

Hebrew 324: Biblical Texts
Department of Hebrew and Semitic Studies
University of Wisconsin-Madison – Spring 2008

Class: MWF 1:20-2:10
Instructor: Jim Kirk
Office: 1336 Van Hise
Office Hours: F 3:15-4:30 or by appointment

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The primary purpose of this course to increase fluency and accuracy in reading Biblical Hebrew through (a) reading selected texts; (b) discussion of grammar and syntax (a special focus will be clausal syntax); (c) and vocabulary building.

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.

2) **Daily translation:** Come to class prepared to translate from an unmarked Hebrew text, parse all verbs, identify all forms. You may use notes, but you may not read from a prepared translation. If you are not prepared when called on, please say so and we will move on to the next person. *The use of computer parsing programs and/or published parsing guides is strictly forbidden; use your lexicon, paradigms, and grammars. If you do not understand a form, bring it up in class.*

3) **Quizzes:** Every **Monday** we will begin class with a brief quiz that will test you primarily on material covered the previous week, especially vocabulary, syntax, and translation. 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) **Syntax & Translation Exercise:** You must present a translation and syntactic analysis of Deut. 4:1-22 according to guidelines to be discussed in class. The first draft is due on Friday, April 11; a revision of the project is due on Friday, April 25. The final grade will be an average of the two drafts.

6) **Oral Reading Memory Exercise:** This semester you are required to memorize and recite for me a Hebrew Psalm of your choosing. Suggestions: Pss 1, 2, 15, 23, 120, 121, or another Psalm of similar length. Please confirm your choice with me. I will schedule the readings in April, but feel free to complete the assignment earlier in the semester. A good, free, oral recording of the Hebrew Bible is available at http://www.aol.org/hebrew_audiobible.htm.

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://polyglot.lss.wisc.edu/jewishst/announcements.htm>).

TEXTBOOKS:

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

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

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.

GRADING: (approximate %; GS = Graduate Students)

Oral Reading:	10% [GS 10%]
Quizzes:	15% [GS 15%]
Syntax Exercise:	15% [GS 15%]
Midterm Exam:	25% [GS 20%]
Final Exam:	35% [GS 20%]
GS "4 th Hour"	20%

Grading Scale:	A	93-100 (Outstanding)
	AB	89-92 (Exceptional)
	B	82-88 (Good)
	BC	79-81
	C	70-78 (Adequate)
	D	60-69 (Marginal)
	F	0-59 (Inadequate)