



# HEBR 131

## Introductory Biblical Hebrew 1

### Course Outline 2018

#### SEMESTER 1 2018

**Lectures:**

Mon, Tue, Thu  
4:00-4:50pm

**Location:** AVC 1

**Lecturer:**

*Dr Katie Marcar*

[katie.marcar@otago.ac.nz](mailto:katie.marcar@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 Department 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 Katie Marcar*

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 these anxieties be resolved promptly. If you have any queries about this paper, please get in touch with me at: [katie.marcar@otago.ac.nz](mailto:katie.marcar@otago.ac.nz)

#### OFFICE HOUR

The office hour is 1:15-2:15 on Fridays. 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](http://unibooks.co.nz)):**

Gary D. Pratico. *Basics of Biblical Hebrew: Grammar*; and, *Basics of Biblical Hebrew: Workbook*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2001.

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.
- Van Pelt, Miles V. *Biblical Hebrew: A Compact Guide*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2012.

### **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.
- **Hebrew Audio Bible:** Recordings of the Hebrew Scriptures can be found at the Academy of Ancient Languages website, [http://aoal.org/hebrew\\_audiobible.html](http://aoal.org/hebrew_audiobible.html). These records are very useful for improving pronunciation. This link is also available through Blackboard under the “Web Resources” tab.
- **Vocabulary Help:** A great way to learn vocabulary for this course is through Memrise, a free, crowd-sourced learning website. Previous users have created a course that contains all of the vocabulary for this textbook organized according to chapter. Follow this link for more information, or, find this link through the Blackboard page under the “Web Resources” tab. <http://www.memrise.com/course/400994/basics-of-biblical-hebrew-vocabulary-3/>
- 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

<b>Week</b> <i>Mon, Tues Thurs</i>	<b>Textbook Chapters</b>	<b>Homework*</b>	<b>Other</b>
Week 1 <i>26, 27 Feb, 1 Mar</i>	1. Hebrew Alphabet 2. Hebrew Vowels	Ex 2 (7-9): all	
Week 2 <i>5,6,8 Mar</i>	3. Syllabification and Pronunciation 4. Hebrew Nouns	Ex 3 (11): 1-5; (13): 1-5 Ex 4 (15): 1-10	
Week 3 <i>12,13,15 Mar</i>	5. Definite Article and Waw Conjunction 6. Hebrew Preposition	Ex 5 (21): 1-5; (22): 1-5 Ex 6 (25): 1-5, (25-26):1-15	
Week 4 <i>19,20,22 Mar</i>	7. Hebrew Adjectives	Ex 7 (30): 1-15; (32): 1-5	<b>Assignment 1: March 22</b>
Week 5 <i>26,27,29 Mar</i>	8. Hebrew Pronouns 9. Hebrew Pronominal Suffixes	Ex 8 (35):1-10; (36):1-5; (36): 1-2 Ex 9 (39-42): 1-15	
<i>2,3,5 Apr</i>	<i>Mid-semester break</i>		
Week 6 <i>9,10,12 Apr</i>	10. Hebrew Construct Chain	Ex 10 (49-50): 1-20	<b>Test 1: April 12</b> Chapters 1-7
Week 7 <i>16,17,19 Apr</i>	11. Hebrew Numbers	Ex 11 (57-58): 1-12	<b>Assignment 2: April 19</b>
Week 8 <i>23,24,26 Apr</i>	12. Introduction to Hebrew Verbs	Ex 12 (60-61): 1-10	
Week 9 <i>30 Apr, 1,3 May</i>	13. Qal Perfect- Strong Verbs	Ex 13 (67): 1-10; (69): 1-5	
Week 10 <i>7,8,10 May</i>	14. Qal Perfect – Weak Verbs	Ex 14a (73): 1-14; (74): 1-5; (76): 1-2 Ex 14b (81): 1-10; (84): 1-2	<b>Assignment 3: May 10</b>
Week 11 <i>14,15,17 May</i>	15. Qal Imperfect – Strong Verbs	Ex 15 (89): 1-15; (90): 1-5; (91): 1-2	<b>Test 2: May 17</b> Chapters 8-13
Week 12 <i>21,22,24 May</i>	16. Qal Imperfect – Weak Verbs	Ex 16a (95): 1-5; Ex 16b (101): 1-5; Ex 16c (107): 1- 5; (109): 1-2	
Week 13 <i>28,29,31 May</i>	17. Waw Consecutive	Ex 16d (111): 1-5; Ex 16e (115): 1-5; Ex 16f (119): 1- 5; Ex 17 (131): 1-2	<b>Assignment 4: May 31</b> Chapters 14-16
<i>Study Break and Examination Period</i>			

\* **A Note on Homework:** The homework listed in the schedule is not required but **strongly** encouraged. During most weeks, the suggested homework will be reviewed on Thursday. Reviewing homework will be the main focus on these classes, so students are strong encouraged to prepare these exercises ahead of time to maximize the benefit of these sessions. As with any language, the more effort that is put in, the better the facility with the language. The suggested homework is given as follows, “Ex 3 (11): 1-10” means Exercise 3 page 11 numbers 1 to 10

## VIDEOCONFERENCING

Distance students will join in classes using the videoconferencing software Zoom, which is easy to use and free to download. 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. We encourage you to contact the Department if you are unable to access recordings, or find that one has been missed

## ASSESSMENT

### ASSIGNMENTS

#### Assignment 1

**Value:** 5% Total grade  
**Due:** Thursday 22 March 2018  
**Topic:** Worksheet on Chapters 1-3

#### Assignment 2

**Value:** 5% Total grade  
**Due:** Thursday 19 April 2018  
**Topic:** Worksheet on Chapters 8-10

#### Assignment 3

**Value:** 5% Total grade  
**Due:** Thursday 10 May 2018  
**Topic:** Worksheet on Chapters 11-13

#### Assignment 4

**Value:** 5% Total grade  
**Due:** Thursday 31 May 2018  
**Topic:** Worksheet on Chapters 14-16

#### 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, Thursday 12 April 2018**

- 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, Thursday 17 May 2018

- 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 8-13

### 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](mailto:examinations@otago.ac.nz).

## SUBMITTING WRITTEN WORK

All assignments are compulsory and need to be submitted by 5:00pm on the due date. 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 Department of Theology and Religion 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 Department of Theology and Religion. 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](http://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 Administrative Assistant for Theology and Religion.

Email: [admin.theologyandreligion@otago.ac.nz](mailto:admin.theologyandreligion@otago.ac.nz)

Phone: 03 479 8516

**DEPARTMENT OF THEOLOGY AND RELIGION**  
University of Otago, PO Box 56, Dunedin 9054, New Zealand  
[www.otago.ac.nz/theology](http://www.otago.ac.nz/theology)