

Course Outline: Fall 2021

Introduction to Biblical Hebrew
Hebrew 1040/5040a

Location: In Person & Live Online

Days & Time: Tuesdays & Thursday 2:30-4:30pm T H E O L O G Y



Instructor: Nick Meyer, Ph.D.

Contact info: Email nmeyer5@uwo.ca

Office hours: TBD

Recording of Classes

All of the remote learning sessions for this course will be recorded. The data captured during these recordings may include your image, voice recordings, chat logs and personal identifiers (name displayed on the screen). The recordings will be used for educational purposes related to this course, including evaluations. The recordings may be disclosed to other individuals participating in the course for their private or group study purposes. Please contact the instructor if you have any concerns related to session recordings. Participants in this course are not permitted to record the sessions, except where recording is an approved accommodation, or the participant has the prior written permission of the instructor.

This course will be delivered in class one day a week (Tuesdays) and online one day a week (Thursdays)

Course Description

An introduction to the writing system and grammar of Biblical Hebrew for those with no previous knowledge of the language.

According to an ancient Jewish legend, the Creator spoke the world into existence using the language of Hebrew. With this course, students will begin to learn this sacred language of the Jewish religion, the language in which the majority of the Bible (both Jewish and Christian) was written and which was revived as a spoken language in the late nineteenth century in the form of Modern Hebrew.

Course Outcomes

Your commitment to regular study and practice will help us achieve the goals of this course, which are:

to develop reading competence in the Hebrew Bible by gaining a working vocabulary of frequently occurring words and familiarity with the most common grammatical forms, and

to develop compositional skills and basic aural competence with the language by the completion of regular written and spoken exercises.

To fully attain these goals students are encouraged to think of this as the first of two courses; in this first course, students will learn to pronounce the biblical Hebrew script, translate and compose sentences involving the most frequently occurring verb stem, and gain the confidence that they can continue to acquire the range of skills necessary to read the Hebrew Bible with pleasure.

Course Materials

Required *at the very beginning of term!*

Simon, Ethelyn, Irene Resnikoff, and Linda Motzkin. *The First Hebrew Primer, Third Edition*. Berkeley: EKS Publishing, 2005. (see Western Bookstore)

Primer Answer Book. \$9.99 USD. See: <https://www.ekspublishing.com/biblical-hebrew/the-first-hebrew-primer-answer-book> (highly suggested to get as early as possible; order online)

Not Required for Purchase, but Recommended

Companion to the First Hebrew Primer, Audio Download. \$19.99 USD. See: <https://www.ekspublishing.com/biblical-hebrew/the-first-hebrew-primer-companion-audio>

Biblical Hebrew Flashcards – iPhone Application. \$9.99 USD. See: <https://www.ekspublishing.com/biblical-hebrew/biblical-hebrew-flashcards-iphone-application>

Biblical Hebrew Flashcards, by Curtis Clements. Android. Free. See: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.school.ctclements.superbiblicalhebrewvocabulary>

Assignments & Evaluation

Participation 15%

Attendance for most students will be critical to their success. Students should show up ready to be active participants in the classroom, volunteering and being ready to be called upon to ask and answer question and to practice reading Hebrew aloud.

Exercises 30%

Weekly exercises, worth 2% each, found at the end of each chapter in the textbook will be completed and a copy of the work uploaded in the form of a clearly named, scanned PDF file to OWL prior to 12pm on the day on which they are due. (These must be submitted in a *single* PDF file per assignment. Many applications are available for your phone which will convert photos into PDFs. One of the best and most powerful is CamScanner.) Exercises will be looked over by the instructor but not graded; their completion will be sufficient for full marks.

Quizzes 40%

Ten quizzes will be written, worth 5% each. The two lowest scores will be dropped. Quizzes will test vocabulary introduced at the beginning of chapters (students will be required to work ahead one chapter on vocabulary; see schedule), other items the text or instructor asks to be memorized, and grammar covered to that point.

Final Exam 15%

The Final Exam will be cumulative. Date TBD

Schedule

Week 1: Introduction

Sept 9: Syllabus & chapter 1

Week 2: The Signs and Sounds of Hebrew

Sept 14: Chapter 1¹

Sept 16: Chapter 2

Exercises for ch. 1 due

Week 3: The Signs and Sounds cont'd

Sept 21: Chapter 3

Exercises for ch. 2 due

Sept 23: Chs. 1-3

Week 4: Nouns and Verbs: Singular

Sept 28: **Quiz 1** | Chapter 4

Exercises for ch. 3 due

Sept 30: Chapter 5

Week 5: Nouns and Verbs: Plural

Oct 5: **Quiz 2** | Chapter 6

Exercises for chs. 4 & 5 due

Oct 7: Ch. 6 cont'd

Week 6: The Perfect

Oct 12: **Quiz 3** | Chapter 7

Exercises for ch. 6 due

Oct 14: Chapter 7 cont'd

Week 7: The Direct Object

Oct 19: **Quiz 4** | Chapter 8

Exercises for ch. 7 due

Oct 21: Ch. 8 cont'd

Week 8: Word Pairs (“of”)

Oct 26: **Quiz 5** | Chapter 9

Exercises for ch. 8 due

Oct 28: Chapter 10

Week 9:

Fall Reading Week – No Class

Week 10: The Imperfect

Nov 9: **Quiz 6** | Chapter 11

Exercises for chs. 9 & 10 due

Nov 11: Ch. 11 cont'd

Week 11: Imperfect Imperfects

Nov 16: **Quiz 7** | Chapter 12

Exercises for ch. 11 due

Nov 18: Ch. 12 cont'd

Week 12: “Where the Verb?”

Nov 23: **Quiz 8** | Chapter 13

Exercises for ch. 12 due

Nov 25: Ch. 13 cont'd

Week 13: The Blessed Adjective

Nov 30: **Quiz 9** | Chapter 14

Exercises for ch. 13 due

Dec 2: Ch. 14 cont'd

Week 14: Review

Dec 7: **Quiz 10** | Chs. 1-14

Exercises for ch. 14 due

¹ As you work through chs. 1-3, be sure to learn the *names* of the consonants and vowels, which are to be found on the inside back cover (e.g., א is called *aleph*). Moreover, as course materials and instruction will employ Book Print or Block Writing, *all* students

must learn this form of the letters of the alphabet. Script form is optional.

Table of Exercises

Exercises for Chapter 1 (2%), due Thurs Sept 16

Complete all exercises

Exercises for Chapter 2 (2%), due Tues Sept 21

Complete all exercises

Exercises for Chapter 3 (2%), due Tues Sept 28

Complete all exercises

Exercises for Chapter 4 (2%), due Tues Oct 5

Complete exercises 1-5; 6-7 (oral only)

Exercises for Chapter 5 (2%), due Tues Oct 5

Complete all exercises; for exercises 6-8 complete the odd numbers within each

Exercises for Chapter 6 (2%), due Tues Oct 12

Complete all exercises; for 7 & 8 complete the odd numbers within each

Exercises for Chapter 7 (2%), due Tues Oct 19

Complete all exercises; for 5, 6 & 9 complete the odd numbers within each; for 11 complete orally only

Exercises for Chapter 8 (2%), due Tues Oct 26

Complete all exercises; for 5, 7 & 8 complete the odd numbers within each

Exercises for Chapter 9 (2%), due Tues Nov 9

Complete exercises 1-8 (oral only for 4 & 6; odd for 8) and 9.1 & 9.5

Exercises for Chapter 10 (2%), due Tues Nov 9

Complete exercises 1-5 (oral only for 4), and 6.1 & 6.6; Ruth, oral only

Exercises for Chapter 11 (2%), due Tues Nov 16

Complete all exercises (even numbers only for 5); Ruth, oral

Exercises for Chapter 12 (2%), due Tues Nov 23

Complete all exercises; for 3 & 8 odd numbers; for 5 even numbers; Ruth, oral

Exercises for Chapter 13 (2%), due Tues Nov 30

Complete all of 1, 3, 4, 6 & 9; odd numbers of 2, 5 & 8; Ruth, oral

Exercises for Chapter 14 (2%), due Tues Dec 7

Complete all exercises; for 2, 4, 6 & 7 odd numbers within each; Ruth, oral

Additional Statements:

1. Statement on Use of Electronic Devices during Class and in Tests and Exams

It is particularly important in an online setting that students respect the classroom environment and refrain from inappropriate or distracting use of technology. It is also important that students exercise the highest levels of integrity during tests and exams, completing these within the limits established by the instructor.

2. Statement on Academic Offences: Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following web site:

https://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_20.

3. Plagiarism-detecting Software/Computer Marking:

A) All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the

commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

B) Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

4. Support Services:

- Huron's Faculty of Theology, Office of the Dean: <http://www.huronuc.on.ca> > Theology
- Faculty of Theology office: srice@uwo.ca
- Bachelor's Academic Advising at Huron: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/academic-advising/>
- Huron's Writing Skills Centre: <https://huronatwestern.ca/library/writing-services/>
- Mental Health@Western: <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to this website for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

- [Student Accessibility Services:](#)

http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/index.html

Western is committed to achieving barrier-free accessibility for all its members, including graduate students. As part of this commitment, Western provides a variety of services devoted to promoting, advocating, and accommodating persons with disabilities in their respective graduate program.

Students with disabilities (for example, chronic illnesses, mental health conditions, mobility impairments) are encouraged to register with Student Accessibility Services, a confidential service designed to support graduate and undergraduate students through their academic program. With the appropriate documentation, the student will work with both SAS and their faculty (normally their Dean and/or Course instructor) to ensure that appropriate academic accommodations to program requirements are arranged.

- Services provided by Western University Student Council: <http://westernusc.ca/your-services/>

5. Academic Accommodation for Absences:

Types of Accommodation and how to use them:

https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/academic_considerations/index.html

Student Medical Certificate can be found here, if required:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf

Students who experience an extenuating circumstance (illness, injury, or other extenuating circumstance) sufficiently significant to temporarily render them unable to meet academic requirements may submit a request for academic consideration through the following routes:

- i. **Submitting a Self-Reported Absence form** provided that the conditions for submission are Met (see below);
- ii. **For medical absences, submitting a Student Medical Certificate (SMC)**, signed by a licensed medical or mental health practitioner in order to be eligible for Academic Consideration (for instance, when a Self-Report is not possible: any assignment worth more than 30%, final exams, or December mid-terms during exam schedule); or
- iii. **For non-medical absences**, submitting appropriate documentation (e.g., obituary, police report, accident report, court order, etc.) to Academic Counselling in their Faculty of registration in order to be eligible for academic consideration. Students are encouraged to contact their Academic Counselling unit to clarify what documentation is appropriate.

Any documentation required must be submitted by the student directly to your Faculty's Dean's office (or academic counselor), and not to the instructor. For students of the Faculty of Theology, all such documentation must be submitted to theology@huron.uwo.ca. It will be the Dean's office that will determine if accommodation is warranted.

Further Details about Requests for Academic Consideration Self-Reported Absence Form

Report through student.uwo.ca.

The full Policy on Academic Consideration for student absences is available at:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic_Consideration_for_absences.pdf.

Students who experience an unexpected illness or injury or an extenuating circumstance (48 hours or less) that is sufficiently severe to temporarily render them unable to meet academic requirements (e.g., attending lectures or labs, writing tests or midterm exams, completing and submitting assignments, participating in presentations) should self-declare using the online Self-Reported Absence portal. This option should be used in situations where the student expects to resume academic responsibilities within 48 hours or less.

The following conditions are in place for self-reporting of medical or extenuating circumstances:

- a. students will be allowed a maximum of two self-reported absences between September and April and one self-reported absence between May and August
- b. any absences in excess of the number designated in clause a above, regardless of duration, will require students to present a Student Medical Certificate (SMC), signed by a licensed medical or mental health practitioner, detailing the duration and severity of illness, or

appropriate documentation supporting extenuating circumstances to the Academic Counselling unit in their Faculty of registration no later than two business days after the date specified for resuming responsibilities.

- c. The duration of the excused absence will be for a maximum of 48 hours from the time the Self-Reported Absence form is completed through the online portal, or from 8:30 am the following morning if the form is submitted after 4:30 pm;
- d. The duration of the excused absence will terminate prior to the end of the 48-hour period should the student undertake significant academic responsibilities (write a test, submit a paper) during that time;
- e. The duration of an excused absence will terminate at 8:30 am on the day following the last day of classes each semester regardless of how many days of absence have elapsed;
- f. Self-reported absences will not be allowed for scheduled final examinations; for midterm examinations scheduled during the December examination period; or for final lab examinations scheduled during the final week of term;
- g. Self-reporting may not be used for assessments (e.g. midterm exams, tests, reports, presentations, or essays) worth more than 30% of any given course.
- h. students must be in touch with their instructors no later than 24 hours after the end of the period covered by the Self-Reported Absence form, to clarify how they will be expected to fulfil the academic expectations they may have missed during the absence