into consideration the financial and other obligations required, fill out the application, **printing legibly in black ink only** (this makes the application easier to read having been scanned).
- ❑ Remember there are **two** places to sign on the application.
- ❑ Please scan any **application/s**, and **colour copies of government photo ID/s for each person applying** (such as a driver's license or passport for identity verification). Remember to use separate applications and identifications for married couples or your application will be considered incomplete.
- ❑ Please provide a coloured passport sized picture for each applicant.
- ❑ Email your **complete, scanned application/s**, and **scanned color copies of government photo ID/s for each person applying**; to **zaqantov@gmail.com** It is preferable that you include all of these in **one** single attachment, if possible.
- ❑ If you cannot send the application/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 \$25.00 (USD) Application Fee per application by the KJU Treasurer. The bill will be sent to your email address using PayPal. It is preferred that you pay the fee through that system. You also have the option to pay by money order or credit card. Please be aware that these other methods cause delays. Cash or cash-equivalents are not accepted. Should you choose sending a cheque or money order you may send it to the P.O. box address listed above.
- ❑ Once the KJU receives the non-refundable \$25.00 (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 about the application process, please contact the Dean of Students at **zaqantov@gmail.com**

May YHWH be with you!

Hazzan Yochanan Zaqantov
Dean of Students
Karaites Jewish University
zaqantov@gmail.com

11. Preferred Email addresses:				
12. Nationality:				
13. Marital Status	<input type="checkbox"/> Married	<input type="checkbox"/> Divorced	<input type="checkbox"/> Separated	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Widowed	<input type="checkbox"/> Single	Other:	
14. Living Situation: please indicate whether you are:				
<input type="checkbox"/> living alone, <input type="checkbox"/> living with roommate/s, <input type="checkbox"/> living with family, <input type="checkbox"/> in a relationship living with that partner, <input type="checkbox"/> in a relationship, but not living with that partner				
Use this space to further explain your living situation, if needed.				
15. Native Language (If other than English):				
16. Occupation or Profession:				
17. If male, are you circumcised?				
18. Do you have any tattoos or religious symbols etched into your skin?				
19. 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	<input type="checkbox"/> Male		<input type="checkbox"/> Female	
Nationality:				
Native Language (If other than English):				
Occupation or Profession:				
If male, is he circumcised?				
Do they have any tattoos or religious symbols etched into their skin?				
20. PLEASE LIST YOUR AND/OR YOUR 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.				

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

Section B Religious Background

GENERAL:

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

2. What religious group/s did your parents/guardians identify with?

3. Have you ever considered converting to any other religious group/s? If yes, please specify.

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

5. Is there anyone in your family's background who referred to themselves as a Karaite?

6. Do you believe that YHWH is the one and only God, Who has no form, companion, partner, or offspring? If not sure, please explain.

7. Do you believe in any form of polytheism, pantheism, dualism, or trinitarianism? If yes, please explain

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 "Mikrā" or "Ḳārā" refers to what Christians erroneously call the "Old Testament", in Hebrew: Genesis through Chronicles (in the English order from Genesis through Malachi) **If not sure, please explain.**

9. Do you believe that any of the books of the Tanakh are not divinely authored and/or inspired? If yes, please specify.

10. Do you believe in the Documentary Hypothesis (source criticism)? Clarification: the Documentary Hypothesis states that the Tōrā is composed of a number of documents written several centuries apart from each other which were then combined by an editor/redactor.

11. Do you believe in the Ḳabbala or any other esoteric teachings?

12. Do you believe in any prophet outside of the Tanakh? If yes, please explain.

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

14. Do you believe that Mohammad was a prophet of any kind?

15. Do you have aspirations of living in Israel?

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

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

18. What attracts you to Karaite Judaism?

SPECIFICALLY FOR JEWS:

19. Do you regard yourself as Jewish by birth?

20. If you regard yourself as Jewish by birth, are you patrilineal (father's father's etc), matrilineal (mother's mother's etc), or both?

21. Are you a convert to Judaism? If so by which branch/denomination

22. What branch/s of Judaism have you identified yourself with in the past?

23. Do you desire to affiliate to Karaite Judaism?

SPECIFICALLY FOR GENTILES:

24. Do you wish to take this course in order to convert to Karaite Judaism?

25. If applicable, why do you desire to convert through Karaite Judaism rather than Rabbanite Judaism?

26. Are you in the process of converting to another branch of Judaism at this time? If yes please specify

27. If you seek conversion do you intend to adhere to the commandants of the Tōrā and lead an observant life?

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 \$25.00 USD per application. The course in Karaite Jewish Studies is primarily designed to appeal to; Karaite Jews who want to learn more about their Karaite Judaism, Jews who desire to affiliate to Karaite Judaism, Gentiles who are seeking conversion to Karaite Judaism, and Jews and Gentiles who seek knowledge. KJU makes no representation that any particular candidate will be accepted by the admissions committee. KJU makes no representation that a Karaite Beth Din will accept its graduates as converts or affiliates to Karaite Judaism.

Applicant's Signature:	Date:
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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 am aware that as a student, I maybe required to purchase textbooks.
5. I hereby affirm that I understand that tuition for the course in Karaite Jewish Studies is \$2,000 USD per individual. Financial aid, in the form of a payment schedule, may be granted in some cases. Such arrangements will be determined through the Treasurer (zaqantov@gmail.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. I am also aware that admission into the course does not guarantee, suggest or imply that I will be permitted to convert or affiliate to Karaite Judaism. Conversion or affiliation is based upon Theological and Religious considerations independent of successful course completion. Conversion or affiliation to Karaite Judaism is the prerogative of the various Karaite communities, for example the Karaite Jews of America and the Karaite Jews of Europe.
7. **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.
8. I understand that if my living situation changes, I will inform the university as soon as 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 its abilities, i.e. being given more time to finish assignments and exams in order to complete the course).
10. 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 and that I have read and understood the course information contained in this packet

X _____
Applicant's Signature