



Beginners Hebrew

Syllabus

Course Details

Course and Catalogue Number: TBA
Class Location: TBA
Meeting Times: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10.30-11.45am
Course Instructor: Vladimir Olivero
Office Location: TBA
Office Hours: Monday 2pm-4.30pm
Email: TBA
Website: TBA

Course Description

This course is tailored for absolute beginners who have no previous knowledge of Biblical Hebrew. Throughout the Fall Semester, our primary focus will be on mastering grammar, particularly nominal and verbal morphology, and expanding vocabulary through a series of exercises. After each major grammar topic, we will hold major review classes to address potential questions and revise the material covered. Additional minor review classes will be held starting from October.

Course Outcomes

By the conclusion of the semester, students will have learnt the basics of Biblical Hebrew grammar and will be ready to read prose texts in the Spring Semester.

Pre-requisites

There are no pre-requisites and everyone who is interested in learning Biblical Hebrew can join the classes.

Course Requirements

Attendance and active class participation (20%)

We will convene three times per week, on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings from 10:30am-11:45am for our in-person sessions. Attendance is mandatory; please note that remote attendance via Zoom is not available. Students are expected to engage actively in class discussions, diligently complete assigned homework, and arrive prepared to review and discuss the exercises. Consistent participation and preparation are integral to the success of the course.

Homework assignments (30%)

Students are required to bring their homework to class at each meeting and be ready to review and discuss them.

Quizzes (35%)

Quizzes will be made available on Canvas either after the conclusion of a major topic or after the review classes and will be due within a week. Full instructions about the quizzes will be provided in class in Week 1 and repeated as the appointed dates approach.

Final exam (15%)

The final exam will entail translating sentences, parsing verbal forms, and answering additional questions about grammar.

Letter grades for assignments ranging from A to C+ in this course will correspond to the below percentage ranges:

A	≥ 93%	B+	87 - 89%	B-	80 - 82%
A-	90 - 92%	B	83 - 86%	C+	77 - 79%

Required Texts

1. Seow, Choon-Leong, *A Grammar for Biblical Hebrew*. Revised Edition. Nashville: Abingdon, 1995.
2. Elliger, K., and W. Rudolph, ed. *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 1997.
3. Brown, F., S. Driver, and C. Briggs. *Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1996.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Students needing academic adjustments or accommodations because of a documented disability must present their Faculty Letter from the [Accessible Education Office \(AEO\)](#) and speak with the instructor by the end of the second week of the term, September 15. Failure to do so may result in the instructor's inability to respond in a timely manner. All discussions will remain confidential, although Faculty are invited to contact AEO to discuss appropriate implementation.

Religious Holy Days

Please speak with the instructor within the first two weeks of the semester if you must miss a class, examination, or course requirement due to a religious observance. Please know that 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, so long as this does not create an unreasonable burden for the school.

Course Schedule

Wednesday, September 4

Syllabus and Structure of the Course

Introduction to Biblical Hebrew

Friday, September 6

Seow 1

Monday, September 9

Seow 2

Due: Exercises Seow 1

Wednesday, September 11

Seow 3

Due: Exercises Seow 2

Quiz

Friday, September 13

Seow 4

Due: Exercises Seow 3

Monday, September 16

Seow 5; Excursus A

Due: Exercises Seow 4

Wednesday, September 18

Seow 6

Due: Exercises Seow 5

Friday, September 20

Seow 7; Excursus B

Due: Exercises Seow 6

Monday, September 23

Major Review

Quiz

Wednesday, September 25

Seow 8; Excursus C

Due: Exercises Seow 7

Friday, September 27

Seow 10

Due: Exercises Seow 9

Monday, September 30

Seow 11; Excursus D

Due: Exercises Seow 10

Wednesday, October 2

Seow 12

Due: Exercises Seow 11

Friday, October 4

Major Review

Quiz

Monday, October 7

Seow 13; Excursus E

Due: Exercises Seow 12

Wednesday, October 9

Seow 14; Excursus F

Due: Exercises Seow 13

Friday, October 11

Review

Monday, October 14

No class – Columbus Day (Federal) / Indigenous Peoples' Day (City of Cambridge)

Wednesday, October 16

Seow 15

Due: Exercises Seow 14

Friday, October 18

Seow 16

Due: Exercises Seow 15

Monday, October 21

Review

Wednesday, October 23

Seow 17

Due: Exercises Seow 16

Friday, October 25

Major Review

Quiz

Monday, October 28

Seow 18

Due: Exercises Seow 17

Wednesday, October 30

Seow 19

Due: Exercises Seow 18

Friday, November 1

Seow 20

Due: Exercises Seow 19

Monday, November 4

Major Review

Quiz

Wednesday, November 6

Seow 21

Due: Exercises Seow 20

Friday, November 8

No class – Veterans Day

Monday, November 11

Seow 22

Due: Exercises Seow 21

Wednesday, November 13

Seow 23

Due: Exercises Seow 22

Friday, November 15

Major Review

Quiz

Monday, November 18

Seow 24

Due: Exercises Seow 23

Wednesday, November 20

Review of the Pi‘el

Due: Exercises Seow 24

Friday, November 22

Seow 25

Due: Exercises on the Pi‘el

Monday, November 25

No class (SBL Conference)

Wednesday, November 27

No class – Thanksgiving recess

Friday, November 29

No class – Thanksgiving recess

Monday, December 2

Review of the Hiphil

Due: Exercises Seow 25

Wednesday, December 4

Due: Exercises on the Hiphil

Major Review

Quiz on Pi‘el and Hiphil