

Hebrew 104/304
Department of Hebrew and Semitic Studies
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Spring 2008

Class: MW 2:30-3:45, F 2:25-3:15

Instructor: Jim Kirk

Office: 1336 Van Hise

Office Hours: F 3:15-4:30 or by appointment

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Welcome to the second semester of Biblical Hebrew! This semester we continue our adventure in learning the language of the Hebrew Bible. Let me remind you of our general goals for this year:

- ✓ to *read* Hebrew narrative by sight come May.
- ✓ to see the *literary importance* of reading the Bible *in Hebrew*, not just in translation.
- ✓ to learn to be a *skilled and strategic* language learner.
- ✓ to *enjoy* reading Hebrew (so much that you spend your summer reading Hebrew for fun!).

To further these goals this semester we will reinforce the grammar learned last semester and move onto the Hebrew "weak" verbs and aspects of Biblical Hebrew syntax. We will also spend a lot of time reading Biblical Hebrew narrative, with appreciation for its literary dimensions.

REQUIREMENTS:

בְּכָל-עֵצָב יְהִיָּה מוֹתֵר (In all toil there is profit,' Prov 14:23)

1) **Attendance** is crucial for your success in this class. You are expected to come to class with all the assigned work completed and ready for active participation. If you must miss a class, it is your responsibility to get notes from another student and check with me for any handouts. *If you miss a Hebrew reading session, please go over the text with another student before coming to me with remaining questions.*

2) **Exercises and translation** will be assigned daily. We will go over these assignments at the beginning of the next class period and I will collect some of them. These assignments cannot be handed in outside of class, except by special permission.

3) **Quizzes.** Quizzes on **Mondays** will focus on the previous week's grammar, but vocabulary and translation will always be cumulative. No surprises at all on the quizzes. Just know everything! The quiz will start at the beginning of the hour, so please do not be late. There will be no make-up quizzes (except by special permission), but your lowest quiz score will be dropped.

4) We will have a **mid-term** (FRI. MARCH 14) and a **final exam** (TBA). Both exams will be cumulative.

5) **Oral recitation:** It is important that you gain the ability early on in your study of Biblical Hebrew to read Hebrew aloud fluently. To encourage you in this you must prepare a text (to be announced) and read it for me during office hours (or by appointment). I will pass out a schedule for these readings in early April, but feel free to complete the assignment early.

6) Extra Credit: Attend a **lecture** related to the Bible and/or Jewish Studies and write a one-page report. The Madison Biblical Archaeology Society offers monthly lectures (I will send you the schedule) and Jewish Studies has a series of lectures this semester (<http://polyglot.lss.wisc.edu/jewishst/announcements.htm>).

TEXTBOOKS:

- 1) Cook, John A., and Robert D. Holmstedt. 2005. *Ancient Hebrew: A Student Grammar*. Unpublished.
- 2) Elliger, K. and Rudolph, W., eds. 1967-77. *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*. 3d ed. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft.
- 3) Brown, Francis, S.R. Driver, and C.A. Briggs. 1979. *The New Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew-English Lexicon*. Peabody, Mass.: Hendrickson. [BDB]

Recommended: Long, Gary A. *Grammatical Concepts 101 for Biblical Hebrew: Learning Biblical Hebrew Grammatical Concepts through English Grammar*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 2002.
 [College Library Reserves: PJ 4567.3 L66 2002]

COMMUNICATION:

- 1) I have set up a course email list for our use. The address is: hebrst104-1-s08@lists.wisc.edu. Please feel free to use this list to communicate with your fellow students, arrange study groups, ask questions, or do anything else related to Biblical Hebrew.
- 2) I will post files for download on the Learn@UW website (<http://learnuw.wisc.edu>).

<u>GRADING:</u> (approximate %)	Grading Scale:	A	93-100	(Outstanding)
Assignments/Participation: 10%		AB	89-92	(Exceptional)
Quizzes: 25%		B	82-88	(Good)
Midterm Exam: 25%		BC	79-81	
Final Exam: 30%		C	70-78	(Adequate)
Oral Reading: 10%		D	60-69	(Marginal)
		F	0-59	(Inadequate)

SCHEDULE:

Date	Topic
<i>Week 1</i>	Chapter 16: Using a Hebrew Lexicon; Dynamic and Stative Verbs
<i>Week 2</i>	Chapter 17: Verbs with guttural consonants in the root
<i>Week 3</i>	Chapter 18: Intro to "Weak" Verbs; Object Suffixes on Verbs
<i>Week 4</i>	Chapter 19: Verbs with ם in the root
<i>Week 5</i>	Chapter 20: Verbs with ך as the 1 st radical
<i>Week 6</i>	Chapter 21: Verbs with ך/ך as the 1 st radical
<i>Week 7</i>	Chapter 22: Verbs with ן as the 3 rd radical
<i>Week 8</i>	Mid-term Exam (Friday, March 14)
	SPRING BREAK (March 15-23)
<i>Week 9</i>	Chapter 23: Verbs with ך/ך as the 2 nd radical
<i>Week 10</i>	Chapter 24: Verbs with the same consonants for the 2 nd and 3 rd radicals
<i>Week 11</i>	Chapter 25: Verbs with more than one "weak" consonant
<i>Week 12</i>	Chapters 26-27: Putting Words Together
<i>Week 13</i>	Chapter 28: Making Sense of Words
<i>Week 14</i>	Chapter 29: Getting the Message
<i>Week 15</i>	Chapter 30: 'Reading' the Bigger Picture