How to Chant Haftarah and Esther  
CG-CANTR-532  
Fall 2015-16


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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)

A course-pack of PDFs (in preparation) available through University Readers

Recommended:  

- *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

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 Haftarot and Megillat Esther. Topics will include: development of Tiberian notation, a brief review of 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 Haftarot and Megillat Esther with accuracy and fluency. Students should be able to demonstrate knowledge of the structure of Cantillation, familiarity with basic Hebrew grammar that underlies Biblical chant, and the development of Biblical cantillation.

Course Methodology: This course will be taught with a “problem-solving” approach to Haftarah and Esther cantillation. Texts will be studied to explore grammar and music issues which will arise as Haftarot and Esther are chanted. Background material will be available 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 course-pack, oral preparation and presentation of Haftarah and Megillat Esther chants, and discussion of background materials and concepts.

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 the chants, 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 Haftarah and Esther – Course Schedule

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unit 1</td>
<td>Sept. 8 – Sept. 15</td>
<td>Why we chant the Bible; time-lines of history, texts and personalities; Jewish migrations.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unit 2</td>
<td>Sept. 16 – Sept. 23</td>
<td>Present Esther texts without markings; identify &quot;problem-solving&quot; issues; meet the &quot;Toolbox&quot;.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unit 3</td>
<td>Sept. 24 – Sept. 29</td>
<td>Preliminary grammar concepts; development of Tiberian notation; resolving text ambiguity.</td>
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<td>Unit 4</td>
<td>Sept. 30 – Oct. 6</td>
<td>Segments Silluk and Etnachta, with Tip'cha and T'vir, with “Joiners” Munach and Meircha.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unit 5</td>
<td>Oct. 7 – Oct. 13</td>
<td>Segments Segol and Zakeif Katon / Gadol, with R'vi-a, Pashta / Y'tiv, Zarka, with Kadma.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unit 7</td>
<td>Oct. 21 – Oct. 27</td>
<td>Segments R'vi-a and T'vir, with Pazer, Geresh, Geirshayim, T'lishah G'dolah, and L'Garmeih.</td>
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<td>Unit 8</td>
<td>Oct. 28 – Nov. 3</td>
<td>Pedagogical resources and methodologies for teaching; annotated Bibliography of resources.</td>
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<td>Unit 9</td>
<td>Nov. 4 – Nov. 10</td>
<td>Esther Trope: Silluk, Etnachta, Zakeif Katon, Segol, R'vi-a, &amp; T'vir segments; Conjunctives.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unit 10</td>
<td>Nov. 11 – Nov. 17</td>
<td>Esther secondary Disjunctives (Levels 3 &amp; 4), other Conjunctive (“Joiner”) Trope, rare Trope.</td>
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<td>Unit 11</td>
<td>Nov. 18 – Nov. 24</td>
<td>Variations: occasional use of Eichah and other special motifs in Haftarot and M'gillat Esther.</td>
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<td>Unit 12</td>
<td>Nov. 25 – Dec. 1</td>
<td>Procedures for Torah Service; resources for Gabbai roles; choreography and hand-signs.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unit 13</td>
<td>Dec. 2 – Dec. 8</td>
<td>Review concepts of pronunciation, grammar, parsing; melodic motifs &amp; variations; history.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unit 14</td>
<td>Dec. 9 – Dec. 15</td>
<td>Review and questions about previous Units.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unit 15</td>
<td>Dec. 16 – Dec. 22</td>
<td>Written and oral tests of knowledge and skills.</td>
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