

Hebrew 104/304: Biblical Hebrew, Second Semester
Department of Hebrew and Semitic Studies
University of Wisconsin–Madison
Spring 2009

Class Time and Location: MW 2:30-3:45 (Van Hise 367) / Fri 2:25-3:15 (Van Hise 574)

Instructor: Tim Mackie

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Office Hours: MW 3:45-4:45 or by appointment

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Welcome to the second semester of Biblical Hebrew! This semester we will continue practicing and broadening your skills in reading the Hebrew Bible.

This year (including the spring semester) we have four general learning goals:

- ❖ to *read* Hebrew narrative by sight.
- ❖ to see the *literary importance* of reading the Bible *in Hebrew*, not just in translation.
- ❖ to become a *skilled* language learner.
- ❖ to *enjoy* reading Hebrew.

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:

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 to be prepared for the next class session. Late arrivals and early departures are unacceptable unless arranged beforehand.

2) Every Monday we will go over a new lesson from the textbook. As part of your preparation for class you must **read over the new lesson before class**. Even if you don't understand everything in it, our class time will be more productive if you have read through the material beforehand. You should be prepared to read the Hebrew examples aloud.

3) **Homework exercises** from the textbook will be assigned for each class period. We will go over these assignments at the beginning of the next class period. Completing these assignments will be worth 15% of your grade. **DO NOT LOSE POINTS HERE**. Late assignments will not be accepted, except by special permission in case of emergencies.

4) Every **Monday** we will begin class with a brief **10 minute quiz** focused on material covered the previous week. Because this is a language class, *every* quiz is cumulative (especially the vocabulary). The quiz will start at the beginning of the class, so do not be late. There will be no make-up quizzes (except for excused absences), but your lowest quiz score will be dropped at the end of the semester.

5) We will have a **mid-term** (Fri, Mar 13, 2:25 P.M.) and a **final exam** (Wed, May 13, 10:05 A.M.) Both exams will be cumulative. The midterm and final exams must be taken at the scheduled times, except in cases of emergency.

6) **Oral recitation:** It is important that you gain the ability early on in your study of Biblical Hebrew to not only understand the grammar of the language and translate, but also to read Hebrew aloud fluently. To accomplish this you will prepare a text—**either Genesis 1:1–5 or Exodus 20:1–6**—and read it

for me during office hours (or by appointment). This assignment is due by *Fri, May 1* (you may complete the assignment earlier in the semester).

7) 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://jewishstudies.wisc.edu/lectures/>).

A NOTE ON VOCABULARY AND MEMORIZATION:

The vocabulary of the Hebrew Bible includes roughly 10,000 words. During the fall and spring we will memorize almost all the words that occur 50 times or more in the Hebrew Bible (~739 words). With each new lesson, one of the first things you should do is *make vocabulary flash cards*. You should also make cards for relevant grammatical forms, as discussed in class. You can buy blank flashcards of various shapes and sizes at the UW Bookstore.

CLASS PARTICIPATION AND PREPARATION:

Classes will follow a consistent pattern. First, we will go over the assigned exercises. You should be prepared to read the Hebrew exercises fluently and translate from the Hebrew (not just reading your English translation!). I don't expect you to necessarily have all the right answers, but I do expect that you have given it a good-faith effort. If you cannot figure something out, try and identify exactly what's causing your confusion. We will not always have time to go over every exercise in class, so tell me which ones would be most helpful for us to go over together. Second, we will go over any new material (you should have read the new lesson before class). Third, we will review old material from previous weeks.

COMMUNICATION:

1) I have set up a course email list for our use. The address is: hebrst104-1-s09@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 occasionally post files for download on the Learn@UW website (<http://learnuw.wisc.edu>).

GRADING: (approximate %)

Daily Assignments: 15%

Quizzes: 25%

Midterm Exam: 25%

Final Exam: 25%

Oral Reading: 10%

Extra Credit (Equivalent to 1 Daily Assignment)

Grading Scale: A 93-100 (Outstanding)

AB 89-92 (Exceptional)

B 82-88 (Good)

BC 79-81 (Fair enough)

C 70-78 (Adequate)

D 60-69 (Marginal)

F 0-59 (Don't even ask!)

TEXTBOOKS:

Cook, John A., and Robert D. Holmstedt. 2007. *Ancient Hebrew: A Student Grammar*. Unpublished.

Pick up at Bob's Copy Shop (the one by Subway on 1401 University Avenue) [around \$20]

Elliger, K. and Rudolph, W., eds. 1967-77. *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*. 3d ed. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft. [Abbreviation = *BHS*]

Brown, Francis, S.R. Driver, and C.A. Briggs. 1979. *The New Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew-English Lexicon*. Peabody, Mass.: Hendrickson. [Abbreviation = *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]

Week	Day	Date	Chapter	Topic	Exercises
1	Wed	1/21	16	Using a Hebrew Lexicon; Dynamic and Stative Verbs	
	Fri	1/23			
2	Mon	1/26	17	Verbs with guttural consonants in the root	
	Wed	1/28			
	Fri	1/30			
3	Mon	2/2	18	Intro to "Weak" Verbs; Object Suffixes on Verbs	
	Wed	2/4			
	Fri	2/6			
4	Mon	2/9	19	Verbs with א in the root	
	Wed	2/11			
	Fri	2/13			
5	Mon	2/16	20	Verbs with א as the 1 st radical	
	Wed	2/18			
	Fri	2/20			
6	Mon	2/23	21	Verbs with א as the 1 st radical	
	Wed	2/25			
	Fri	2/27			
7	Mon	3/2	22	Verbs with ה as the 3 rd radical	
	Wed	3/4			
	Fri	3/6			
8	Mon	3/9		Review	
	Wed	3/11			
	Fri	3/13		MID-TERM EXAM	
	Mon		NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK		
	Wed				
	Fri				
9	Mon	3/23	23	Verbs with א as the 2 nd radical	
	Wed	3/25			
	Fri	3/27			
10	Mon	3/30	24	Verbs with the same consonants for the 2 nd and 3 rd radicals	
	Wed	4/1			
	Fri	4/3			
11	Mon	4/6	25	Verbs with more than one "weak" consonant	
	Wed	4/8			
	Fri	4/10			NO CLASS – PESACH
12	Mon	4/13	26-27	Putting Words Together: Hebrew Syntax	
	Wed	4/15			
	Fri	4/17			
13	Mon	4/20	28	Making Sense of Hebrew Words: Semantics	
	Wed	4/22			
	Fri	4/24			
14	Mon	4/27	29	Getting the Message: Pragmatics and Word-Order	
	Wed	4/29			

	Fri	5/1			
15	Mon	5/4	30	Reading the Bigger Picture: Hebrew Discourse and Narrative	
	Wed	5/6			
	Fri	5/8			
	Wed	5/13		FINAL EXAM, 10:05 A.M.	