

INTRODUCTION TO BIBLICAL HEBREW I 2A03

Religious Studies | McMaster University | Instructor: Dr. N. Meyer
Office: University Hall B125 | Office Hours: Wed 1:15-2:15
Mon 12:30-2:20 ETB 288 & Wed 11:30-1:20 KTH B105
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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 in the twentieth century in the form of Modern Hebrew. To encourage the daily discipline of study and practice that is necessary for language learning, the grading scheme of this course is weighted more evenly throughout the term, with regular homework assignments and quizzes carrying the bulk of the grade. Your commitment is necessary to achieve the goals of this course, which are to develop skills both for reading fluency and basic oral competence with biblical Hebrew; to develop a vocabulary of frequently occurring words in the Hebrew Bible; and to encounter biblical Hebrew as part of a living culture.

Course Materials

Required

Cook, John A., and Robert D. Holmstedt. *Beginning Biblical Hebrew*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2014.

Student resources available at: <http://bakerpublishinggroup.com/books/beginning-biblical-hebrew/342630/esources> (click on “student” tab)

Quizlet flashcards are available within the Quizlet app under BakerAcademic

Method of Evaluation

Assignments and Participation 27%

The completion of regular assignments (usually bi-weekly) *as well as participation in class* will count for 27% of your grade. Assignments for lessons covered must be submitted *before* the next class begins.

Quizzes 48%

Seven quizzes, valued at 8 percent, will be written in class; the lowest score will be dropped. These will test your comprehension of the grammar, syntax, and vocabulary covered in class and in the textbook. Missed quizzes will *not* be accommodated in the case of non-documented absences.

Final Exam 25%

The final exam will be comprehensive and comparable in format to quizzes.

Schedule

Week 1, Sept 5

Wed: Intro & Lesson 1 The Consonants

Week 2, Sept 10 & 12

Mon: Lessons 2 & 3 The Vowels | שׁוֹןֶשׂ (*Shəva*)

Wed: Lesson 4 שׁגְּדִי (*Dagesh*)

Week 3, Sept 17 & 19

Mon: **Quiz 1** | Lesson 5 Subject Pronouns: Singular

Wed: Lessons 6 & 7 Copular Clauses | Nouns: Singular

Week 4, Sept 24 & 26

Mon: Lesson 8 The Article הַ and the Interrogative הַ

Wed: **Quiz 2** | Lesson 9 הַ of Possession: Singular

Reading 1 ("The Home")

Week 5, Oct 1 & 3

Mon: Lessons 10 & 11 Nouns: Plural and Dual | Subject Pronouns: Plural

Wed: Lesson 12 שׁ! and אִין

Week 6

Mid-Term Recess, Oct 8-14

Week 7, Oct 15 & 17

Mon: Lesson 13 Conjunction וְ and Prepositions בְּ, עַל, לְ, and מִן

Wed: **Quiz 3** | Lesson 14 שׁאֵלוֹת (Questions)

Reading 2 (*Genesis 3א*)

Week 8, Oct 22 & 24

Mon: Lessons 15 & 16 Verbs: A Preview | קָל Perfect Conjugation: Singular

Wed: Lesson 17 הַ of Possession: Plural

Week 9, Oct 29 & 31

Mon: Review

Wed: **Quiz 4** | Lesson 18 Word Order

Reading 3 (*Genesis 22א*)

Week 10, Nov 5 & 7

Mon: Lesson 19 קָל Perfect Conjugation: Plural

Wed: Lesson 20 מִיכּוֹת (Bound Nouns)

Week 11, Nov 12 & 14

Mon: **Quiz 5** | Lesson 21 The Irreal Use of the Perfect Conjugation

Wed: Lesson 22 Attached Pronouns: Singular

Reading 4 (*Genesis 37א*)

Week 12, Nov 19 & 21

Mon: Lesson 23 קָל Imperfect Conjugation: Singular

Wed: **Quiz 6** | Lessons 24 & 25 The Infinitive | The Adverbial Infinitive

Week 13, Nov 26 & 28

Mon: Lessons 26 & 27 Objects | קָל Imperfect Conjugation: Plural

Reading 5 (*Genesis 3ב*)

Wed: Lessons 28 קָל Imperfect Conjugation of הִיאַ

Week 14, Dec 3 & 5

Mon: **Quiz 7** | Reading/Review

Wed: Review

Final Exam: TBD