



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

Zoom Into Our Open House...

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18TH

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



AJR PROGRAMS:

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



ABOUT AJR:

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



open-house@ajr.edu



ajr.edu



CLICK HERE TO REGISTER.



Open House

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

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 – 10:30 am - 3 course options

***The Spiritual Dialogue:
Our Prayer and Our Learning***
Rabbi Jeffrey Segelman

Advanced Nusah Shabbat I
Cantor Sol Zim

Introduction to Biblical Hebrew
Rabbi Peg Kershenbaum

10:45 – 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

Intermediate Codes
Rabbi David Almog

Cantillation-Torah & Haftarah
Cantor Robin Joseph

Jewish Dreamwork
Rabbi Jill Hammer, PhD

Mechina II
Ayelet Amir Rein

2:10 – 3:20 pm

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

Dr. Ora Horn Prouser

3:30 – 3:50 pm

Minhah

Experience our spirited *tefillot*.

3:55 – 5:00 pm - 3 course options

Ruth, Esther, and Lamentations
Dr. Job Jindo

Intermediate Talmud I
Rabbi Jeff Hoffman, DHL

Advanced Nusah Shabbat I
Cantor Lisa Klinger-Kantor

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, Rabbi Matthew Goldstone, PhD

***AJR's Cantorial Program and Your Place In It
Cantorial and Kol-Bo***

Cantor Michael Kasper

Have a great day!

Course Descriptions

SPI 325: The Spiritual Dialogue: Our Prayer and Our Learning

Rabbi Jeffrey Segelman

This course is about a dialogue involving prayer and learning. We will explore the deep meaning of prayer as an expression of ourselves to God and learning as an act of embracing God's expression of God's self to us. Most importantly, we will focus on how we create meaningful prayer services and learning experiences for others, making sure that this work does not come at the expense of our own spiritual dialogue and spiritual growth.

CAN 425: Advanced Nusah Shabbat I

Cantor Sol Zim and Cantor Lisa Klinger-Kantor

This course gives an in depth and extensive study of the vast liturgy of the *Kabbalat Shabbat* and *Ma'ariv LeShabbat* services. Students will develop and master a deep understanding of the *nusah* and special motifs in the opening *Kabbalat Shabbat* Service. Students will learn, in depth, the many *nushaot*, motifs, and participatory melodies of the *Lekha Dodi* section and will master and attain a deep understanding of the *Ma'ariv leShabbat* service by learning and demonstrating strong competence in the *nusah* special motifs so as to lead a service.

HEB 320: Introduction to Biblical Hebrew

Rabbi Peg Kershenbaum

Introduction to Biblical Hebrew: examination of and exercise in the grammar, syntax and vocabulary of Biblical Hebrew, for the development of competence in understanding and translating the classical Biblical texts (with some attention to major differences between BH, Rabbinic and Modern Hebrew). Objectives: by the end of this course, students will be able to identify all parts of speech, including all the major *binyanim* in all their forms as they occur in prose passages of the *Tanakh*. They will be able to use BDB efficiently and accurately to find unfamiliar vocabulary by applying information learned about the forms and structures of different parts of speech. Students will learn to use a biblical concordance and Sefaria.com to produce a word study. They will be able to translate connected biblical prose passages accurately with the help of BDB and give analyses of specified words and constructions. Students will be able to use major conjunctive and disjunctive cantillation signs to aid in correct phrasing of syntactic units of the texts examined. And, if all goes according to plan, we will even enjoy the process!

HAL 460: Intermediate Codes

Rabbi David Almog

This course will focus on Joseph Karo's *Shulhan Arukh*, the major medieval code of Jewish law that continues to inform contemporary practice. We will study many of the most important laws related to the observance of Shabbat and Holidays with secondary readings that offer more diverse perspectives for modern forms of observance and celebration. Prerequisite: two trimesters of Introduction to Codes

CAN 308: Cantillation - Torah and Haftarah

Cantor Robin Joseph

This course provides a comprehensive presentation, study, and practical usage of Torah and *Haftarah* cantillation. Students will examine the history, structure, and musical notation and phrasing of common Ashkenazi trope/cantillation. Emphasis will be placed on learning the musical notation and phrasing of Torah and *Haftarah* cantillation and applying it to text.

SPI 365: Jewish Dreamwork

Rabbi Jill Hammer, PhD

From Genesis to the Talmud, from the Zohar to folklore, Jews have used dreams as a means of self-understanding and a vehicle for divine revelation. This class will have two components: first, we will read and analyze a variety of Jewish texts, rituals, and prayers on dreaming to understand the role of dreaming in Jewish practice. We'll also consider several contemporary Jewish dream practices. Second, we will work with our own dreams to understand dreamwork as a spiritual practice and as a pastoral resource. We will discuss and practice Jewish rituals related to dreaming, and hold dream circles to mine our own dreams for wisdom and spiritual growth. Students should bring a dream journal with at least four or five recorded dreams to the first session. This course counts as a Spirituality elective or as a general elective.

MEC 145: Mechina II

Ayelet Amir Rein

This course is a continuation of *Mechina* Hebrew I and builds upon the foundational grammar already covered. The students will continue to work on developing communication skills in Modern Hebrew. They will be introduced to more advanced grammatical patterns, and new vocabulary and continue to improve their writing, reading, and conversational skills.

BIB 323: Sex and the City In The Bible: Ruth, Esther, and Lady Jerusalem

Dr. Job Jindo

This course offers a close critical reading of Ruth, Esther, and Lamentations, three biblical texts centered on female figures whose stories raise enduring questions about identity, belonging, and moral agency. Through these narratives, students will develop interpretive skills and be able to articulate the structure, purpose, and theological outlook of each text, as well as identify ways in which these works shed light on the human condition today. Topics of discussion include rights discourse vs. identity discourse, the eclipse of God and emergence of human agency, empathy and justice, enticement and manipulation, hatred and metonymic thinking, identity and violence, love and forgiveness, politics and strangers, primordial and multicultural identity, the sense of the transcendent, “kosher adultery,” and *Lekha Dodi*.

RAB 330: Intermediate Talmud

Rabbi Jeff Hoffman, DHL

Students will continue to work on the skills necessary in decoding the talmudic *sugya*. These include extensive work on the logic and the literary layers. Students will also continue to learn increase their knowledge of talmudic terminology, vocabulary and grammar. The text will be Tractate Megillah.