

**Hebrew 323: Biblical Texts (Third Semester Biblical Hebrew)**  
**Department of Hebrew and Semitic Studies**  
**University of Wisconsin-Madison**  
**Fall 2009**

**Class:** MWF 1:20-2:10

**Instructor:** Eric Tully

**Office:** 1336 Van Hise Hall

**Office Hours:** MW 12:30-1:10 or by appointment

**Location:** 216 Ingraham Hall

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Welcome to Intermediate Biblical Hebrew (a.k.a. Biblical Texts)! The primary purpose of this course is to reinforce and expand your existing knowledge of Biblical Hebrew. We will accomplish this goal in the best way possible: by reading large quantities of the biblical text in Hebrew. In addition to reading texts together in class we will systematically review Biblical Hebrew grammar and continue to build vocabulary (by the end of the spring semester you should know all the Biblical Hebrew words that occur 25 times or more). Finally, in all our reading we will be consistently guided by the question: How did the biblical authors craft their language so as to create richly meaningful stories and poems?

**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 be prepared for the next class session. Late arrivals and early departures are unacceptable.

2) **Weekly translation:** Come to class prepared to translate from an unmarked Hebrew text, parse all verbs, and identify all forms. In class you may use notes, but you may not use a prepared translation. Students will take turns reading one- or two-verse portions of the assigned text aloud and then translating. When a student finishes reading and translating, I will ask relevant grammatical questions about the verse. You are encouraged to bring your own questions about the text for discussion. We will then move to another reader and continue the process.

To prepare for class, read the assigned text in advance (roughly 10-15 verses per day), and be able to pronounce the verses accurately. Look up any words you don't know in *BDB*. Consult *BHRG* or another reference grammar if any phrases or words are unclear. Make a note of anything you can't figure out on your own, and ask about it in class.

3) **Quizzes:** Every Monday (or the first day of the week) we will begin class with a brief 10 minute **quiz** that will test you primarily on material covered the previous week, especially vocabulary, morphology review, and translation. The quiz will start at the beginning of the hour, so do not be late. There will be no make-up quizzes (except at my discretion—talk to me if you have a valid excuse), but your lowest quiz score will be dropped.

4) **Reading: A Biblical Hebrew Reference Grammar:** This is a reference grammar, and so you should not try and memorize every detail. However, I would like you to read every assigned section closely. I will offer you guidance on approaching specific sections as the semester progresses.

4) **Exams:** We will have a **mid-term** (Fri., October 16) and a **final exam** (Tues., Dec. 22, 10:05 a.m.). Both exams will be cumulative. We will discuss them in more detail later in the semester. The midterm and final exams must be taken at the scheduled times, except in cases of emergency.

5) **Paper:** You must read Shimon Bar-Efrat's *Narrative Art in the Bible* and write a 7-10 page analysis of the book of Ruth with respect to **one** of the literary features discussed in Bar-Efrat (i.e.,

narrator, characters, plot, time and space, stylistic devices). I will give you more information on the assignment later in the semester. You will be responsible for this reading on the midterm. The tentative **due date for this paper is Mon, Nov 2**, roughly two weeks after we finish reading the book of Ruth. Late papers will be reduced by one-half grade for each day (24 hours period) that the paper is late (e.g., an A becomes an AB, etc.).

6) **Recitation:** It is important that you gain the ability early on in your study of Biblical Hebrew to read Hebrew aloud fluently. You will prepare a narrative text of chapter length from Ruth or Jonah and read it for me during office hours (or by appointment). This assignment is due by **December 4** (you may complete the assignment earlier in the semester). A good, free, oral recording of the Hebrew Bible is available at [http://www.aosal.org/hebrew\\_audiobible.htm](http://www.aosal.org/hebrew_audiobible.htm).

7) **CJS Lecture:** Students are required to attend the lecture sponsored by the Center for Jewish Studies:

Leo G. Perdue, "The Mantic Sage in Israel and the Ancient Near East";  
November 10, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.; Grainger Hall. Room TBA.

Compose a short lecture interaction assignment of one typed page, due in class on (**Wed., Nov. 18**).

- (1) Summarize the main point of the lecture.
- (2a) Undergrads: Write at least one paragraph reacting to the lecture, for example, with a question, a critical comment, or your personal response..
- (2b) Graduates: Questions and Critical Comment: Ask two critical questions of the speaker's main point, and make one critical comment (something they should or did not consider).

#### **SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR HEBREW DEPT. GRADUATE STUDENTS:**

1) In addition to the assigned reading in *BHRG*, Hebrew Department graduate students should read the corresponding sections in Joüon/Muraoka. We will work from *BHRG* in class, but please feel free to ask me questions arising from Joüon/Muraoka outside of class.

2) Hebrew Department graduate students will meet with Prof. Miller for an additional "4<sup>th</sup> Hour" of credit in Hebrew historical morphology. Please contact her for more information. She will give me a grade for this 4<sup>th</sup> hour that will be averaged in with your other grades for the class.

#### **COMMUNICATION:**

1) I have set up a course email list for our use. The address is: **hebrst323-1-f09@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 %; GS = Graduate Students)

Oral Reading: 7%	[GS 7%]	Grading Scale:
Quizzes: 20%	[GS 15%]	A 93-100 (Outstanding)
Paper: 20%	[GS 15%]	AB 89-92 (Exceptional)
Midterm Exam: 25%	[GS 20%]	B 82-88 (Good)
Final Exam: 25%	[GS 20%]	BC 79-81
CJS Lecture: 3%	[GS 3%]	C 70-78 (Adequate)
	[GS "4 <sup>th</sup> Hour" 20%]	D 60-69 (Marginal)
		F 0-59 (Failure)

**TEXTBOOKS:**

Bar-Efrat, Shimon. *Narrative Art in the Bible*. JSOT Supplement 70/Bible and Literature Series 17. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 2000. [NAB]

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

Elliger, K. and Rudolph, W., eds. *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*. 3rd ed. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 1967-77.

Joüon, Paul and Takamitsu Muraoka. *A Grammar of Biblical Hebrew*. Subsidia Biblica 27. Rome: Editrice Pontificio Istituto Biblico, 2006. [Recommended; 1991 ed. is fine too.]

Landes, George M. *Building Your Biblical Hebrew Vocabulary: Learning Words by Frequency and Cognate*. Resources for Biblical Study 41. Atlanta: Society for Biblical Literature, 2001.

van der Merwe, Christo H. J., Jackie A. Naudé, and Jan H. Kroeze. *A Biblical Hebrew Reference Grammar*. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1999. [BHRG]

Day	Date	Topic	Reading Due on 1 <sup>st</sup> day of week
Wed	Sept 2	Introduction; start reading Ruth	Review: Landes, "How Hebrew Words are Formed" (pp. 7-39)
Fri	4		
Mon	7	<b>NO CLASS: Labor Day</b>	
Wed	9	QUIZ #1 (Landes #1-2, 72-78; Qal Strong Verb)	BHRG §1-8; 14-16.3
Fri	11	Orthography; Phonology	JM §1-14; 17-33
Mon	14	QUIZ #2 (Landes #3-4, 79-81; Niphal Strong Verb)	BHRG §10-13; 16.4-6
Wed	16	Linguistic terminology	JM §15-16
Fri	18	<b>NO CLASS: Erev Rosh Hashana</b>	
Mon	21	QUIZ #3 (Landes #5-6; Piel/Pual/Hitpael Strong Verb)	BHRG §9.1-8; 16.7-8
Wed	23	Accents and Massorah	JM §34; 86-99; 102-105
Fri	25		
Mon	28	<b>NO CLASS: Yom Kippur</b>	
Wed	30	QUIZ #4 (Landes #7-8; Hiphil/Hophal Strong Verb)	BHRG §23-28
Fri	Oct 2	Nominal System 1; Nominal Suffixes	JM §132-142; 148-152
Mon	5	QUIZ #5 (Landes #9-10; Nominal Suffixes)	BHRG §29-35
Wed	7	Nominal System 2	JM §35-39; 100-105; 143-147
Fri	9		
Mon	12	QUIZ #6 ( <b>NO VOCAB</b> )	BHRG §36-37
Wed	14	Nominal System 3; Finish Ruth	
Fri	16	<b>MIDTERM EXAM</b>	
Mon	19	No Quiz	BHRG §17
Wed	21	Verbal System 1: Conjugations and Stems; Verbal Suffixes; Start Joseph Story (Gen 37ff)	JM §40-66
Fri	23		
Mon	26	QUIZ #7 ( <b>Landes #11-12</b> )	BHRG §19-22; 18.1-2
Wed	28	Verbal System 2: Syntax and Semantics	JM §111-124; 67-71
Fri	30	Guttural Verbs	
Mon	Nov 2	<b>Bar Efrat Paper Due</b>	BHRG §18.3-4
Wed	4	QUIZ #8 ( <b>Landes #13-14</b> ; Gutturals Verbs)	JM §73, 78
Fri	6	Weak Verbs: I-Aleph, III-Aleph	
Mon	9	QUIZ #9 ( <b>Landes #15-16</b> ; I-Aleph III-Aleph Verbs)	BHRG §18.5
Wed	11	Weak Verbs: III-He	JM §79
Fri	13		
Mon	16	QUIZ #10 ( <b>Landes #17-18</b> ; III-He Verbs)	BHRG §18.6-7
Wed	18	Weak Verbs: I-Nun; I-w/y; <b>lecture report due</b>	JM §72
Fri	20	<b>NO CLASS: Away at conference</b>	
Mon	23	QUIZ #11 ( <b>Landes #19-20</b> ; I-Nun, I-w/y Verbs)	BHRG §18.8
Wed	25	Weak Verbs: II-w/y	JM §74-77
Fri	28	<b>NO CLASS: Thanksgiving Break</b>	
Mon	30	QUIZ #12 ( <b>Landes #21-22</b> ; II-w/y Verbs)	BHRG §18.9
Wed	Dec 2	Weak Verbs: Geminate	JM §80-5
Fri	4	<b>ORAL RECITATION DUE</b>	
Mon	7	QUIZ #13 (Geminate Verbs)	
Wed	9		
Fri	11		
Mon	14	Review	
Tues	22	<b>FINAL EXAM (10:05 A.M. -12:05 P.M.)</b>	