



ACADEMY
for JEWISH
RELIGION

Open House

Tuesday, February 24, 2026

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 Eastern Time.**

Schedule for the day:

9:15 – 10:30 am

Informational FAQs

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

10:45 – 11:50 am

Getting to Know AJR / Meeting with Students

Meet with current students.

12:10 – 12:45 pm

Cantorial Practica - presentations by cantorial students as part of their educational programs.

12:55 – 2:00 pm - 4 course options

<i>Introduction to Midrash</i>	<i>Advanced Codes</i>	<i>Jewish Prayers for Healing</i>	<i>Advanced Nusah Shabbat II</i>
Rabbi Jill Hammer, PhD	Rabbi David Almog	Rabbi Rob Scheinberg, PhD	Cantor Sol Zim

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 - 4 course options

<i>Comparative Meditation</i>	<i>Introduction to Talmud II</i>	<i>Introduction to Midrash</i>	<i>Advanced Nusah Shabbat II</i>
Dr. Job Jindo	Rabbi Jeff Hoffman, DHL	Rabbi Iscah Waldman	Cantor Lisa Klinger-Kantor

5:00 – 6:00 pm

Let Us Help You Find Your Place at AJR:

Questions About Applying or Taking Classes This Summer?

Dr. Ora Horn Prouser

Have a great day!

Course Descriptions

RAB 110 Introduction to Midrash

Rabbi Jill Hammer, PhD and Rabbi Iscah Waldman

In this introductory class, we will examine the forms, methods and vocabulary of rabbinic *midrash* and explore the function that *midrash* plays in rabbinic interpretation of Torah. We will learn some basic *midrashic* strategies, and become familiar with a variety of *midrashic* collections from the talmudic to the medieval period. This is a text-based class and we will spend time during each session reading *midrashim* in Hebrew to improve our fluency.

HAL 510 Advanced 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 laws of mourning and dietary practices with secondary readings that offer more diverse perspectives on a variety of related issues.

Jewish Prayers for Healing: History, Language, and Theology

Rabbi Rob Scheinberg, PhD

We will explore Jewish prayers for healing as found in the *Tanakh*, the Talmud, and the *Siddur* (with a special focus on the *Mi Sheberakh le-holim*). What are our theological assumptions when we pray for healing? How have Jewish approaches to prayers for healing changed over time?

CAN 426 Advanced Nusah Shabbat II

Cantor Sol Zim and Cantor Lisa Klinger-Kantor

This course provides an in-depth and extensive study of the vast liturgy of the *Shabbat Shaharit* and *Musaf* services. Students will develop a deep understanding and mastery of the *Nushaot*, special motifs, and participatory melodies involved in both services. They will also demonstrate strong competence in these areas so as to proficiently lead a Shabbat service.

SPI 356 "In a Still, Small Voice": Comparative Meditation and the Renewal of Inner Life

Dr. Job Jindo

This course explores the existential meaning of meditation in liberal societies through a comparative study centered on the seminal guide *Shoshikan* (A Concise Guide to Stilling and Insight Meditation) by the great Buddhist master Zhiyi/Chih-i/Chigi (538–597). Zhiyi, who stands alongside Maimonides, Aquinas, and al-Ghazali in spiritual stature, left an unmatched legacy that profoundly shaped Buddhist practice throughout East Asia. Each session focuses on a chapter of the *Shoshikan*, bringing it into dialogue with Jewish sources and other spiritual traditions. Designed for spiritual seekers and future leaders serving diverse and pluralistic communities, the course combines study and meditative practice to explore how disciplines of attention and compassion can renew spiritual depth, relational awareness, and ethical presence in contemporary life.

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.