How to Chant Torah
CG-CANTR-528
Fall 2014-2015


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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:

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

Tikkun Kor'ım “Simanim”
2007, Feldheim Publishers
large size is recommended

Software:

Trope Trainer™ (Windows or Mac)
Kinnor Software - www.Kinnor.com
(large student discount available)

Hardware:
a headset with an attached microphone
will help with clarity of communication

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 that underlies *Torah* chant, and the background and development 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 required using the tools of online communication that are built into the HC “Schoology” online interface, and through regular participation in online “Office Hours”. Assignments include readings in the textbook and other materials, oral preparation and presentation of *Torah* chants, and discussion of background materials 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 the background material. The final grade will reflect class participation (= 20%), periodic quizzes (= 30%), and the final exams (= 50%).

**Honesty & Integrity:** This course is primarily “skill-based” in nature, so academic papers are not required. Written and Oral quizzes and exams are subject to the expectations of academic honesty and integrity that inform all Hebrew College courses.
How to Chant Torah - **Course Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit 1</th>
<th>Sept. 8 - Sept. 14</th>
<th>Why we chant the Torah; time-lines of history, texts and personalities; Jewish migrations.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unit 2</td>
<td>Sept. 15 - Sept. 21</td>
<td>Present Torah texts without markings; identify “problem-solving” issues; meet the “Toolbox”.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unit 3</td>
<td>Sept. 22 - Sept. 30</td>
<td>Preliminary grammar concepts; development of Tiberian notation; resolving text ambiguity.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unit 4</td>
<td>Oct. 1 - Oct. 7</td>
<td>Segments <em>Silluk</em> and <em>Etnachta</em>, with <em>Tip’cha</em> and <em>Tvir</em>, with Joiners <em>Munach</em> and <em>Meircha</em>.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unit 5</td>
<td>Oct. 8 - Oct. 14</td>
<td>Segments <em>Segol</em> and <em>Zakeif Katon / Gadol</em>, with <em>R’vi-a</em>, <em>Pashta / Y’tiv</em>, <em>Zarka</em>, <em>Shalshelet</em>.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unit 6</td>
<td>Oct. 15 - Oct. 21</td>
<td>Syllabification, accentuation, prefixes/suffixes, word-pairs, pre-/postpositives, 4-step method.</td>
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<td>Unit 7</td>
<td>Oct. 22 - Oct. 28</td>
<td>Segments <em>R’vi-a</em> and <em>Tvir</em>, with <em>Pazer</em>, <em>Geresh</em>, <em>Geirshayim</em>, <em>T’lishah G’dolah</em>, and <em>L’Garmeih</em>.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unit 8</td>
<td>Oct. 29 - Nov. 4</td>
<td>Pedagogical resources and methodologies for teaching; review previous grammar details.</td>
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<td>Unit 9</td>
<td>Nov. 5 - Nov. 11</td>
<td>Annotated Bibliography of printed, recorded, software and Internet Cantillation resources.</td>
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<td>Unit 10</td>
<td>Nov. 12 - Nov. 18</td>
<td>Variations: “Jubilation Motif”, end of a Book, <em>Shirat HaYam</em> motifs, and <em>Ta’amei Elyon</em>.</td>
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<td>Unit 11</td>
<td>Nov. 19 - Nov. 25</td>
<td>Variations: Journeys and the “Chief” motifs, use of <em>Eichah</em> and <em>Yamim Nora-im</em> motifs.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unit 12</td>
<td>Nov. 26 - Dec. 2</td>
<td>Procedures for <em>Torah Service</em>; resources for <em>Gabbai</em> roles; choreography and hand-signs.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unit 13</td>
<td>Dec. 3 - Dec. 8</td>
<td>Review concepts of pronunciation, grammar, parsing; melodic motifs / variations; history.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unit 14</td>
<td>Dec. 9 - Dec. 14</td>
<td>Review and questions about previous 12 Units.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unit 15</td>
<td>Dec. 15 - Dec. 19</td>
<td>Written and oral tests of knowledge and skills.</td>
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