

INTRODUCTION TO BIBLICAL HEBREW I 2B03 | RS 2HD3

Religious Studies | McMaster University | Instructor: Dr. N. Meyer
Office: University Hall 124 | Office Hours: Wed 1:00-2:30
Class: Mon/Thur 12:30-2:20 ETB 235/###
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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. 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/students/esources>

Quizlet flashcards are available within the Quizlet app under BakerAcademic

Method of Evaluation

Assignments 26%

The completion of regular assignments (usually bi-weekly) *as well as participation in class* will count for 26% of your grade. Assignments for lessons covered must be submitted *in person at the beginning* of the next class.

Quizzes 49%

Seven quizzes, valued at 7 percent, will be written in class. 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, Jan 6 & 9

Mon: Lesson 29 **בְּנִינִים: פֻּעַל וְהַפְּעִיל**

Thurs: Lesson 30 Main and Subordinate Clauses + Pual and Hophal

Week 2, Jan 13 & 16

Mon: Lesson 31 Attached Pronouns: Plural

Reading 6 (Genesis 22ב)

Thurs: **Quiz 1** | Lesson 32 Adjectives

Week 3, Jan 20 & 23

Mon: Lesson 33 Demonstrative Pronouns

Thurs: Lesson 34 **סְגֻלַּת** Noun Pattern

Reading 7 (Genesis 37ב)

Week 4, Jan 27 & 30

Mon: **Quiz 2** | Lessons 35 & 36 Past Narrative Conjugation | **וְהִי**

Thurs: Lesson 37 **בְּנִינִים: נִפְעַל וְהַתְּפַעַל**

Week 5, Feb 3 & 6

Mon: Lesson 38 Dynamic and Stative Verbs

Reading 8 (Genesis 3ג)

Thurs: Lesson 39 Jussives and Imperatives

Week 6, Feb 10 & 13

Mon: **Quiz 3** | Lesson 40 Attached Pronouns with Verbs

Thurs: Lesson 41 Word Order with Topic and Focus

Reading 9 (Genesis 22ג)

Week 7, Feb 17 & 20

Mid-Term Recess

Week 8, Feb 24 & 27

Mon: **Quiz 4** | Lesson 42 Participles

Thurs: Lesson 43 The Foreground and Background of Narrative

Week 9, Mar 2 & 5

Mon: Lesson 44 The Verbal System: A Summary

Reading 10 (Genesis 37ג)

Thurs: Lesson 45 Numerals

Week 10, Mar 9 & 12

Mon: **Quiz 5** | Lesson 46 Topic

Reading 11 (Genesis I)

Thurs: Lesson 47 Accents

Week 11, Mar 16 & 19

Mon: Lesson 48 Complements and Adjuncts

Reading 12 (Genesis 47)

Thurs: Lesson 49 Case Relations

Week 12, Mar 23 & 26

Mon: **Quiz 6** | Lesson 50 Lexical Semantics

Reading 13 (Genesis 50)

Thurs: Reading and Review

Week 13, March 30 & April 2

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

Thurs: Reading and Review

Week 14, April 6

Mon: Reading and Review

Final Exam: TBD