

Attention!

This is a representative syllabus. The syllabus for the course you are enrolled in will likely be different.

Please refer to your instructor's syllabus for more information on specific requirements for a given semester.

Hebrew HEB 5100-25306/25305

Introduction to Biblical Hebrew

TERM: Fall 2017

CLASS TIME:

LOCATION:

INSTRUCTOR:

OFFICE:

OFFICE EMAIL:

OFFICE HOURS:

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course introduces the main elements of Biblical Hebrew grammar and syntax. Hebrew is the primary language of the Old Testament/Hebrew Bible. An ability to read Hebrew biblical texts unlocks the beauty and subtlety of Biblical poetry and prose. Command of Biblical Hebrew is advantageous for the study of religion and history in the ancient and late antique Mediterranean. The course assumes no prior experience with the Hebrew language. By the end of the semester students will be familiar Biblical Hebrew, able to translate sentences, read aloud in Hebrew and recognize grammatical features.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES: At the successful completion of the course, students will demonstrate:

- A moderate vocabulary of Biblical Hebrew words
- The ability to accurately translate Hebrew biblical prose
- The ability to parse the grammatical features of individual words
- A beginning ability to translate from English into Biblical Hebrew

TEACHING METHOD: Class will be a combination of lecture, discussion, translation and oral grammatical exercises.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

All available at the OSU Barnes and Noble and the Student Book Exchange

1. Page H. Kelley, *Biblical Hebrew: An Introductory Grammar*
2. Kelley, *et al*, *A Handbook to Biblical Hebrew: An Introductory Grammar*

3. The critical edition of the Hebrew Bible: Karl Elliger and Willhelm Rudolf, eds. *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*, Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 1998
 - a. Note: The BHS is online: <http://www.academic-bible.com/en/online-bibles/biblia-hebraica-stuttgartensia-bhs/read-the-bible-text/> but you must bring a Hebrew bible to class, so this would require you to bring an e-reader.
4. Francis Brown, S. R. Driver and Charles A. Briggs, *The Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon: With an Appendix Containing the Biblical Aramaic With an Appendix Containing the Biblical Aramaic*. Reprint, 1906. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1996. **You can purchase the book or use an online version.**

OPTIONAL TEXT:

Geoffrey Khan, *A Short Introduction To The Tiberian Masoretic Bible And Its Reading Tradition*, Gorgias Press, 2013

ASSIGNMENTS:

Reading

Complete assigned readings on the date they are listed on the syllabus.

Written

There will be written assignments to be completed twice a week. These will be exercises supporting the day's lesson and can be found at the end of each chapter in the textbook. You should do all of the exercises provided in each chapter unless otherwise instructed.

Skip lines if hand-writing the exercises.

Written exercises are due at the beginning of the class. Exercises should be completed on your own and **corrected** in a contrasting color using *A Handbook to Biblical Hebrew: An Introductory Grammar* by Kelley, Burden and Crawford. This book is an annotated answer key to the exercises in your text book. Note any questions you had about things you got wrong and bring those and your homework to class. **You are handing in your exercises each lecture, please plan accordingly, and write exercises separately from your class notes.**

Quizzes

There will be in-class quizzes on vocabulary and grammar at the start of most classes.

Verbal Participation

Students are expected to read Hebrew in class, complete oral exercises, translate and parse (explain the grammatical form) words during the course of each class.

Extended Translation and Parsing

The extended translation is a longer take-home assignment of translation from Biblical Hebrew into English. The students may choose the passage in consultation with the professor, and will submit first drafts for marking as well as present their projects in class before turning in the final assignment for grading. The passage should be at least ten sentences of Biblical Hebrew prose.

In addition to translating the passage, you must parse every verb and make a grammatical note on every word in the passage. For example, note the object marker, note a noun, its number and whether it has pronominal suffixes, and so on. You will have practice doing this throughout the semester. The translation and parsing is due via Carmen.

Identify the section to be translated by Wed. November 1. Tell me about it in class by then if not before.

First Full Draft of the Extended Translation is due Monday November 27 via Carmen.

Final Extended Translation is due, via Carmen Friday December 5 at 4pm

GRADING:

Grading follows standard OSU grade system:

- 93 - 100 (A)
- 90 - 92.9 (A-)
- 87 - 89.9 (B+)
- 83 - 86.9 (B)
- 80 - 82.9 (B-)
- 77 - 79.9 (C+)
- 73 - 76.9 (C)
- 70 - 72.9 (C-)
- 67 - 69.9 (D+)
- 60 - 66.9 (D)
- Below 60 (E)

Final Grade is calculated as follows:

Homework Complete 20%

In-class reading, translating and parsing 20%

Quizzes 10%

Extended Translation 50%

Total 100%

ATTENDANCE: Attendance of this course is mandatory. It is an accelerated language course, covering a year's worth of material in a semester. Repeated absence is likely to result in a student falling behind. More than two unexcused absences will result in the loss of a full-grade from the student's final grade. Students who are absent are responsible for catching up on class material by consulting other students, and must complete any in-class assignments.

HOW TO LEARN AND RETAIN LANGUAGE INFORMATION QUICKLY

Memory studies have shown us that what you retain in your short term memory disappears unless you review it repeatedly over the course of weeks, months. It is this review that makes new connections in your long term memory and allows you to retain information. In a course like ours, it is not sufficient to just do the exercises before class. It will be tough and frustrating for you because as the knowledge builds you will not remember what we learned before. I give quizzes that are cumulative, in that they refer back to previous information, but they are not comprehensive. If you want to learn this language you need to do the following:

- 1) Set aside 5 minutes every day to review some aspect of the language, in addition to whatever you take doing your homework. Repetition is what makes you remember.
- 2) Make a plan with your textbook to review something from this week, from a week ago, from a month ago, and from two months ago. Change that item each day. Keep notes on what you have done and what you still need to review.

It is the review, not any individual review, which will give you this language. Coming to class and handing in assignments will only get you so far. I want you to succeed!

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT: It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term "academic misconduct" includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct (<http://studentlife.osu.edu/csc/>)

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated, and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/>.

SAFETY

FOR YOUR SAFETY, the OSU Student Safety/Escort Service is available after 7 p.m. by dialing 292-3322.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Readings and exercises should be completed prior to class meeting.

LECTURE TOPICS AND HOMEWORK

All page number refer to Kelley's *Biblical Hebrew: An Introductory Grammar*. Homework listed is homework **assigned that lecture**, due the following lecture, **not homework due** in that lecture.

Wed 8/23	Introduction to Course, Alphabet and In Vowels Homework: Lessons 1-2: Vowels pp.6-11
Mon 8/28	Syllables, Accents and Sheva Homework: Lessons 3-4, pp.12-22
Wed 8/30	Gutturals and the Definite Article Homework: Lesson 5, pp.23-27
Mon 9/4	Labor Day No Classes
Wed 9/6	Prepositions, the Conjunction (“And”) a Noun Homework: Lessons 6-7, pp. 28-42
Mon 9/11	Adjectives Homework: Lesson 8, pp.43-51

Wed 9/13	Independent Personal Pronouns and Demonstrative Pronouns Pronouns Homework: Lesson 9, pp.52-56
Mon 9/18	Segholate Nouns and Construct Chains Homework: Lesson 10, pp.57-67
Wed 9/20	Pronominal Suffixes Homework: Lesson 11, p.68-79
Mon 9/25	The Verb, Suffix Conjugation, Some Synthetic Verbs and their Use Homework: Lesson 12: pp.80-93
Wed 9/27	Question Words and Numbers Homework: Lesson 13: pp. 94-107
Mon 10/2	The Suffix Conjugation in Derived Stems Homework: Lesson 14 pp. 108-126
Wed 10/4	Prefix Conjugation of the Verb Homework: Lesson 15, pp. 127-137
Mon 10/9	Prefix Conjugation in Derived Stems Homework: Lesson 16, pp.138-152
Wed 10/11	Pronominal Suffixes on Verbs Homework: Lesson 17, pp. 153-164

Mon 10/16	Imperatives or Command Forms of Verbs Homework: Lesson 18, pp. 165-178
Wed 10/18	Infinitives Homework: Lesson 19, pp. 179-192
Mon 10/23	The Participle Homework: Lesson 20, pp. 193-208
Wed 10/25	Narrative Sequences and Vocalizing the Conjunction Homework: Lesson 21 pp. 209-221
Mon 10/30	Conjugating Initial-Weak Verbs Homework: Lesson 22: pp. 222-236
Wed 11/1	Initial Aleph Verb Conjugation and Paus Homework: Lesson 23 pp.237-249
Mon 11/6	Middle Ayin Verb Conjugation Homework: Lesson 24, pp.250-262, and review previous homework and correcti
Wed 11/8	Final Guttural Verbs Homework: Lesson 25 pp. 263-274
Mon 11/13	and Final Aleph Verbs Homework: Lesson 26, pp.275-285
Wed 11/15	Final Heh verbs and the verb “to be”

	Homework: Lesson 27, pp.286-300
Mon 11/20	No Lecture, Prof. at AAR/SBL Conference
Wed 11/22	Thanksgiving Break No Classes
Mon 11/27	Initial Nun verbs Homework: Lesson 28, pp.301-305
Wed 11/29	Middle Weak Verbs Homework: Lesson 29, pp. 316-337
Mon 12/4	Initial-Weak Verbs Homework: Lesson 30, pp. 338-356
Friday 12/ 8	Final Assignment, Extended Translatic Due