

Intro to Biblical Hebrew I

Heb 2A03 | RS 2HC3

Fall Term

*****Preliminary Course Outline, Subject to Revisions*****

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Course Description

An introduction to the basics of grammar, syntax and vocabulary of the language of the Hebrew Bible. The student will begin to read in the Hebrew Bible.

According to an ancient Jewish legend, the Creator spoke the world into existence using the language of Hebrew. With this course, students will begin to learn this sacred language of the Jewish religion, the language in which the majority of the Bible (both Jewish and Christian) was written and which was revived as a spoken language in the late nineteenth century in the form of Modern Hebrew.

Course Objectives

Your commitment to regular study and practice will help us achieve the goals of this course, which are:

to develop reading competence in the Hebrew Bible by gaining a working vocabulary of frequently occurring words and familiarity with the most common grammatical forms, and

to develop compositional skills and basic aural competence with the language by the completion of regular written and spoken exercises.

To fully attain these goals students are encouraged to think of this as the first of two courses; in this first course, students will learn to pronounce the biblical Hebrew script, translate and compose sentences involving the most frequently occurring verb stem, and gain the confidence that they can continue to acquire the range of skills necessary to read the Hebrew Bible with pleasure.

Required Materials and Texts

Required *at the very beginning of term!*

Simon, Ethelyn, Irene Resnikoff, and Linda Motzkin. *The First Hebrew Primer, Third Edition*. Berkeley: EKS Publishing, 2005.

Not Required for Purchase, but Recommended

Companion to the First Hebrew Primer, Audio Download. \$19.99 USD. See: <https://www.ekspublishing.com/biblical-hebrew/the-first-hebrew-primer-companion-audio>

Primer Answer Book. \$9.99 USD. See: <https://www.ekspublishing.com/biblical-hebrew/the-frist-hebrew-primer-answer-book>

Biblical Hebrew Flashcards – iPhone Application. \$9.99 USD. See: <https://www.ekspublishing.com/biblical-hebrew/biblical-hebrew-flashcards-iphone-application>

Biblical Hebrew Flashcards, by Curtis Clements. Android. Free. See:
<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.school.ctclements.superbiblicalhebrewvocabulary>

Class Format

This course will be delivered online in a hybrid format combining synchronous and asynchronous methods of delivery: short recorded lectures, covering the key grammar from each chapter, will be posted to Avenue to complement live sessions twice a week during regularly scheduled class time, during which the grammar will be covered, stories read, and exercises completed in an interactive manner in which students will be invited to participate.

Course Evaluation – Overview

Participation 15%

Attendance at live sessions for most students will be critical to their success. If a student wishes to opt out of regular attendance, and to make use only or primarily of the recorded lectures, they must receive approval from the instructor, which will be granted only on a case-by-case basis. For those who do receive such permission, 5% will be given for watching the recorded lectures, for which a signed log must be kept, while the remainder of their participation mark will be shifted toward the final exam.

Exercises 30%

Weekly exercises, worth 2% each, found at the end of each chapter in the textbook will be completed and a copy of the work uploaded in the form of a clearly named, scanned PDF file to Avenue. (These must be submitted in a *single* PDF file per assignment. Many applications are available for your phone which will convert photos into PDFs. One of the best and most powerful is CamScanner.) Exercises will be looked over by the instructor but not graded; their completion will be sufficient for full marks.

Quizzes 40%

Ten quizzes will be written, worth 5% each. The two lowest scores will be dropped. Quizzes will test on vocabulary introduced at the beginning of chapters (students will be required to work ahead one chapter on vocabulary; see schedule), other items the text or instructor asks to be memorized, and grammar covered to that point. Students will have a 24hr window in which to complete quizzes, between 9am on Tuesday and 9am Wednesday during weeks in which a quiz is scheduled. Quizzes will be hosted on Avenue.

Final Exam 15%

The Final Exam will be cumulative. The method of delivery TBD.

Course Evaluation – Details

Exercises for Chapter 1 (2%), due Wed Sept 16th

Complete all exercises

Exercises for Chapter 2 (2%), due Fri Sept 18th

Complete all exercises

Exercises for Chapter 3 (2%), due Wed Sept 23rd

Complete all exercises

Exercises for Chapter 4 (2%), due Fri Sept 25th

Complete exercises 1-5; 6-7 (oral only)

Exercises for Chapter 5 (2%), due Wed Sept 30th

Complete exercises 1-5; for exercises 6-8 complete the odd numbers within each

Exercises for Chapter 6 (2%), due Wed Oct 7th

Complete all exercises; for 7 & 8 complete the odd numbers within each

Exercises for Chapter 7 (2%), due Wed Oct 21st

Complete all exercises; for 5, 6 & 9 complete the odd numbers within each; for 11 complete orally only

Exercises for Chapter 8 (2%), due Wed Oct 28th

Complete all exercises; for 5, 7, & 8 complete the odd numbers within each

Exercises for Chapter 9 (2%), due Fri Oct 30th

Complete exercises 1-8 (oral only for 4 & 6; odd for 8) and 9.1 & 9.5

Exercises for Chapter 10 (2%), due Wed Nov 4th

Complete exercises 1-5 (oral only for 4), and 6.1 & 6.6; Ruth oral only

Exercises for Chapter 11 (2%), due Wed Nov 11th

Complete all exercises (even numbers only for 5); Ruth oral

Exercises for Chapter 12 (2%), due Wed Nov 18th

Complete all exercises; for 3 & 8 odd numbers; for 5 even numbers; Ruth oral

Exercises for Chapter 13 (2%), due Wed Nov 25th

Complete all of 1, 3, 4, 6 & 9; odd numbers of 2, 5, & 8; Ruth oral

Exercises for Chapter 14 (2%), due Wed Dec 2nd

Complete all exercises; for 2, 4, 6, & 7 odd numbers within each; Ruth oral

Exercises for Chapter 15 (2%), due Wed Dec 9th

Complete all exercises; for 3, 6 & 7 odd numbers within each; Ruth oral

Quiz 1 (5%), due between 9am Tues and 9am Wed, Sept 22/23

Based on chapters 1-3, with vocabulary from chapters 4 & 5

Quiz 2 (5%), due between 9am Tues and 9am Wed, Sept 29/30

Cumulative but emphasizing chapter 4 & 5, with vocabulary up to chapter 6

Quiz 3 (5%), due between 9am Tues and 9am Wed, Oct 6/7

Cumulative but emphasizing chapter 6, with vocabulary up to chapter 7

Quiz 4 (5%), due between 9am Tues and 9am Wed, Oct 20/21

Cumulative but emphasizing chapter 7, with vocabulary up to chapter 8

Quiz 5 (5%), due between 9am Tues and 9am Wed, Oct 27/28

Cumulative but emphasizing chapter 8, with vocabulary up to chapter 10

Quiz 6 (5%), due between 9am Tues and 9am Wed, Nov 3/4

Cumulative but emphasizing chapters 9 & 10, with vocabulary up to chapter 11

Quiz 7 (5%), due between 9am Tues and 9am Wed, Nov 10/11

Cumulative but emphasizing chapter 11, with vocabulary up to chapter 12

Quiz 8 (5%), due between 9am Tues and 9am Wed, Nov 17/18

Cumulative but emphasizing chapter 12, with vocabulary up to chapter 13

Quiz 9 (5%), due between 9am Tues and 9am Wed, Nov 24/25

Cumulative but emphasizing chapter 13, with vocabulary up to chapter 14

Quiz 10 (5%), due between 9am Tues and 9am Wed, Dec 1/2

Cumulative but emphasizing chapter 14, with vocabulary up to chapter 15

Final Exam (15%), date TBD

Cumulative

Weekly Course Schedule and Required Readings & Videos

Week 1, Sept 9 & 11: The Signs and Sounds of Hebrew

Wednesday – Live Meeting

Readings: Syllabus & chapter 1¹

Notes: Recorded Lecture: The Alphabet

Friday – Live Meeting

Readings: Chapter 1

Notes: Recorded Lectures: The Alphabet

Be sure to learn the *names* of the consonants and vowels, which are to be found on the inside back cover (e.g., א is called *aleph*). Moreover, as course materials and instruction will employ Book Print or Block writing, *all* students must learn this form of the letters of the alphabet. Script form is optional.

Week 2, Sept 16 & 18: The Signs and Sounds, cont'd

Wednesday – Live Meeting

Readings: Chapter 2

Notes: Exercises for ch. 1 due

Recorded Lecture: The Alphabet, cont'd

Friday – Live Meeting

Readings: Chapter 3

Notes: Exercises for ch. 2 due

Recorded Lecture: The Sheva, etc.

Begin memorizing vocabular from chapters 4 & 5 (pp. 26 & 32)

Week 3, Sept 23 & 25: Nouns and Verbs: Singular

Wednesday – Live Meeting

Readings: Chapter 4

Notes: Complete Quiz 1 before 9am

¹ Be sure to learn the *names* of the consonants and vowels, which are to be found on the inside back cover (e.g., א is called *aleph*). Moreover, as course materials and instruction will employ Book Print or Block writing, *all* students must learn this form of the letters of the alphabet. Script form is optional.

Exercises for ch. 3 due

Recorded Lecture(s): Singular Nouns and Verbs

Friday – Live Meeting

Readings: Chapter 5

Notes: Exercises for ch. 4 due

Recorded Lecture(s): Nouns and Verbs: Singular

Week 4, Sept 30 & Oct 2: Nouns and Verbs: Plural

Wednesday – Live Meeting

Readings: Chapter 6

Notes: Complete Quiz 2 before 9am

Exercises for ch. 5 due

Recorded Lecture(s): Nouns and Verbs: Plural

Friday – Live Meeting

Readings: Chapter 6

Notes: Recorded Lecture(s): Nouns and Verbs: Plural

Week 5, Oct 7 & 9: The Perfect

Wednesday – Live Meeting

Readings: Chapter 7

Notes: Complete Quiz 3 before 9am

Exercises for ch. 6 due

Recorded Lecture(s): The Perfect Tense

Friday – Live Meeting

Readings: Chapter 7

Notes: Recorded Lecture(s): The Perfect Tense

Week 6, Oct 12-16

Reading Week

Week 7, Oct 21 & 23: The Direct Object

Wednesday – Live Meeting

Readings: Chapter 8

Notes: Complete Quiz 4 before 9am

Exercises for ch. 7 due

Recorded Lecture(s): The Direct Object, etc.

Friday – Live Meeting

Readings: Chapter 8

Notes: Recorded Lecture(s): The Direct Object, etc.

Week 8, Oct 28 & 30: Word Pairs (“of”)

Wednesday – Live Meeting

Readings: Chapter 9

Notes: Complete Quiz 5 before 9am

Exercises for ch. 8 due

Recorded Lecture(s): Word Pairs

Friday – Live Meeting

Readings: Chapter 10

Notes: Exercises for ch. 9 due

Recorded Lecture(s): Word Pairs

Week 9, Nov 4 & 5: The Imperfect

Wednesday – Live Meeting

Readings: Chapter 11

Notes: Complete Quiz 6 before 9am

Exercises for ch. 10 due

Recorded Lecture(s): The Imperfect Tense

Friday – Live Meeting

Readings: Chapter 11

Notes: Recorded Lecture(s): The Imperfect Tense

Week 10, Nov 11 & 13: Imperfect Imperfects (i.e., Dropped Letters)

Wednesday – Live Meeting

Readings: Chapter 12

Notes: Complete Quiz 7 before 9am

Exercises for ch. 11 due

Recorded Lecture(s): Drop Letter Imperfects

Friday – Live Meeting

Readings: Chapter 12

Notes: Recorded Lecture(s): Drop Letter Imperfects

Week 11, Nov 18 & 20: “Where the Verb?”

Wednesday – Live Meeting

Readings: Chapter 13

Notes: Complete Quiz 8 before 9am

Exercises for ch. 12 due

Recorded Lecture(s): Sentences without Verbs

Friday – Live Meeting

Readings: Chapter 13

Notes: Recorded Lecture(s): Sentences without Verbs

Week 12, Nov 25 & 27: The Blessed Adjective

Wednesday – Live Meeting

Readings: Chapter 14

Notes: Complete Quiz 9 before 9am

Exercises for ch. 13 due

Recorded Lecture(s): The Adjective

Friday – Live Meeting

Readings: Chapter 14

Notes: Recorded Lecture(s): The Adjective

Week 13, Dec 2 & 4: Possessive Endings

Wednesday – Live Meeting

Readings: Chapter 15

Notes: Complete Quiz 10 before 9am

Exercises for ch. 14 due

Recorded Lecture(s): Possessive Endings

Friday – Live Meeting

Readings: Chapter 15

Notes: Recorded Lecture(s): Possessive Endings

Week 14, Dec 9: Review

Wednesday – Live Meeting

Readings: None

Notes: Exercises for ch. 15 due

Course Policies

Submission of Assignments

Quizzes will be completed on Avenue. Exercises must be submitted in a *single* PDF file per chapter.

Grades

Grades will be based on the McMaster University grading scale:

MARK	GRADE
90-100	A+
85-90	A
80-84	A-
77-79	B+
73-76	B
70-72	B-
67-69	C+
63-66	C
60-62	C-
57-59	D+

MARK	GRADE
53-56	D
50-52	D-
0-49	F

Late Assignments

Late submissions will receive half the grade, except in extraordinary circumstances.

Avenue to Learn

In this course we will be using Avenue to Learn. Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of this course, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in this course will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure please discuss this with the course instructor.

Turnitin.com

In this course we will be using a web-based service (Turnitin.com) to reveal plagiarism. Students will be expected to submit their work electronically to Turnitin.com and in hard copy so that it can be checked for academic dishonesty. Students who do not wish to submit their work to Turnitin.com must still submit a copy to the instructor. No penalty will be assigned to a student who does not submit work to Turnitin.com. All submitted work is subject to normal verification that standards of academic integrity have been upheld (e.g., on-line search, etc.). To see the Turnitin.com Policy, please to go www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity.

University Policies

Academic Integrity Statement

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behavior in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity.

Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behavior can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: "Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty"), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university.

It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, located at www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity.

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

1. Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one's own or for which credit has been obtained.
2. Improper collaboration in group work.
3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

Conduct Expectations

As a McMaster student, you have the right to experience, and the responsibility to demonstrate, respectful and dignified interactions within all of our living, learning and working communities. These expectations are described in the [Code of Student Rights & Responsibilities](#) (the "Code"). All students share the responsibility of maintaining a positive environment for the academic and personal growth of all McMaster community members, **whether in person or online**.

It is essential that students be mindful of their interactions online, as the Code remains in effect in virtual learning environments. The Code applies to any interactions that adversely affect, disrupt, or interfere with reasonable participation in University activities. Student disruptions or behaviours that interfere with university functions on online platforms (e.g. use of Avenue 2 Learn, WebEx or Zoom for delivery), will be taken very seriously and will be investigated. Outcomes may include restriction or removal of the involved students' access to these platforms.

Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities who require academic accommodation must contact [Student Accessibility Services](#) (SAS) at 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or sas@mcmaster.ca to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. For further information, consult McMaster University's [Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities](#) policy.

Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work

[McMaster Student Absence Form \(MSAF\)](#): In the event of an absence for medical or other reasons, students should review and follow the Academic Regulation in the Undergraduate Calendar "Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work".

Academic Accommodation for Religious, Indigenous or Spiritual Observances (RISO)

Students requiring academic accommodation based on religious, indigenous or spiritual observances should follow the procedures set out in the [RISO](#) policy.

Students should submit their request to their Faculty Office ***normally within 10 working days*** of the beginning of term in which they anticipate a need for accommodation or to the Registrar's Office prior to their examinations. Students should also contact their instructors as soon as possible to make alternative arrangements for classes, assignments, and tests.

Copyright and Recording

Students are advised that lectures, demonstrations, performances, and any other course material provided by an instructor include copyright protected works. The Copyright Act and copyright law protect every original literary, dramatic, musical and artistic work, **including lectures** by University instructors

The recording of lectures, tutorials, or other methods of instruction may occur during a course. Recording may be done by either the instructor for the purpose of authorized distribution, or by a student for the purpose of personal study. Students should be aware that their voice and/or image may be recorded by others during the class. Please speak with the instructor if this is a concern for you.

Extreme Circumstances

The University reserves the right to change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances (e.g., severe weather, labour disruptions, etc.). Changes will be communicated through regular McMaster communication channels, such as McMaster Daily News, A2L and/or McMaster email.