

Complete Syllabus

- Course Number & Title: CANTR 528W1 - How to Chant Torah
- Semester & Dates: Fall 2009 - Sept. 20, 2010 to Jan. 14, 2011
- Instructor Name: Cantor Neil Schwartz
E-mail: cantorneils7@aol.com
Phone: (306) 653-2606 (mornings)
- Required Texts: Chanting the Hebrew Bible - Student Edition
Joshua R. Jacobson
2005, Jewish Publication Society
ISBN 0-8276-0816-0 (paperback)
- JPS Hebrew-English TaNaKh
The New JPS Translation
2000, Jewish Publication Society
ISBN 0-8276-0697-4 (vinyl cover)
- Recommended Texts: Chanting the Hebrew Bible
Joshua R. Jacobson
2002, Jewish Publication Society
ISBN 0-827-0693-1 (hardback)
- Tikkun Kor'im "Simanim"
2007, Feldheim Publishers
large size is recommended
- Recommended Software: Trope Trainer™ (Windows or Macintosh)
made by Kinnor Software - www.Kinnor.com
(large student discount available)
- Recommended Hardware: a headset with an attached microphone
will help ensure clarity of communication
- Course Prerequisites: 1. Ability to read Hebrew fluently
2. Ability to translate with a dictionary
3. A sense of musical pitch

Course Description:	This course provides an introduction to the chanting of consonantal text from the Torah scroll. Topics will include: development of the Tiberian notation, basic Hebrew grammar needed for accurate pronunciation and parsing of phrases, standard Ashkenazic motifs for chanting, pedagogy issues, and Gabbai concerns.
Course Outcomes:	At the end of this course, students should be able to chant from the Torah scroll with accuracy and fluency. Students should be able to demonstrate knowledge of the structure of Cantillation, familiarity with the basic Hebrew grammar which underlies Torah chant, and the background of Torah cantillation.
Course Methodology:	This course will be taught with a "problem-solving" approach to Torah cantillation. Example Torah texts will be studied to determine the grammar and music issues which arise as the consonantal text is chanted. Background material will be provided as PDF files and MP3 files to supplement the required textbook.
Participation:	Class participation is urged using the tools of online communication which are built into the "Blackboard" online interface. Assignments will include reading in the textbook and supplementary materials, and oral preparation of chant as each topic is explored.
Assessments:	Short quizzes will be given periodically throughout this course to assess progress. A final exam will be given in both oral and written format during the last week to assess accuracy of Hebrew pronunciation, fluency of Torah chant, and mastery of background material. The final grade will be based on class participation 20%, periodic quizzes 30%, and oral / written final exam 50%.
Honesty & Integrity:	This course is primarily "skill-based" in nature, so academic papers are not required. Written exams are subject to the standard expectations of academic honesty and integrity.
Schedule & Topics:	(see next page)

How to Chant Torah - **Course Schedule**

Unit 1:	Sept. 20 - Sept. 28	Why we chant the Torah; time-lines of history, texts and personalities; Jewish migrations.
Unit 2:	Sept. 29 - Oct. 5	Present Torah texts without markings; identify "problem-solving" issues; meet the "Toolbox".
Unit 3:	Oct. 6 - Oct. 12	Preliminary grammar concepts; development of Tiberian notation; resolving text ambiguity.
Unit 4:	Oct. 13 - Oct. 19	Segments <i>Silluk</i> and <i>Etnachta</i> , with <i>Tip'cha</i> and <i>T'vir</i> , with Joiners <i>Munach</i> and <i>Meircha</i> .
Unit 5:	Oct. 20 - Oct. 16	Segments <i>Segol</i> and <i>Zakeif Katon / Gadol</i> , with <i>R'vi-a</i> , <i>Pashta / Y'tiv</i> , <i>Zarka</i> , <i>Shalshelet</i> .
Unit 6:	Oct. 27 - Nov. 2	Syllabification, accentuation, prefixes/suffixes, word-pairs, pre-/postpositives, 4-step method.
Unit 7:	Nov. 3 - Nov. 9	Segments <i>R'vi-a</i> and <i>T'vir</i> , with <i>Pazer</i> , <i>Geresh</i> , <i>Geirshayim</i> , <i>T'lishah G'dolah</i> , and <i>L'Garmeih</i> .
Unit 8:	Nov. 10 - Nov. 16	Pedagogical resources and methodologies for teaching; review previous grammar details.
Unit 9:	Nov. 17 - Nov. 23	Annotated Bibliography of printed, recorded, software and Internet Cantillation resources.
Unit 10:	Nov. 24 - Nov. 30	Variations: "Jubilation Motif", end of a Book, <i>Shirat HaYam</i> motifs, and <i>Ta'amei Elyon</i> .
Unit 11:	Dec. 1 - Dec. 7	Variations: Journeys and the "Chiefs" motifs, use of <i>Eichah</i> and <i>Yamim Nora-im</i> motifs.
Unit 12:	Dec. 8 - Dec. 14	Procedures for Torah Service; resources for <i>Gabbai</i> roles; choreography and hand-signs.
Unit 13:	Dec. 15 - Dec. 21	Review concepts of pronunciation, grammar, parsing; melodic motifs / variations; history.
Unit 14:	Dec. 22 - Jan. 4	Review and questions about previous 12 Units.
Unit 15:	Jan. 5 - Jan. 14	Written and oral tests of knowledge and skills.

