

Hebrew 324: Biblical Texts (Fourth Semester Biblical Hebrew)
Department of Hebrew and Semitic Studies
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Spring 2009

Class: MWF 1:20-2:10

Instructor: Tim Mackie

Office: 1336 Van Hise Hall

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

Location: 6314 Social Science Bldg.

Email: tpmackie@wisc.edu

Office Phone #: 262-8240

Phone #: 512-8999

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) **Daily 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), be ready to parse any of the verbs 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.

We will be reading through the Elijah-Elisha Narrative Cycle (1Kings 17–2Kings 13)

3) **Quizzes:** Every Monday we will begin class with a brief 10 minute **quiz** that will test you primarily on the translation material covered the previous week, as well as especially vocabulary (from Landes) and morphology review. (See course schedule for details.) 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 at the end of the semester.

4) **Hebrew Syntax Review and Syntax Project:** Each week you will be given a handout that discusses different aspects of Hebrew syntax (see course schedule for details). This material will be cumulatively applied in translation and syntax analysis of Deuteronomy 4:1–22. The details of the project will be discussed in class. The first draft is due on Wednesday, April 8; a revision of the project is due on Friday, April 24. The final grade will be an average of the two drafts.

4) **Exams:** We will have a **mid-term** (Fri, Mar 13 in class) and a **final exam** (Mon, May 11, 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) **Oral Recitation:** It is important that you gain the ability early on in your study of Biblical Hebrew to read Hebrew aloud fluently. You will be required to read aloud 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. This project *is due by Fri, May 1*, 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.

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

COMMUNICATION:

1) I have set up a course email list for our use. The address is: hebrst324-1-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 %; GS = Graduate Students)

Oral Reading: 9%	[GS 7%]
Quizzes: 20%	[GS 15%]
Paper: 20%	[GS 15%]
Midterm Exam: 25%	[GS 20%]
Final Exam: 25%	[GS 20%]
Extra Credit: 1%	
GS "4 th Hour"	[GS 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 (Don't even ask)

TEXTBOOKS:

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]

Detailed Course Outline

Date	Topics	Syntax Study Topic/Assignments
WEEK 1 1/21, 23		
WEEK 2 1/26, 28, 30	QUIZ 1 (Vocab Review from Fall Semester)	Apposition and Coordination
WEEK 3 2/2, 4, 6	QUIZ 2 (Landes # 23, Guttural Verbs)	Verbless Clauses
WEEK 4 2/9, 11, 13	QUIZ 3 (Landes # 24, Suffixes on Verbs)	Relative Clauses

WEEK 5 2/16, 18, 20	QUIZ 4 (Landes # 25, I/III-Aleph Verbs)	Temporal Clauses
WEEK 6 2/23, 25, 27	QUIZ 5 (Landes #26, I-Nun Verbs)	Causal Clauses
WEEK 7 3/2, 4, 6	QUIZ 6 (Landes #27, III-He Verbs)	Conditional Clauses
WEEK 8 3/9, 11, 13	QUIZ 7 (Landes #28, III-He Verbs) MID-TERM EXAM, FRI MAR 13	Purpose/Result Clauses;
	NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK	
WEEK 9 3/23, 25, 27	NO QUIZ	Comparative Clauses
WEEK 10 3/30, 4/1, 3	QUIZ 8 (Landes # 29, II-waw/yod Verbs)	Concessive Clauses; Exceptive Clauses
WEEK 11 4/6, 8	QUIZ 9 (Landes #30, Geminate Verbs) - No Class, Fri 4/10 – PESACH	Syntax Project: Draft 1 Due (Wednesday, April 8)
WEEK 12 4/13, 15, 17	QUIZ 10 (Landes #31, Suffixes on Verbs)	
WEEK 13 4/20, 22, 24	QUIZ 11 (Landes #32, Suffixes on Verbs)	Syntax Project: Draft 2 Due (Friday, April 24)
WEEK 14 4/27, 29, 5/1	QUIZ 12 (Landes #33, Weak Verb Review)	Oral Recitation Due (Friday, May 1)
WEEK 15 5/4, 6, 8	QUIZ 13 (Landes #34, Weak Verb Review)	
May 11	FINAL EXAM: Mon, May 11 10:05 A.M.	