Zoom Into Open House
Tuesday, March 8, 2022

Sample classes, meet with students and faculty, and have an authentic AJR experience through special programming and sessions.

- Rabbinical Ordination
- Cantorial Ordination
- Master of Arts in Jewish Studies
Step into a robust curriculum from wherever you stand in the community
- Cantors to Rabbis
For currently ordained or invested cantors who would like to earn rabbinical ordination
- Kol-Bo
AJR’s newest program for those interested in simultaneous rabbinical and cantorial ordinations

Global student body – real time distance learning
The Academy for Jewish Religion is accredited by the Association of Theological Schools.

“We are as great as the challenges we have the courage to undertake.”
– Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks z”l

More information:
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Welcome to AJR! We are pleased you are joining us for our Open House. All sessions are on Zoom. Feel free to spend your day sitting in on classes, speaking with our faculty and administration, and getting to know our students. Zoom links to the Open House will be emailed in advance of Open House. Please note that times indicated below are EST.

Schedule

**Welcome / Informational FAQs / Pluralism at AJR**

9:15 – 10:25 am

Learn more about our programs of study, curricula, distance learning opportunities, and application process. Explore AJR’s understanding of pluralism.

*Please feel free to enjoy your breakfast during these conversations.*

**Science in Dialogue with Biblical Imagery**

10:30 – 11:40 am

Rabbi Jill Hammer, PhD

**Cantorial Practica: Carl Sayres and Turia Stark**

12:10 – 12:50 pm

*Please feel free to enjoy your lunch during the practica.*

*Note: At 2:05 pm feel free to switch to one of the other classes offered during this time slot.*

12:55 – 3:20 pm

**Advanced Nusah Hol**

Cantor Sol Zim

**Modern Philosophy**

Rabbi Len Levin, PhD

**Intermediate/Advanced Talmud**

Rabbi Matthew Goldstone, PhD

**History and Future of Kabbalah**

Rabbi David Seidenberg, PhD

3:30 – 3:50 pm

**Minhah**

Experience our spirited *tefillot.*
Course Descriptions

- **BIB 341 Generations of Sky and Earth: Science in Dialogue with Biblical Imagery** — *Rabbi Jill Hammer, PhD*
  
  This class will examine the natural imagery that permeates the Hebrew Bible — trees, mountains, wind, and stars — together with related areas of science — biology, geology, meteorology, and astrophysics — to discover how we might read the Bible in new ways in juxtaposition with science. For example, how does understanding the underground communications of trees graft new layers of meaning onto the metaphor of the Tree of Life? How does considering the formation of stars and the explosion of supernovas shed light on our understanding of God’s promise to Abraham that his descendants will be like the stars? That is, how might contemporary people relate to the images of the Bible, informed by the sciences? What does each biblical source bring to the conversation about our relationship with the natural world? By understanding the science behind these phenomena, as well as the ways that the Bible perceives them, students will be able to deepen the theological and poetic impact that this imagery can have for themselves and those they serve.

- **CAN 437 Advanced Nusaḥ Hol** — *Cantors Sol Zim and Lisa Klinger-Kantor*
  
  In this course, students will learn and develop a deep understanding of the vast components of various Motifs, Nushaot, Prayer Modes and Misinai tunes for Y’mot Hahol - Shaḥarit, Minhah and Ma’ariv services. Students will learn, demonstrate and master how to lead all the weekday services from the siddur by utilizing the correct motifs and the richness of the various Nushaot blending them with contemporary sounds and various niggunim, thereby creating a bridge between traditional and new sounds. Each student will be required to master the Nusaḥ motifs of the following parts of the weekday service: Birkhot Hashahar, P’sukei D’zimrah, Shaḥarit (including the Amidah), Tahanun, Torah Service, and the concluding service.

- **PHI 312 Modern Philosophy** — *Rabbi Len Levin, PhD*
  
  The issues of modern Jewish thought will be studied through familiarization with principal works of the major modern Jewish philosophers — including Spinoza, Mendelssohn, Buber, Rosenzweig, Kaplan, Heschel, and Soloveitchik — as well as representative thinkers of the major modern and contemporary movements. The focus will be on how all of these thinkers and movements adapted Jewish tradition — each in their own way — to the intellectual, cultural and political challenges of modernity.
• **RAB 430 Intermediate/Advanced Talmud**— *Rabbi Matthew Goldstone, PhD*
  In this course students will continue to hone their abilities to critically read, parse, and understand Talmudic material. This semester will focus on sugyot that address “Big Concepts” such as the problem of evil, the value of martyrdom, and the origins of rabbinic Judaism. We will explore the ways that these sources impact us on a personal and spiritual level, as well as possible pedagogical applications for teaching these sources to others.

• **PHI 510 History and Future of Kabbalah**— *Dr. David Seidenberg*
  In this class, students will gain a clear understanding of the history of Kabbalah and its ebbs and flows, and will be invited to see themselves as part of that stream. What are the cultural contexts in which Kabbalah thrived, and what did Kabbalah mean to the Jewish world in the past? What does Kabbalah mean to us now, and how might that guide the evolution of Kabbalah into the future? The class will cover the Bahir and its antecedents, the Zohar and its circle, Cordeveran and Lurianic Kabbalah, *Shabtai Zvi*, and *Chasidut*. We will also look at Kabbalah’s impact on the Renaissance, how Kabbalistic humanism became a tool in the Jewish world for understanding science, and the role of Kabbalah in modern-day Jewish Renewal.

• **PRO 005 Core Concepts V**— *Dr. Ora Horn Prouser*
  This is a multi-year sequence of seminars. The seminars cover some of the fundamental values, concepts and vocabulary of Jewish tradition. Students are expected to first gain a basic acquaintance with these terms and to then delve more deeply into them so as to appreciate their range of significance. The goal of the seminars is not simply to gather information, but to develop an integrated way of thinking about and expressing these value concepts, so that students may grow from having an appreciation of the tradition to actively and creatively participating in the discourse of Torah.