

Intermediate Hebrew I 3A03 Syllabus

Religious Studies | McMaster University

Instructor: Dr. N. Meyer | Time: Wed 9:30-12:20 | Place: BSB B142

Course Description

With the primary goal of increasing reading fluency, this course in classical (biblical) Hebrew will lead the student through a variety of texts from multiple genres in the Hebrew Bible. As students gain familiarity with the various styles of biblical Hebrew, they will also deepen their knowledge of Hebrew syntax, solidify their comprehension of the Hebrew verbal system, and expand their biblical Hebrew vocabulary. Additionally, they shall listen to recordings of the assigned readings and practice hearing and reading biblical Hebrew aloud in order to facilitate the internalization of the language.

Course Materials

- Ben Zvi, Ehud, Maxine Hancock, Richard Beinert. *Readings in Biblical Hebrew: An Intermediate Textbook*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1993. (available for purchase in the bookstore)
- Beckman, John C. *Williams Hebrew Syntax*. 3rd ed. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2007. (available for purchase in the bookstore)
- Rüger, H. P., ed. *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*. 4th ed. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 1990. (to be ordered by the student early in the term)

Students will also require access to a lexicon and reference grammar. Two standard options, *Brown, Driver, Briggs's Hebrew Lexicon* (BDB) and *Gesenius's Hebrew Grammar* (GKC), are public domain and can be purchased relatively inexpensively or downloaded for free from archive.org.

Evaluation

Class Preparation/Participation: 35%

Students will be expected to attend class (1) having listened to the translation assignment at http://depts.washington.edu/bibheb/hebrew_audiobible.html sufficient times to feel comfortable with the pronunciation of the text and to gain some aural recognition of the language; (2) having produced their own translation of the assigned text for that day in part by working carefully through Ben Zvi; (3) having completed any assigned secondary readings (i.e., Williams) and able to relate them to the translation assignment; and (4) having covered the morphology and vocabulary review/acquisition requirement for that day. Classes will be interactive and students will earn their participation mark by demonstrating in class that they have come prepared.

Tests: 45%

Three tests will be written in class. These tests will cover the translation passages assigned from Ben Zvi, material treated in the readings, and vocabulary and morphology acquisition. Details as follows:

- Test 1. Material covered in Ben Zvi; words occurring more than 100 times; morphology of Strong Verb
2. Material covered in Ben Zvi since last test; words occurring 100-66 times; morphology of Weak and Irregular Verbs
3. Material covered in Ben Zvi since previous test; words occurring 65-50 times; morphology of Weak and Irregular Verbs, cont'd

Final: 20%

The final exam, to be comprehensive, will consist of an oral examination, about 45 minutes in length.

Schedule

| Date | Translation, Texts, and Tests | Morphology of the Verb and Vocabulary |
|--------------------------------|--|---|
| Week 1: September 7 | Syllabus and Introduction to the BHS | <i>For first test:</i> vocabulary occurring over 100x + vocabulary from translation assignments. (List to be distributed in class.) |
| Week 2: September 14 | 1 Sam 1:1-14 (Ben Zvi) Williams, "Syntax of Verbs," 2.A-C, pp. 56-78 | Morphology of Strong Verb: Principle Parts & Complete Qal and Niphal Paradigms |
| Week 3: September 21 | 1 Sam 1:15-28 (Ben Zvi) Williams, "Syntax of Verbs," 2.D-H, pp. 78-95 | Morphology of Strong Verb: Complete Piel, Pual, and Hithpael Paradigms |
| Week 4: September 28 | 2 Kgs 14:23-29 (Ben Zvi) Williams, "Syntax of Nominals," 1.A-D, pp. 1-25 | Morphology of Strong Verb: Complete Hiphil and Hophal Paradigms |
| Week 5: October 5 | Test 1 Exod 21:28-36 (Ben Zvi) | <i>For second test:</i> vocabulary occurring over 65x + vocabulary from translation assignments. (List to be distributed in class.) |
| Week 6: Mid-Term Recess | | |
| Week 7: October 19 | Lev 5:20-26 (Ben Zvi) Williams, "Syntax of Nominals," 1.E-L, pp. 25-55 | Morphology of Weak and Irregular Verbs: Guttural Verbs Morphology of Weak and Irregular Verbs: I-Nun Verbs |
| Week 8: October 26 | Deut 24:14-22 (Ben Zvi) | Morphology of Weak and |

| | | |
|----------------------|---|--|
| | Williams, "Syntax of Particles," 3.A, 96-137 | Irregular Verbs: I-Yod Verbs |
| Week 9: November 2 | Ezek 37:1-14 (Ben Zvi) Williams, "Syntax of Particles," 3.B-G, pp. 137-171 | Morphology of Weak and Irregular Verbs: III-He Verbs |
| Week 10: November 9 | Test 2 Jer 22:1-5 (Ben Zvi) | <i>For third test:</i> vocabulary occurring over 49x + vocabulary from translation assignments. (List to be distributed in class.) |
| Week 11: November 16 | Isa 49:1-6 (Ben Zvi) Williams, "Syntax of Clauses," 4.A- K, pp. 172-95 | Morphology of Weak and Irregular Verbs: Hollow Verbs and Geminate Verbs |
| Week 12: November 23 | Prov 3:13-26 (Ben Zvi) Williams, "Syntax of Clauses," 4.L- R, pp. 195-212 | Morphology of Weak and Irregular Verbs: Minor Stems |
| Week 13: November 30 | Test 3 Prov 10:1; 16:8; 22:22-23; 24:29; 25:28 (Ben Zvi) | <i>For final exam:</i> all translations, vocabulary, and morphology |
| Week 14: December 7 | Psalms 1 (Ben Zvi) Final exam: TBD | |