

INTRODUCTION TO BIBLICAL HEBREW I

HEB 2A03 | RS 2HC3

Religious Studies | McMaster University | Dr. N. Meyer | meyer@mcmaster.ca
Office: University Hall 129 | Office Hours: Thurs 11:15-12:15
Class: Mon/Thurs 12:30-2:20 | ETB 238

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. Success will require almost daily commitment, and to this end the grading scheme of this course is designed to assist students by allotting the bulk of the grade to regular homework and quizzes. Your commitment will help us achieve the goals of this course, namely, to develop reading competence in the Hebrew Bible; 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

Thurs: Intro & Lesson 1 The Consonants

Week 2, Sept 9 & 12

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

Thurs: Lesson 4 דָּגֵשׁ (*Dagesh*)

Week 3, Sept 16 & 19

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

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

Week 4, Sept 23 & 26

Mon: Lesson 8 The Article הַ and the Interrogative הַ

Thurs: **Quiz 2** | Lesson 9 לְ of Possession: Singular

Reading 1 ("The Home")

Week 5, Sept 30 & Oct 3

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

Thurs: Lesson 12 שׁ! and אִין

Week 6, Oct 7 & 10

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

Thurs: **Quiz 3** | Lesson 14 שְׁאֵלוֹת (Questions)

Reading 2 (Genesis 3א)

Week 7

Mid-Term Recess, Oct 14-20

Week 8, Oct 21 & 24

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

Thurs: Lesson 17 לְ of Possession: Plural

Week 9, Oct 28 & 31

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

Reading 3 (Genesis 22א)

Thurs: Lesson 19 קָל Perfect Conjugation: Plural

Week 10, Nov 4 & 7

Mon: Lesson 20 מְיֻחָדִים (Bound Nouns)

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

Week 11, Nov 11 & 14

Mon: Lesson 22 Attached Pronouns: Singular

Reading 4 (Genesis 37א)

Thurs: Lesson 23 קָל Imperfect Conjugation: Singular

Week 12, Nov 18 & 21

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

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

Reading 5 (Genesis 3ב)

Week 13, Nov 25 & 28

Mon: **Quiz 7** | Lessons 28 קָל Imperfect Conjugation of הִיאַ

Thurs: Review

Week 14, Dec 2

Mon: Review

Final Exam: TBD

Additional Statements

1. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour 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 behaviour 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:

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

2. AUTHENTICITY / PLAGIARISM DETECTION

In this course we may be using a web-based service (Turnitin.com) to reveal authenticity and ownership of student submitted work. Students will be expected to submit their work electronically either directly to Turnitin.com or via Avenue to Learn (A2L) plagiarism detection (a service supported by Turnitin.com) so it can be checked for academic dishonesty. Students who do not wish to submit their work through A2L and/or Turnitin.com must still submit an electronic and/or hardcopy to the instructor. No penalty will be assigned to a student who does not submit work to Turnitin.com or A2L. All submitted work is subject to normal verification that standards of academic integrity have been upheld (e.g., on-line search, other software, etc.). To see the Turnitin.com Policy, please go to www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity. Undergraduate Course Management Policies December 13, 2017, effective September 1, 2018 Page 11 of 12

3. ON-LINE ELEMENTS

In this course we will be using Avenue to Learn (A2L). 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.

4. ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

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

5. 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”.

6. 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 requiring a RISO accommodation 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.

7. 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.