The Senses as Pathways to the Divine (Mi-besari ehezeh eloha) Rabbi Elliot K. Ginsburg. Intermediate to Advanced, Eligible for AOP credit.

Pre-Kallah Reading: the following is a blend of more general reflection on the sensorium and articles drawn specifically from Jewish sources. Most are riveting and accessible; a few, like the Wolfson, are more dense. Use these sources to prime the pump, so to speak...building up your receptors in expectation of our time together. Especially for those of you taking the class for credit, I ask that you take notes on the reading and/or summarize the key learnings. The required reading comes to about 125 pages.

For those of you taking the course lishmah, for its own sake, I encourage you to do these readings...as a way of preparing to entering our learning together.

One question to ponder: What role do the senses play in spiritual experience and in the Joys of Jewishing?

For a link to an super-duper OCR cleaned-up Sourcebook of all the readings, required and recommended, click [here](#). Thanks to Rabbi Dennis Beck-Berman for this!

This should be fun!!! Blessings, Elliot

**SMELL/OLFACITION**

(1) Diane Ackerman, Intro and Smell (from her Natural History of the Senses): pp. 5-44
(Ackerman is a lyrical writer, making for fluid reading)
(2) Elliot Ginsburg, “Fragrance and Love”

**VISION: EMBODIED AND INNER**

(4) Elliot Wolfson, “Theories of the Glory”: Read pp. 125-134 (bottom) and 148-156 (top): the single dense article. Do your best/darndest!!

**HEARING/AUDITION/DEEP LISTENING/UNDERSTANDING**

(5) Norman Lamm, Shema: “To Listen, to listen to”
(5a) Bernie Glassman, On Bearing Witness
(5b) Brief text: The Maidens of Montpelier

**EATING AND BREATHING**

(6) Robert Nozick, “The Holiness of the Everyday”

**TOUCH**

(7) Diane Ackerman, Excerpt from “Touch” (on Touch and Kissing)
(7a) New and Recommended: Adam Gopnik, Feel Me (from The New Yorker) [online]

**KINESTHETICS/MOVING THROUGH SPACE**

(8) Michael Fishbane, “The Mystery of Dance According to Nahman of Bratslav”

**SYNESTHESSIA**

(9) Diane Ackerman, “Synesthesia”
The Senses as Pathways to the Divine (מברשים א畢業 אלהים, Mi-besari ehezeh eloha) Rabbi Elliot K. Ginsburg. Intermediate to Advanced, Eligible for AOP credit.

One more, purely recommended: ON MUTING THE EMBODIED SENSORIUM

(10) Recommended: Gideon Aran, “Denial does not make the Hareidi Body Go Away”