

[DOWNLOAD PDF HERE](#)

**ELEMENTARY CLASSICAL HEBREW
CLAS-HEB AA-AB || HDS4010A-B**

Harvard University

MW 10:30–12:00

Swartz 114 Seminar Room

Dr. Matthew Rasure, Instructor

raseur@fas.harvard.edu

A thorough and rigorous introduction to Biblical Hebrew, with emphasis on grammar and translation of biblical prose. Daily preparation and active class participation mandatory.

In the Spring Semester we will read, translate, and analyze passages from the Hebrew Bible and other sources, building vocabulary, and focusing on grammatical issues in context. We will also begin working with scholarly tools, reference grammars, and other supplementary resources.

1. Required Texts

Seow, Choon-Leong, *A Grammar for Biblical Hebrew*. Revised Edition. Nashville: Abingdon, 1995.

will be referred to in class as “Seow”

Elliger, K., and W. Rudolph, ed. *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 1997.

will be referred to in class as “BHS”

Brown, F., S. Driver, and C. Briggs. *Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1996.

will be referred to in class as “BDB”

1a. Suggested Texts

Lester, G. Brooke, Joseph F. Scrivner, and Jennifer S. Green, *Handbook to A Grammar for Biblical Hebrew*. Nashville, Abingdon, 2005.

van Pelt, Miles V., *English Grammar to Ace Biblical Hebrew*. Grand Rapids, Zondervan Academic, 2010.

2. Course Requirements

Attendance and Class Participation, 30%

Attendance at every class meeting is required. Please come to class each day with 2 prepared questions related to assigned reading and homework. Students will be asked at random (i.e. cold called) to ask questions about the chapter, to provide answers to homework questions, and to translate exercises associated with each lesson.

Assignments and Quizzes 40%

The textbook contains exercises associated with each lesson. Only a subset of all of the exercises in the textbook will be a required assignment each week (i.e. form the basis of quiz questions), but the classroom discussion will be based on ALL of the exercises. In discussion, I will cold call on you asking for opinions and translations, and it will behoove you to have attempted as many of the exercises as possible to prepare for this discussion.

There will two weekly quizzes administered via Canvas—one testing vocabulary acquisition cumulatively throughout the semester, and one spot checking your weekly homework assignments. Study the weekly vocabulary and complete all assigned homework and you will find these quizzes extraordinarily easy!

Midterm Exam 10%

There will be a self-timed, take-home, open book, midterm exam. The exam will be given two scores, one for completeness and one for accuracy.

Final Exam 20%

There will be a self-timed, take-home, open book, final exam. The exam will be given two scores, one for completeness and one for accuracy.

3. Attendance Policy

The course will meet on every Monday and Wednesday allowed by the official Harvard FAS and HDS Calendars. The only “University Holidays” acknowledged within the Fall and Spring terms in these calendars are:

Labor Day, September 4, 2023

Indigenous Peoples Day, October 9, 2023

Thanksgiving, November 22–26, 2023

Presidents Day, February 29, 2024

Spring Recess, March 11–18, 2024

Massachusetts state law specifies that all students who must miss a class, exam, or course requirement because of a religious observance shall be provided with an opportunity to make up the requirement on another day.

Classes will be scheduled for ALL Mondays and Wednesdays within the term not deemed “University Holidays.” Please speak with the instructor if you must miss a class, examination, or course requirement

due to a religious observance.

4. Extensions and Late Work

My policy regarding late work and extensions for work is “yes.” You do not need to tell me *why* something is late, and for the love of Hebrew, do not make up elaborate excuses. Simply tell me *when* it will be completed.

5. Schedule of Classes for Fall and Spring Semesters

Please note about the schedule:

+ readings are “assigned” the day they are listed

+ exercises are “due” the class meeting for which they are listed

+ quizzes will become available in Canvas the day they are listed, and are due within a week

January 22, Monday

Read: Seow 23-24

Exercises:

23. b.

January 24, Wednesday

Exercises:

24. b. [as much as possible!]

January 29, Monday

Read: Seow 25-26

Exercises:

25. b.

25. c.

January 31, Wednesday

Exercises:

26. b. [as much as possible]

February 5, Monday

Read: Seow 27-28

Exercises:

Ruth 1

February 7, Wednesday

Exercises:

Ruth 1

February 12, Monday

Read: Seow 29-30

Read: Holmstedt, p. 60ff

Ruth 2-3

February 14, Wednesday

Read: Holmstedt, p. 60ff

Exercises:

Ruth 2-3

TAKE HOME MIDTERM

February 19, Monday

NO CLASS - President's Day

February 21, Wednesday

Read: Holmstedt, p. 60ff

Ruth 4

February 26, Monday

Read: Tucker, p. 11ff

Jonah 1

February 28, Wednesday

Read: Tucker, p. 11ff

Jonah 2

March 4, Monday

Read: Tucker, p. 11ff

Jonah 1-2

March 6, Wednesday

Read: Tucker, p. 11ff

Jonah 1â€“2

March 11, Monday

NO CLASSâ€“Spring Recess

March 13, Wednesday

NO CLASSâ€“Spring Recess

March 18, Monday

Read: Tucker, p. 11ff

Jonah 3â€“4

March 20, Wednesday

Read: Tucker, p. 11ff

Jonah 3â€“4

March 25, Monday

Leviticus 19:16â€“24

March 27, Wednesday

Genesis 49:1â€“28

April 1, Monday

Psalms 139:1â€“18

April 3, Wednesday

Exodus 14:15â€“31

April 8, Monday

Exodus 20:1â€“17

April 10, Wednesday

1 Kings 3:16â€“28

April 15, Monday

2 Kings 3:4–28

April 17, Wednesday

KAI 181: *Mesha Inscription*

April 22, Monday

Ecclesiastes 1

April 24, Wednesday

Ecclesiastes 7:1–15