



Intermediate Hebrew

Syllabus

Course Details

Course and Catalogue Number: TBA
Class Location: TBA
Meeting Times: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9am-10.15am
Course Instructor: Vladimir Olivero
Office Location: TBA
Office Hours: Monday 2pm-4.30pm
Email: TBA
Website: TBA

Course Description

This course is designed for students who have completed one year of Biblical Hebrew study (or the equivalent thereof), having acquired proficiency in grammar and an introduction to biblical prose. In the Fall Semester, two out of our three weekly sessions will focus on reading and analyzing biblical prose. The remaining session will be dedicated to the study of verbal syntax in the initial phase of the course, followed by an exploration of Masoretic accents in the final weeks.

Course Outcomes

By the conclusion of the semester, students will have acquired a deeper understanding of biblical prose from a syntactic standpoint, while also reinforcing their prior knowledge of morphology. This will equip them with a broader range of tools to read and interpret biblical prose texts in general and to start tackling the more complex texts (e.g., the prophets) that will be introduced in the Spring Semester.

Pre-requisites

One year of Biblical Hebrew.

Course Requirements

Attendance and active class participation (20%)

We will convene three times per week, on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings from 9am-10:15am 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 accessible on Canvas every Wednesday following the discussion of a grammatical topic, and will be due by 5pm on the following Tuesday. These quizzes will encompass the elements of verbal syntax and Masoretic accents covered during the week and, upon their completion, the translation and linguistic-philological commentary on excerpts from the texts read in class.

Final exam (15%)

The final exam will require students to translate and provide commentary on excerpts from texts studied in class, as well as respond to additional questions concerning syntax.

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. Elliger, K., and W. Rudolph, ed. *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 1997.
2. Brown, F., S. Driver, and C. Briggs. *Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1996.
3. Park, S. J. *The Fundamentals of Hebrew Accents. Divisions and Exegetical Roles Beyond Syntax*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2020.

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

Verb Syntax: Wayyiqtol

Friday, September 6

Genesis 15

Monday, September 9

Genesis 15

Wednesday, September 11

Verb Syntax: Qatal

Friday, September 13

Genesis 15

Monday, September 16

Genesis 22

Wednesday, September 18

Verb Syntax: Yiqtol

Friday, September 20

Genesis 22

Monday, September 23

Genesis 22

Wednesday, September 25

Verb Syntax: Weqatal

Friday, September 27

Deuteronomy 5

Monday, September 30

Deuteronomy 5

Wednesday, October 2

Verb Syntax: Participle

Friday, October 4

Deuteronomy 5

Monday, October 7

Deuteronomy 6

Wednesday, October 9

Text-Linguistics (1)

Friday, October 11

Deuteronomy 6

Monday, October 14

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

Wednesday, October 16

Text-Linguistics (2)

Friday, October 18

Deuteronomy 6

Monday, October 21

Joshua 6

Wednesday, October 23

Masoretic Accents: Park 1-2

Friday, October 25

Joshua 6

Monday, October 28

Joshua 6

Wednesday, October 30

Masoretic Accents: Park 3-4

Friday, November 1

Judges 13

Monday, November 4

Judges 13

Wednesday, November 6

Masoretic Accents: Park 5

Friday, November 8

Judges 13

Monday, November 11

No class – Veterans Day

Wednesday, November 13

Masoretic Accents: Park 6

Friday, November 15

Judges 14

Monday, November 18

Judges 14-15

Wednesday, November 20

Masoretic Accents: Park 7

Friday, November 22

Judges 15

Monday, November 25

No class (SBL Conference)

Wednesday, November 27

No class – Thanksgiving recess

Friday, November 29

No class – Thanksgiving recess

Monday, December 2

Judges 15

Wednesday, December 4

Masoretic Accents: Park 8