Florida International University
Biblical Hebrew I
HBR 3100

Professor Erik Larson   Fall 2021
DM 303   TR 9:30-10:45
Office Hours: TR 2:00-3:15 and by appointment   (305) 348-3518
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Course Description: This course covers the basics of Biblical Hebrew. We will begin with the aleph-bet and study the Hebrew language by surveying grammatical forms, studying sentence structure, and developing a solid vocabulary of the most commonly used words in the Old Testament or Hebrew Bible. Plenty of time will be devoted to translating actual sentences and later whole passages from Hebrew into English. Along with this, we will also discuss the best techniques of translating Hebrew into English and explore how knowledge of Hebrew gives new insight into the reading of the Bible.

Course Objectives: At the end of this course, you will
- Be able to read the printed Hebrew script using modern Hebrew pronunciation
- Have developed a basic Hebrew vocabulary of the most commonly occurring words in the Bible
- Understand the two important Hebrew verb tenses which are the affix and prefix forms
- Know the patterns for masculine and feminine Hebrew nouns in singular, dual and plural forms
- Be familiar with the so-called construct-absolute relationship of nouns that is so characteristic of the Semitic languages
- Be able to translate simple sentences from the Bible

Syllabus

Week 1 [August 24, 26] Introduction to Aleph-bet.

Week 2 [August 31, September 2,] Lessons 1-2. Hebrew sentence structure.

Week 3 [September 7, 9] Lessons 4-5. Affix verb form. Segholate nouns. Construct-Absolute chains. The definite article.

Week 4 [September 14, 16] Lessons 6-7. Weak verbs. Pronouns. Masculine nouns. The direct object.

Week 5 [September 21, 23] Lessons 8-9.Vav-reversive forms. Qal participles.

Week 6 [September 28, 30] Lessons 10-11. Pronominal suffixes. Infinitive forms. He-directive.

Week 7 [October 5, 7] Lessons 12-13. Lamed"heh forms. Uses of the dagesh. Uses of certain plural nouns. Direct Speech. 2nd person affix. Guttural verbs.

Midterm Examination handed out on Thursday

Week 8 [October 12, 14] Lessons 14-15. Introduction to BHS. Attributive Adjectives. Qal prefix forms. Vav-conversive forms. Predicate adjectives. The pi'el stem.

Midterm examination due at beginning of class.

Week 9 [October 19, 21] Lessons 16-17. Peh"nun verbs. Uses of prepositions. Prepositions and verbs. Peh"yod verbs.

Week 10 [October 26, 28] Lessons 18-19. Qal singular imperative. Vocative. Numbers. Pi'el imperative. Pausal forms.

Week 11 [November 2, 4] Lessons 20-21. Qal plural imperatives. The verb laqach. The definite article before gutturals. Demonstrative plural adjectives.

Week 12 [November 9, 11] Lesson 22. Feminine nouns. Relative and other clauses.

Week 13 [November 16, 18] Lessons 23-24. Second person plural pronominal suffix. Resolution of vav and yod in vav-conversive forms. Feminine participles.

Week 14 [November 23] Lesson 25. Infinitives of weak verbs. Infinitive construct. Dual nouns.
No class November 25—Thanksgiving!

Week 15 [November 30, December 2] Lessons 26-27. 2nd person pronouns. Lamed"heh roots. Hollow verbs.
Final examination handed out on Thursday.

Final Examination due December 9.

Textbooks
 Bonnie Kittel, Vicki Hoffer, and Rebecca Abts Wright, *Biblical Hebrew* (News Haven: Yale University Press, 2004). ISBN 978-0300101034.
 Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia, eds. K. Elliger and W. Rudolph (New York: American Bible Society; 1997, 5th edition). ISBN 978-3438052223.
 William Holladay, *A Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1972). ISBN 978-0802834133

N.B. These three books will be used for the second semester as well, so there will be no additional books needed if you continue in the spring.

Grading. The grading for this course will be as follows:

Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	20%
Vocabulary Quizzes	20%
Attendance and Participation	40%

Midterm and Final Examinations: The midterm and final exams will be take home examinations consisting of sentences in Hebrew that are to be translated into English. They are **not** open book examinations, though I will allow you to use a dictionary for vocabulary. If you don't have separate dictionary you can use the section at the back of your book, but you cannot look at the lessons in the book.

Quizzes: Each week class will begin with a vocabulary exam with ten words being chosen from the vocabulary list in the back of the book. The list gives over four hundred of the most common words used in the Bible. Starting with week 2, you will study these in groups of fifteen and be tested on them. Your three lowest scores from the semester will be dropped. At the end of the semester, the scores from the ten best tests will be added and the grading scale will be as follows:

A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	below 60

Attendance and Participation: Attendance and participation is very important in this class and the grade is weighted accordingly. You must come to class and come prepared. In each session we will have some time for discussion, but a large part of our time will be devoted to translating the sentences from each lesson. This we will do by each student taking a turn. No one will be perfect in being able to translate every sentence, but you must try.

Student Conduct: Florida International University is a community dedicated to generating and imparting knowledge through excellent teaching and research, the rigorous and respectful exchange of ideas, and community service. All students should respect the right of others to have an equitable opportunity to learn and honestly to demonstrate the quality of their learning. Therefore, all students are expected to adhere to a standard of academic conduct, which demonstrates respect for themselves, their fellow students, and the educational mission of the University. All students are deemed by the University to understand that if they are found responsible for academic misconduct, they will be subject to the Academic Misconduct procedures and sanctions, as outlined in the Student Handbook.