

Basic Cantillation

CG-CANTR-519 Fall 2014 – 3 graduate credits - 9:00-11:15 Fridays

Cantor Louise Treitman

*Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday by appointment

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This class is an introduction to basic concepts of Torah cantillation. Emphasis will be placed on acquiring skills needed to chant Torah on weekdays, Sabbaths and Festivals using a common Ashkenazi trope.

Topics will also include the rituals surrounding the Torah service, the history of cantillation/trope, correct contemporary pronunciation of biblical Hebrew, and the underlying syntactic structure of the system of cantillation. Prerequisite: Hebrew 4 or permission of the instructor

Cannot count for graduate credit for Cantorial Ordination students

While this course is primarily for rabbinical students, others are welcome (depending on size of the class), provided they have adequate sense of musical pitch and the ability to read and translate biblical Hebrew (with the help of a dictionary).

REQUIREMENTS:

- Attendance: Students are expected to attend each class session and to participate fully. Problems affecting attendance should be brought to the instructors' attention immediately.
- Learning cantillation melodies (with the voice that you have been given): Students are expected to go over chanting from class; prepare texts as required.
- In-class performances will take place on a weekly basis: Singing cantillation patterns together, as well as in chevruta and individually.

EVALUATION: The final grade will be based on:

- Attendance, participation, weekly preparation/performance of texts 20%
- Oral Quiz (November 7) 20%; Written final exam (December 12) 20%
- Individual oral final exam (by one hour appointments between December 1-15) 40%
 - Students are expected to perform smoothly and confidently, demonstrating mastery of formal pronunciation, appropriate phrasing of conjunctives and disjunctives, expressive reading, and a deep understanding of the text.
 - Each student will chant assigned Rosh Hodesh Torah aliyah from unpunctuated tikkun. The rest of the Rosh Hodesh reading (Numbers 28: 1-15) will be chanted from a pointed text (with vowels and cantillation marks).
 - Each student will prepare to cantillate assigned aliyah of a Torah portion from scroll to be done in the Beit Midrash in February (see below for more details).
 - Each student will chant (with 5 minutes preparation) several verses of Torah (sight-chanting).

This course is primarily "skill-based" in nature, so academic papers are not required.

MATERIALS:

Required:

Chanting the Hebrew Bible - Student Edition by Joshua R. Jacobson
2005, Jewish Publication Society (purchase by first class)

Either of the following chumashim:

*(Preferred) Koren edition of the Torah (suggested is The Koren Humash: Hebrew/English Five Books of Moses. Koren Publishers Jerusalem 2010)

Or JPS Hebrew-English TaNaKh The New JPS Translation 2000, Jewish Publication Society
ISBN 0-8276-0697-4 (vinyl cover)

Very Strongly recommended. These should be in your Jewish personal library:

Chanting the Hebrew Bible by Joshua R. Jacobson
2002, Jewish Publication Society ISBN 0-827-0693-1 (hardback)

Tikkun Kor'im "Simanim" newest edition and largest size is highly recommended

Recommended software:

Trope Trainer TM (Windows or Macintosh) made by Kinnor Software - www.Kinnor.com (large student discount available - information on how to order available by contacting Cantor Treitman or at first class)

Optional:

Keshet Te-amim Flash Cards published by Cantor Linda Sue Sohn (will be available to use in class or for purchase if you prefer)

***CLASS SCHEDULE:** subject to adjustment

CLASS 1: September 12

Why we chant the Torah; time-lines of history, texts and personalities; Jewish migrations. Present Torah texts without markings; identify "problem-solving" issues; meet the "Toolbox". Find some convenient times for extra session(s).

Segments *Siluk* and *Etnahta* (JJ pages 1-12, 41-43)

CLASS 2: September 19

Preliminary grammar concepts; development of Tiberian notation; resolving text ambiguity.

Segments *Siluk* and *Etnahta*, with *Tippeha*, with Joiners *Munah* and *Merekha* (JJ pages 12-20, 41-45, charts on 213ff). Preview Segments *Tevir* and *Zakef Katon* (*see next lesson*)

NO CLASS on Tuesday, September 23 (Friday substitute day). I am out of country.

CLASS 3: TUESDAY, October 14 (Friday substitute day)

Segments *Tevir* and *Zakef Katon* with Joiner *Munah* (JJ pages 21-36, 45 and 50-51)

Review of previously learned melodies.

CLASS 4: October 24

Pronunciation issues: syllabification, accentuation, prefixes/suffixes, word-pairs, pre-/postpositives, Four-step method. Segment *Tevir*, with Joiners *Darga/Merekha/Kadmah*, Segments *Zakef Katon/Gadol*, with *Metigah-Zakef*, *Pashta / Yetiv*, and Joiners *Mahpakh/Merekha/Kadmah* (JJ pages 45-48, 52-57). Choose verses for Torah reading assignment for the Beit Midrash.

CLASS 5: October 31

Finishing up *Tevir* segment with up to five words preceding, including *Telishah*; Finishing up *Zakef Katon* with up to five words preceding; Segments *Segol*, *Revia*, *Zarka*, *Shalsholet* (JJ pages 48-50, 58-59, 59-66). Receive verses for quiz.

CLASS 6: November 7

Cadence/End of *Aliyah* Procedures for Torah Service; resources for *Gabbai* roles; Torah blessings and *Kaddish*; choreography and hand-signs. (JJ pages 76-78, 37-40, 87-91 and JJ Complete 532-546 hand-out)

QUIZ (include names of tropes, preparation of verses to be given on October 31)

CLASS 7: November 14

Legarmeh, *Geresh*, and *Gereshayim*. (JJ pages 66-73)

CLASS 8: November 21

Telishah Gedolah, Pazer and Pazer-Gadol. (JJ pages 73-76); review patterns.
Review concepts of pronunciation, grammar, parsing;
melodic motifs / variations; history.
Preparation of assigned verses in *hevruta*. Review for written test.
Schedule times for individual oral final appointments.

NO CLASS - Thanksgiving break

CLASS 9: December 5

TAKE A LOOK at these variations: "Jubilation Motif", end of a Book, Creation story on *Simhat Torah*, *Shirat HaYam* motifs, and *Ta'amey ha-'elyon* and *Ta'amey ha-tahton*, Journeys and Chiefs motifs, use of *'Ekhah* and *Yamim Nora-im* motifs. (JJ pages 78-87)

CLASS 10: December 12

Written test.
Review for oral final test.

CLASS 11: To be scheduled

Oral tests (45-minute) are individually scheduled between Monday, December 1st and Monday, December 15th.

No class on Friday, December 19 (I am out of the country)

This class will chant the Rosh Hodesh Torah reading scheduled for services on Rosh Hodesh Adar in the Beit Midrash-**Thursday, February 19th & Friday, February 20th.**

****You must be at services both days to support your Torah reading classmates.**

This is a short semester for Friday classes so please know that I am available to meet with you individually or in small groups at mutually convenient times - we will arrange a few of those at the beginning of the semester.

I also suggest that you start working on the actual text of the Rosh Hodesh reading (Numbers 28: 1-15) right away, even before we have learned all the melodies. You want the text to flow. You also will have a translation assignment (word-for-word) that you can start on at the beginning of the semester.

Revised August 4, 2014