

**Rabbinical School**  
**RB-CANTR-523B: High Holy Day Torah Cantillation**  
**Cantor Louise Treitman**  
**1 graduate credit**

Syllabus for Spring Semester 2019: High Holy Day Torah  
9:30-10:40 Wednesdays

**Contact Information:**

617-699-8864 (mobile)

[ltreitman@HebrewCollege.edu](mailto:ltreitman@HebrewCollege.edu) (please put "CANTILLATION" in subject line)

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This class builds on the skills learned in the Basic Cantillation course while acquiring the melodic skills needed to chant **High Holy Day Torah** using a common Ashkenazi trope. We will continue to explore the concepts of cantillation – chanting our sacred texts according to ancient tradition. There will be a review of the underlying syntactic structure of the system of cantillation. Then, we will delve deeper into the grammar with sentence diagramming and ongoing focus on correct contemporary pronunciation of biblical Hebrew. This course is primarily for rabbinical students (preferably who have taken one of the pre-requisite courses or some solid understanding of cantillation). However, others are welcome (depending on size of the class), provided they have an adequate sense of musical pitch and the ability to read and translate biblical Hebrew and have the following pre-requisites.

Suggested pre-requisite for this course: Basic Cantillation (Treitman), Cantillation I (Jacobson) or permission of the instructor.

*This course does not count for graduate credit for students in the Cantorial Ordination programs, although cantorial students are welcome to audit.*

**REQUIREMENTS:**

- Attendance: Students are expected to attend each session and to participate fully.
- Learning cantillation melodies (with the voice that you have been given): Students are expected to go over chanting and to prepare texts as required.
- In-class performances will take place on a regular basis. The group will sing cantillation patterns together, in *chevruta* and individually.
- Students will choose and prepare to chant a High Holy Day Torah reading and a D'var Torah about their reading for the class as a final project.

**MATERIALS:**

Required:

Chanting the Hebrew Bible - Student Edition by Joshua R. Jacobson  
2005, Jewish Publication Society

Either of the following *chumashim*: will need access to printing *haftarot*

\*(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)

Strongly recommended. As a Jewish professional, I suggest these books for your Jewish personal book and software library:

Chanting the Hebrew Bible: Second, Expanded Edition by Joshua R. Jacobson

2017, Jewish Publication Society ISBN-10: 0827612230

ISBN-13: 978-0827612235 (hardback)

Tikkun Kor'im "Simanim" newest edition and largest size is highly recommended  
(this edition is very helpful with a lot of details of Hebrew pronunciation)

Trope Trainer TM (Windows or Macintosh) made by Kinnor Software -

www.Kinnor.com Software highly recommended: (large student discount available - information on how to order available by contacting Cantor Treitman or at first class)

Many on-line apps available as options for *TaNakh*

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)

Reference with melodies commonly used in Reform congregations:

The Art of Torah Cantillation, Volume 2: A Step-by-Step Guide to Chanting Haftaret and M'gillot by Cantor Marshall Portnoy and Cantor Josée Wolff. 2002, URJ Press.  
ISBN-10: 0807407569; ISBN-13: 978-0807407561

**EVALUATION:** There will be an individual assessment at the end of each semester. It will be based on the following:

- Attendance, class participation, weekly prep & presentation of texts
- Periodic testing of knowledge
- Periodic testing of cantillation melodies
- Chanting of selections from student's assigned HHD Torah in class
- Guidelines for assigned text:
  1. 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.
  2. Each student will prepare and chant his/her assigned HHD reading.
  3. Each student will prepare a D'var Torah and introduction for the reading.

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

**\*Second Semester SCHEDULE:** subject to adjustment/change

**SESSION 1: February 6**

Why and when we chant High Holy Day Torah melodies; Review of “The Art of Cantillation” (chapter 3) and “Pronunciation” (chapter 4) (JJ pages 7-36)  
Segments *Siluk* and *Etnahta* (JJ pages 195-196)

**SESSION 2: February 13**

Choosing your own HHD (Rosh Hashanah/Yom Kippur morning) reading  
Segments *Siluk* and *Etnahta* (JJ pages 195-196) continued  
Prepare next week’s trope - *Tevir*

**SESSION 3: February 20 – substitute teacher: Cantor Vera Broekhuysen**

Look at various “Appendices” (Chapter 11 – JJ charts on 213ff)

NEW: Segment *Tevir*. CONTINUED: *Siluk & Etnahta*.

(JJ pages 197-199)

**SESSION 4: February 27**

CONTINUED - review: Segments *Siluk*, *Etnahta*, *Tevir*.  
(JJ pages 195-199 and supplementary texts)

**NOTE: No CLASS on March 6 – Yom Iyyun**

**SESSION 5: March 13**

NEW: *Zakef* segment (JJ pages 199-204) – part 1

CONTINUED: Segments *Tevir*, *Siluk & Etnahta*.

**SESSION 6: March 20 (will have class on Half Day – Erev Purim)**

NEW: *Zakef* segment (JJ pages 199-204) – part 2

Review all melodies. Finalize YOUR HHD Torah reading choice.

**SESSION 7: March 27**

NEW: *Segol* segment (JJ pages 204-205)

**SESSION 8: April 3**

NEW: *Revia* segment (JJ pages 205-206)

YOUR HHD reading should be color-coded with all the patterns we have learned so far.

**SESSION 9: April 10**

NEW: *Legarmeh* segment and *Geresh* segments (JJ pages 206-208)

Discuss Torah Blessings, Kaddish (JJ pages 211-212)

**SESSION 10: April 17**

NEW: *Telishah Gedolah*, *Pazer* segments & Final *Siluk* cadence (JJ pages 209-210)

CONTINUED: Review examples

**PASSOVER BREAK – no class April 24**

**SESSION 11: May 1**

Review of melodies and concepts – individuals sing melodic patterns in class  
(there is no written test for this course)

**SESSION 12: May 8**

Individual presentations in class

**SESSION 13: May 15**

Individual presentation in class