



HEBR 131

Introductory Biblical Hebrew 1

Course Outline 2022

Semester 1 2022

Lectures:

Tues, Thurs, Fri
9:00-9:50

Location: AVC 2

Contact: Dr James Harding
james.harding@otago.ac.nz

Lecturer: Dr Jonathan Robinson
jonathan.robinson@otago.ac.nz

This paper introduces students to the basic vocabulary, grammar, and syntax of “Biblical” Hebrew as represented in the Bible and in ancient Hebrew inscriptions. This core vocabulary and familiarity with the foundations of Hebrew grammar and syntax will enable students to read and translate basic texts from the Hebrew Scriptures. Communication with students will be conducted via the students’ university email accounts in accordance with university policy.

We recommend that you contact the Programme as soon as possible if you have any problems participating in the course or accessing resources. Please remember to check your University email account regularly for updates and announcements.

LECTURER'S INTRODUCTION

Your lecturer for this paper is Dr Jonathan Robinson

Welcome! I’m looking forward to getting to know you as we dive into our study of Biblical Hebrew.

I know you will each bring your own experiences to this course and I welcome the depth and richness your contributions will bring.

From time to time, you may feel anxious about your study progress, and it is important that

OFFICE HOUR

these anxieties be resolved promptly. If you have any queries about this paper, please get in touch with me.

The office hour is Tuesdays 2-3 and Friday afternoon by appointment. Each semester the lecturer will keep an office hour during which students are welcome to come and discuss the course or ask for help. If you are not able to make that time, another time can be arranged. Special arrangements can be made for distance students upon request.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Demonstrate acquisition of the main principles of Hebrew grammar
- Learn a broad core of vocabulary comprising the most frequently used words in the Hebrew Bible
- Read and understand selected texts from the Hebrew Bible in the original language

REFERENCES FOR THIS COURSE

Required Textbook and workbook (may be purchased from UBS: unibooks.co.nz):

- *Learning Biblical Hebrew: Reading for Comprehension: An Introductory Grammar*. Karl V. Kurtz, Rebekah Josberger. Lexham Press, 2018.
- *Learning Biblical Hebrew: Workbook: A Graded Reader with Exercises*. Karl V. Kurtz, Rebekah Josberger. Lexham Press, 2018.

If you are interested in continuing with Hebrew after this course, you may want to invest in one of the following (but these are not required for HEBR132):

Hebrew Bible:

Elliger, K., and W. Rudolph, eds. *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*. 4th ed. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 1976/77.

Free copies of the *BHS* are available via the New Zealand Bible Society. More information is available on Blackboard under the “Course Documents” tab.

Recommended

- Murphy, Todd J. *Pocket Dictionary for the Study of Biblical Hebrew*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2003.

Hebrew lexica (dictionaries)

The best lexica currently available are:

- Brown, Francis, S.R. Driver, and C.A. Briggs, 1979 [1906]. *The New Brown-Driver-Briggs-Genesius Hebrew-English Lexicon with an Appendix containing the Biblical Aramaic*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson. [invaluable for serious scholars, although can be a bit difficult to navigate for new learners, and now seriously out-of-date in places]
- Clines, David J.A., ed. *The Concise Dictionary of Classical Hebrew*. Sheffield: Sheffield Phoenix Press, 2009. [there is a complete 8-volume edition of this major work, *The Dictionary of Classical Hebrew*]
- Holladay, William L. *A Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament*. Leiden: Brill, 1988. [a great resource for beginners – easy to use]
- Koehler, Ludwig, and Walter Baumgartner. *The Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament: Study Edition*. 2 vols. Leiden: Brill, 2001. [not for the fainthearted, but wonderfully thorough – a scholar’s paradise!]

RESOURCES

- **Blackboard:** The Blackboard page for this course contains lots of useful information for students, such as library guides, information for distance students, and links to useful Hebrew resources. Links to the Hebrew Audio Bible and recommended Vocabulary aids are available through Blackboard.
- This **Course Outline** which explains how the course is taught

THIS IS IMPORTANT!

Please Note: You **must have access to Blackboard and your University email address** in order to complete this paper. You will receive access once your enrolment is complete. Communications from your lecturer regarding teaching matters will be provided **only** through Blackboard and your University email address, as outlined in the University's Student Communications Policy, and you must check these emails regularly, or arrange for them to be sent to your usual address. eVision will also send important messages through your University email. If you have any concerns about your access to Blackboard or to other course resources, please contact the lecturer or administrative staff immediately so that these can be resolved.

You will find there is a lot of helpful information and resources on the Department's website. In particular, we require you to read the section called "Essential Student Information." You will find it here:

<http://www.otago.ac.nz/theology/study/studentresources/>

This page provides a number of useful resources such as the *Study and Style Guide* and the Plagiarism Declaration Form you must attach to your assignments. It supplies detailed information on assessment and student support. In particular, it contains guidance on the topics of plagiarism and deadlines, both of which can incur penalties if not heeded. This also is where you will find instructions for submitting assignments electronically. So it is very important you make yourself familiar with this material. Our assumption is that you have read it.

We will make reference to information on the website in the following pages, so do take the time to follow the links and absorb the material. It will save you from making costly mistakes and help to make the practical experience of distance study a straightforward one.

LECTURE SCHEDULE

Week <i>Tues, Thurs Fri</i>	Textbook Chapters	Reading & Vocabulary Workbook pages	Required Vocabulary List to Memorize	Assessment
Week 1 <i>1, 3, 4 Mar</i>	1. Hebrew Alphabet			
Week 2 <i>8, 10, 11 Mar</i>	2. Hebrew Vowels			
Week 3 <i>15, 17, 18 Mar</i>	3. Syllables and Reading Hebrew			
Week 4 <i>22, 24, 25 Mar</i>	4. Gender & Number, Definite Article and Conjunction	Chapter 4 Gen 37:1-17 Pgs. 81-79-84	LBH Workbook pg. 81	Assignment 1: Due 25 Mar
Week 5 <i>29, 31 Mar, 1 Apr</i>	5. Vowel Changes in Hebrew Nouns			
Week 6 <i>5, 7, 8 Apr</i>	6. Noun and Adjective Function	Chapter 6 Gen 37:18-36 Pgs. 85-88	85	
Week 7 <i>12, 14 Apr</i>	7. Constructs, Directional Ending	Chapter 7 Gen 38 Pgs. 89-95	89	Assignment 2: Due 14 Apr Apr 15: Good Friday, no class
<i>18-22 Apr</i>	<i>Mid-Semester Break</i>			
Week 8 <i>26, 28, 29 Apr</i>	8. Pronominal Suffixes and Review of Definiteness	Chapter 8 Gen 39 Pgs. 97-101	97	April 25, Anzac Day
Week 9 <i>3, 5, 6 May</i>	9. Learning to Read Intuitively	Chapters 9-10 Selections from Gen 28-37 Pgs. 103-110	103	Test 1: 3 May
Week 10 <i>10, 12, 13 May</i>	10. Numbers			Assignment 3: Due 13 May
Week 11 <i>17, 19, 20 May</i>	11. Introduction to Hebrew Verbs	Chapters 11-12 Gen 40 Pgs. 111-115	111	
Week 12 <i>24, 26, 27 May</i>	12. Vowel Changes in Verbs			Test 2: 24 May
Week 13 <i>31 May, 2, 3 June</i>	13. Qa/ Perfects	Chapter 13 Gen 41 Pgs. 117-124	117	Assignment 4: Due 3 June

VIDEOCONFERENCING

Distance students will join classes via Zoom. Full instructions on using Zoom, including the URL that you will need in order to join the sessions, are posted on Blackboard under 'Zoom Instructions'. If you are obliged to miss a lecture, the recording will be available on Blackboard within 24 hours. Contact the Programme if you are unable to access recordings, or find that one has been missed.

ASSESSMENT

ASSIGNMENTS

Assignment 1

Value: 5% Total grade
Due: 25 March
Topic: Worksheet on Chapters 1-3

Assignment 2

Value: 5% Total grade
Due: 14 April
Topic: Worksheet on Chapters 1-6

Assignment 3

Value: 5% Total grade
Due: 13 May
Topic: Worksheet on Chapters 1-9

Assignment 4

Value: 5% Total grade
Due: 3 June
Topic: Worksheet on Chapters 1-12

Criteria for assessment:

- The assignment is set out clearly and handwriting [Hebrew] is tidy and legible.
- All words are spelled correctly.
- Demonstrate acquisition of:
 - main principles of Hebrew grammar
 - acquisition of Hebrew vocabulary
 - familiarity with biblical texts studied
- All work must be your own.

TESTS

Test 1

15% 4-5pm, Tuesday 3 May

- This test is one hour in duration
- Closed book - no textbooks, notes, or lexicons allowed

- The criteria for assessment
 - The test is set out clearly and handwriting [Hebrew] is tidy and legible.
 - All words are spelled correctly.
 - Demonstrate acquisition of:
 - main principles of Hebrew grammar
 - familiarity with Hebrew vocabulary
 - familiarity with biblical texts studied
- The test will cover Chapters 1-7 of the textbook

Test 2

15% 4-5pm, Tuesday 24 May

- This test is one hour in duration
- Open book (textbook, notes, and lexicon allowed)
- The criteria for assessment
 - The test is set out clearly and handwriting [Hebrew] is tidy and legible.
 - All words are spelled correctly.
 - Demonstrate acquisition of:
 - main principles of Hebrew grammar
 - familiarity with Hebrew vocabulary
 - familiarity with biblical texts studied
- The test will cover Chapters 1-10

Final examination 50% Date and location TBA (check your eVision portal)

- The exam is 180 minutes (3 hours) in duration
- Closed book (no textbook or written notes allowed)
- The criteria for assessment
 - *The test is set out clearly and handwriting [Hebrew] is tidy and legible.*
 - *All words are spelled correctly.*
 - *Demonstrate acquisition of:*
 - *main principles of Hebrew grammar covered Chapters 1-17*
 - *familiarity with Hebrew vocabulary learned in Chapters 1-17*

NOTE: The venue for Distance students is set according to the Semester Address in eVision, so please ensure this is up to date. An email will be sent to Distance students by Examinations to confirm the venue. All enquiries regarding exams should be directed to the Examinations Office: examinations@otago.ac.nz.

All assignments are compulsory and need to be submitted by 5:00pm on the due date.

SUBMITTING WRITTEN WORK

Assignments can be handed in hardcopy in class or in the lecturer's department pigeonhole. Distance students can mail their assignments in, or, they can scan them and email them to the lecturer.

All Assignments submitted in the Theology Programme must be prefaced with a student **Plagiarism Declaration Form**. They will not be deemed to have been submitted unless and until the Plagiarism Declaration Form has been submitted.

It can be downloaded from <http://www.otago.ac.nz/theology/study/studentresources/>. It is also on the Blackboard site for this course.

Assignments must comply with the University of Otago's Guidelines on Plagiarism: <http://www.otago.ac.nz/study/plagiarism/>

Late work: Please see the *Policy on Late Submission of Assignments* on **Blackboard** for information on the grading of late work.

All assignment grades are provisional until after the results are finalised by the Theology Programme. Final results for this Course will be posted on eVision.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic integrity means being honest in your studying and assessments. It is the basis for ethical decision-making and behaviour in an academic context. Academic integrity is informed by the values of honesty, trust, responsibility, fairness, respect and courage. Students are expected to be aware of, and act in accordance with, the University's Academic Integrity Policy.

Academic Misconduct, such as plagiarism or cheating, is a breach of Academic Integrity and is taken very seriously by the University. Types of misconduct include plagiarism, copying, unauthorised collaboration, taking unauthorised material into a test or exam, impersonation, and assisting someone else's misconduct. A more extensive list of the types of academic misconduct and associated processes and penalties is available in the University's Student Academic Misconduct Procedures, available here <http://www.otago.ac.nz/administration/policies/otago116850.html>

It is your responsibility to be aware of and use acceptable academic practices when completing your assessments. To access the information in the Academic Integrity Policy and learn more, please visit the University's Academic Integrity website at www.otago.ac.nz/study/academicintegrity or ask at the Student Learning Centre or Library. If you have any questions, ask your lecturer. You can find the Academic Integrity Policy here <http://www.otago.ac.nz/administration/policies/otago116838.html>

STUDENT SUPPORT

The “**Essential Information**” web page provides helpful information on how to access the University Library’s resources, as well as a guide to the support services available to students at the University of Otago, including the Student Learning Centre and Disability Support.

For all **administrative and distance learning enquiries**, please contact:
The Theology Programme at

Email: theology@otago.ac.nz

Phone: 03 479 8639

THE THEOLOGY PROGRAMME

University of Otago, PO Box 56, Dunedin 9054, New Zealand
www.otago.ac.nz/theology