



ACADEMY
for JEWISH
RELIGION
ORDAINING RABBIS AND CANTORS
FOR ALL JEWISH COMMUNITIES

ZOOM INTO OUR OPEN HOUSE

Tuesday, December 3, 2024

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

AJR'S PROGRAMS

- ✓ Rabbinical Ordination
- ✓ Cantorial Ordination
- ✓ Cantors to Rabbis Track (for ordained or invested cantors)
- ✓ Kol-Bo Program (dual rabbinical and cantorial ordination)
- ✓ Master of Arts in Jewish Studies



ABOUT US

- ✓ Flexible distance learning with academic rigor
- ✓ Pluralistic Jewish seminary training and ordaining rabbis and cantors as equal partners
- ✓ A principled Zionist community
- ✓ Accredited by the Association of Theological Schools

**CLICK HERE TO REGISTER
FOR OPEN HOUSE**

Visit ajr.edu for more information

For questions:
openhouse@ajr.edu





Open House

Tuesday, December 3, 2024

Welcome to AJR! We are delighted you are joining us for our Open House. Feel free to spend your day sitting in on classes, speaking with our faculty and administration, and getting to know our students. All sessions are on Zoom. **Please note that times indicated below are ET.**

Schedule for the day:

9:15 – 10:55 am - 3 course options

Responsa

Rabbi Matthew Goldstone, PhD

Psalms

Rabbi Jef Segelman

Cantillation - Yamim Noraim/Eikhah

Cantor Robin Joseph

11:05 – 11:50 am

Informational FAQs

Learn more about our programs of study, curriculum, distance learning, and the AJR application process.

12:00 – 12:45 pm

Getting to Know AJR / Meeting with Students

Meet with current students.

Please feel free to use this time to enjoy your lunch during these conversations.

12:55 – 2:00 pm - 4 course options

Introduction to Codes II

Rabbi David Almog

Advanced Nusah - Regalim

Cantor Sol Zim

Sefer Yetzirah

Rabbi Jill Hammer, PhD

Responsa

Rabbi Matthew Goldstone, PhD

2:10 – 3:20 pm - *This session is exclusively for Open House attendees.*

Pluralism at AJR and Pluralistic Leadership in Today's Jewish Community

Dr. Ora Horn Prouser, CEO and Academic Dean

3:30 – 3:50 pm

Minhah

Experience our spirited *tefillot*.

3:55 – 5:00 pm - 4 course options

Book of Job

Dr. Job Jindo

Advanced Nusah Regalim

Cantor Lisa Klinger-Kantor

Introduction to Talmud II

Rabbi Jeffrey Hoffman, DHL

Modern Philosophy

Rabbi Len Levin, PhD

5:00 - 6:00 pm

Let Us Help You Find Your Place at AJR:

Questions About Taking Classes this spring?

Rabbinic, MA, and Kol-Bo

Dr Ora Horn Prouser

AJR's Cantorial Program and Your Place In It

Cantorial and Kol-Bo

Cantor Michael Kasper

Have a great day!

Course Descriptions

BIB 511 Studies in the Book of Job: When Bad Things Happen to a Good Person

Dr. Job Jindo

How should we approach the question of why bad things happen to good people? How shouldn't we? And why? Where can we find resources to cope with evil? This course will explore these and other related issues of human suffering through a critical reading of the book of Job. By the conclusion of this course, students will be able to: (1) explain the structure, purposes, and theological outlook of Job; (2) discuss biblical theologies of evil and tragedy; and (3) provide examples from the book of Job to understand the human condition in today's world.

2 credits

BIB 520 The Psalms That Clergy Use

Rabbi Jef Segelman

Psalms are an important element in the toolbox of the clergy. They are part of our liturgy, our life cycle rituals, and they often set the tone for moments of commemoration and introspection. In this class, we will take an in-depth look at many of the psalms that regularly find their way into our work and our prayers. Our goal will be not only to learn how to use them more effectively, but also how we may use them to further our professional and personal spiritual growth.

2 credits

CAN 322 Cantillation: Yammim Noraim and Eikhah

Cantor Robin Anne Joseph

This course is an in-depth study of Eastern European cantillation for *Yammim Noraim* and *Eikhah*. In addition to reviewing the history, function, and art of cantillation, participants will work to demonstrate proficiency in recognizing and chanting the various cantillation phrases for these two tropes.

This course is open to both rabbinical and cantorial students.

2 credits

CAN 430 Advanced Nusah Regalim

Cantor Sol Zim and Cantor Lisa Klinger-Kantor

An in-depth, extensive study of the vast *Mi-sinai* tunes that make up the Regalim liturgy. Each student must develop an understanding of the various motifs and *nushaot* and how to use them in the course of davening. Both sections required.

4 credits

HAL 402 Introduction to Codes II

Rabbi David Almog

The purpose of this course is to instill greater proficiency, appreciation and familiarity in the study of Rambam's *Mishneh Torah*. Similar to the first trimester course, there will be a strong eye towards grammar, syntax, and the basic idiom of *halakhic* literature, but there will also be a greater emphasis on the sources and context of Rambam's presentation of *halakhah*. The goal is to gain an appreciation of Maimonides' approach to *halakhah*, his style of presentation, and to learn more about the topic under discussion within the broader framework of *halakhic* discourse.

2 credits

HAL 480 Responsa

Rabbi Matthew Goldstone, PhD

In this course we will conduct a close reading of rabbinic responsa from a variety of historic periods, and become familiar with some of their authors, tracing the responsa literature from its earliest origins to its 21st century expression. Selected responsa will cover a range of topics and areas of Jewish life.

Contemporary responsa studies will reflect a wide spectrum of perspectives and denominational origins. As part of our investigation, we will examine the nature of *halakha* in light of various theories as to how the *halakhic* process works.

2 credits

PHI 312 Modern Philosophy

Rabbi Len Levin, PhD

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 5 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.

2 credits

PHI 515 Sefer Yetzirah

Rabbi Jill Hammer, PhD

Sefer Yetzirah is one of the earliest works of Jewish mysticism. This brief and cryptic ancient book imagines letters as the building blocks of the universe, introduces us to the *sefirot* or divine realms, and focuses our attention on the components of space, time, and soul. Its goal is to allow adepts to contemplate, and even partake in the Divine creative process interwoven with the details of the physical universe. We will be reading the work in its entirety, plus secondary literature, to understand the meaning of *Sefer Yetzirah* and its potential role in contemporary Jewish belief and contemplative practice. We will also be exploring the book's meditative approach through our own exploration of its methods. This course will count as the Mysticism requirement.

2 credits

RAB 101 Introduction to Mishnah

Rabbi Joshua Cahan

This course will introduce students to the study of Mishnah, its historical context, and its place in rabbinic literature. Over the course of the trimester, students will gain greater familiarity with the Rabbinic Hebrew of the Mishnah and its idiom, as well the style and structure of the text. Additionally, we will explore the background for the development of the Mishnah, and its reception history as part of the classical rabbinic corpus.

2 credits

RAB 231 Introduction to Talmud II

Rabbi Jeff Hoffman, DHL

In this second half of the two-trimester Introduction to Talmud course, students will continue to develop their skills in decoding the dialectic of the talmudic discourse. This term, the text will be studied in its original languages. Students will prepare the Steinsaltz commentary (Hebrew) with the help of vocabulary sheets provided by the instructor. Modern critical methodologies of Talmud study – identifying the three layers of Tannaitic, Amoraic, and Stam material – will be introduced. Study of basic Aramaic terms and Talmudic organic logic will resume. The content will be the various *halakhic* and theological approaches to the *Amidah* found in Tractate *Berakhot*, chapter 4.

2 credits