How to Lead High Holidays Services
Syllabus

CG-CANTR 523 – Hazzan Neil Schwartz


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Course Description:

This course teaches the chanting of Ashkenazic High Holy Days liturgy using modes and motifs of Nusach HaT'fillah. Topics include: basic Hebrew grammar for accurate pronunciation and phrasing, structure of High Holy Days liturgy, some congregational melodies for High Holy Days worship, pedagogy and resources.

Course Prerequisites:

1. Ability to read Hebrew fluently
2. Ability to translate with a dictionary
3. A sense of musical pitch

Course Outcomes:

At the end of this course, students should be able to chant various passages from the High Holy Days Machzor with accuracy and fluency. Students should be able to show knowledge of the structure within High Holy Days liturgy, familiarity with basic Hebrew grammar which underlies liturgical chant, and basic modes and musical motifs of the Nusach HaT'fillah for the High Holy Days.

Course Methodology:

This course is taught with a "problem-solving" approach to Nusach HaT'fillah. Example Machzor texts are studied to determine grammar and music issues that arise as the modes and motifs of the Nusach HaT'fillah is chanted. Background material will be provided as PDF files and MP3 files, and Tefillah Trainer™ software will be used as a resource. Online Office Hours will be opportunities for weekly discussions, questions, and class participation.
Participation:

Class participation is urged using the tools of communication which are built into the "Schoology" online interface. Weekly assignments include chanting of Machzor texts in the various musical modes and motifs as each topic of Nusach Ha'T'fillah is explored. Discussion and questions are encouraged within the online environment, and online Office Hours provide each student an opportunity to chant the material being studied.

**Required Text:**

*Machzor for Rosh Hashanah & Yom Kippur*
ed. Rabbi Jules Harlow
1972, Rabbinical Assembly

**Recommended Texts:**

*Machzor Hadash - The New Machzor*
ed. Rabbi Sidney Greenberg & Rabbi Jonathan Levine
1977, Prayer Book Press
ISBN: 0-87677-075-8

*Gates of Repentance*
ed. Rabbi Chaim Stern
1978, Central Conf. of Amer. Rabbis
ISBN: 0-916694-55-8

*Machzor Lev Shalem*
ed. Rabbi Edward Feld
2010, Rabbinical Assembly
ISBN: 978-0-916219-46-8

**Required Software:**

*Tefillah Trainer™* (Windows or Mac)
available through www.Kinnor.com
(a large student discount is available)

**Recommended Hardware:**

a headset with an attached microphone
will help with clarity of communication
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 Machzor chant, and mastery of background material.

The final grade will reflect class participation (= 20%), periodic quizzes (= 30%), and the final exam (= 50%).

Honesty & Integrity:

This course is primarily "skill-based" in nature, so academic papers are not required. Written and Oral Final Exams are subject to the standard expectations of academic honesty and integrity.

Course Schedule - High Holy Days Nusach

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<th>Days</th>
<th>Unit</th>
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<td>Mon., Feb. 3</td>
<td>Mon.</td>
<td>Unit 1</td>
<td>Background Info &amp; Structure of Liturgy</td>
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<td>Wed., Feb. 12</td>
<td>Wed.</td>
<td>Unit 2</td>
<td>Hebrew Grammar &amp; Modes of Nusach</td>
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<td>Wed., Feb. 19</td>
<td>Wed.</td>
<td>Unit 3</td>
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<td>Wed., Feb. 26</td>
<td>Wed.</td>
<td>Unit 4</td>
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<td>Wed., Mar. 5</td>
<td>Wed.</td>
<td>Unit 5</td>
<td>Torah / Shofar Service and Quiz #1</td>
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<td>Wed., Mar. 19</td>
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<td>Unit 7</td>
<td>Shabbat Shuva &amp; Kol Nidrei Service</td>
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<td>Unit 8</td>
<td>Yom Kippur Shacharit Service</td>
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<td>Unit 9</td>
<td>Torah / Yizkor Service and Quiz #2</td>
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<td>Unit 13</td>
<td>Resources &amp; Review of Grammar</td>
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<td>Wed., May 14</td>
<td>Wed.</td>
<td>Unit 14</td>
<td>Review of Nusach Modes &amp; Motifs</td>
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<td>Mon., May 19</td>
<td>Mon.</td>
<td>Unit 15</td>
<td>Oral &amp; Written Final Exams</td>
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