

# HEBREW

## (AS) {HEBR}

### HEBREW LANGUAGE COURSES (HEBR)

#### **051. (HEBR651, JWST051) Elementary Modern Hebrew I. (C) Staff.**

An introduction to the skills of reading, writing, and conversing in modern Hebrew. This course assumes no previous knowledge of Hebrew. A grade of B- or higher is needed to proceed to HEBR 052, Elementary Modern Hebrew II.

#### **052. (HEBR652, JWST052) Elementary Modern Hebrew II. (C) Staff.** Prerequisite(s): HEBR 051 or permission of instructor.

A continuation of HEBR 051, First Year Modern Hebrew, which assumes basic skills of reading and speaking and the use of the present tense. Open to all students who have completed one semester of Hebrew at Penn with a grade of B- or above and new students with equivalent competency.

#### **053. (HEBR653, JWST053) Intermediate Modern Hebrew III. (C) Staff.** Prerequisite(s): HEBR 052 or permission of the instructor.

Development of the skills of reading, writing, and conversing in modern Hebrew on an intermediate level. Open to all students who have completed two semesters of Hebrew at Penn with a grade of B- or above and new students with equivalent competency.

#### **054. (HEBR654, JWST054) Intermediate Modern Hebrew IV. (C) Staff.** Prerequisite(s): HEBR 053 or permission of instructor.

This course constitutes the final semester of Intermediate Modern Hebrew. Hence, one of the main goals of the course is to prepare the students for the proficiency exam in Hebrew. Emphasis will be placed on grammar skills and ability to read literary texts. Open to all students who have completed three semesters of Hebrew at Penn with a grade of B- or above and new students with equivalent competency.

#### **059. (HEBR552, JWST059) Advanced Modern Hebrew: Reading and Composition. (C) Engel.** Prerequisite(s): HEBR 054 or permission of instructor.

After four semesters of language study, it's time to enter the vibrant world of contemporary Israeli culture. In this course students read some of the best plays, poems, short stories, and journalism published in Israel today. They also watch and analyze some of Israel's most popular films, TV programs, and videos. Themes include Jewish-Arab relations, the founding of the State, family ties and intergenerational conflict, war and society, and the recent dynamic changes in Israel society. HEBR 054 or permission of instructor. Since the content of this course may change from year to year, students may take it more than once (but only once for credit).

#### **151. (HEBR451, JWST171, JWST471) Elementary Biblical Hebrew I. (A) Carasik.**

This course is an introduction to Biblical Hebrew. It assumes no prior knowledge, but students who can begin to acquire a reading knowledge of the Hebrew alphabet before class starts will find it extremely helpful. The course is the 1st of a 4-semester sequence whose purpose is to prepare students to take courses in Bible that demand a familiarity with the original language of the text.

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**152. (HEBR452, JWST172, JWST472) Elementary Biblical Hebrew II. (B)** Carasik. Prerequisite(s): Successful completion of HEBR 151 or permission of the instructor.

A continued introduction to the grammar of Biblical Hebrew, focusing on the verbal system, with an emphasis on developing language skills in handling Biblical texts. A suitable entry point for students who have had some modern Hebrew.

**153. (HEBR453, JWST173, JWST473) Intermediate Biblical Hebrew I. (A)** Carasik. Prerequisite(s): Successful completion of HEBR 152 or permission of the instructor. This course is the prerequisite for HEBR 154 (no one is "permitted" into that semester; you must take the previous semester course).

This course will focus on using the grammar and vocabulary learned at the introductory level to enable students to read Biblical texts independently and take advanced Bible exegesis courses. We will also work on getting comfortable with the standard dictionaries, concordances, and grammars used by scholars of the Bible. We will concentrate on prose this semester, closely reading Ruth, Jonah, and other prose selections. We will begin to translate from English into Biblical Hebrew, and there will also be a unit on the punctuation marks used in the Bible. This is a suitable entry point for students who already have strong Hebrew skills.

**154. (HEBR454, JWST174, JWST474) Intermediate Biblical Hebrew II. (B)** Carasik. Prerequisite(s): Successful completion of HEBR 153.

This course is a continuation of the Fall semester's Intermediate Biblical Hebrew I. No one will be admitted into the course who has not taken the Fall semester. It will continue to focus on using the grammar and vocabulary learned at the introductory level to enable students to read biblical texts independently and take advanced Bible exegesis courses. We will concentrate this semester on various selections of Biblical poetry, including Exodus 15 and Job 28. We will also continue to translate English prose into Biblical Hebrew.

**182. Study Abroad.**

**250. (COML228, JWST256, RELS220) Studies in the Hebrew Bible. (B)** Staff.

This course introduces students to the methods and resources used in the modern study of the Bible. To the extent possible, these methods will be illustrated as they apply to a single book of the Hebrew Bible that will serve as the main focus of the course.

The course is designed for undergraduates who have previously studied the Bible in Hebrew either in high school or college. It presupposes fluency in reading and translating Biblical Hebrew and a working knowledge of Biblical Hebrew grammar.

**SM 258. (FOLK258, HEBR558, JWST258, RELS228) Studies in Medieval Jewish Literature. (C)** Fishman. Prerequisite(s): Reading knowledge of Hebrew.

This course will introduce students to the modern academic study of the different genres of medieval Jewish literature-- poetry, narrative, interpretation of the Bible, liturgy, historiography, philosophy, sermon, mystical and pietistic writings. In addition to studying the primary texts, the course will also explore the historical, religious, and cultural contexts in which these texts were first produced and then studied, and the aspects of Jewish historical experience that these texts reflect. The specific topic of the course (eg. Medieval Biblical Interpretation, Kabbalah) will vary from semester to semester. In some cases, the specific topic may also be the work of a specific author, like Maimonides. Primary sources will be read in their original Hebrew. While no previous experience in studying these texts is required, students should be able to read unpointed Hebrew texts. If there is a question as to whether the course is appropriate for you, please contact the professor.

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**357. (HEBR657, JWST352, JWST552) Classical Midrash & Aggadah. (D)** Staff.Prerequisite(s): Students must be able to read an unpointed Hebrew text.

Readings in Rabbinic lore from classical Midrashic texts.

**SM 259. (COML266, HEBR559, JWST259) Introduction to Modern Hebrew Literature: 1ST ISRAELIS:AMICHAH,OZ. (A)** Arts & Letters Sector. All Classes. Gold.Prerequisite(s): HEBR 059 or equivalent. The class will be conducted in Hebrew and the texts read in the original. There will be 3-4 short papers and a final exam.

Fall 2016: We will discuss literary works that reflect Israelis' struggle with their national identity. For the patriotic 1948 generation, self and country were one and the same while contemporary writers ask what it means to be Israeli. Yehuda Amichai's 1955 poem "I want to die in my bed" was a manifesto for individualism, yet the seemingly interminable Arab-Israeli conflict forced writers to return to the national, social, and political arenas starting in the 1980s, although in entirely different ways. Readings include works by the contemporary Orly Kastel Bloom, Etgar Keret and Sayed Kashua as well as by the early writers Natan Alterman, Amir Gilboa, Dahlia Ravikovitch, A.B. Yehoshua, and David Grossman. The class is conducted in Hebrew and all texts are read in the original. The amSeminar. Fulfills Arts & Letters. (HEBR 259, HEBR 559, COML 266, COLL 227)

**SM 350. (HEBR550, JWST351, RELS322) A Book of the Bible. (A)** Staff.Prerequisite(s): Thorough command of Biblical Hebrew and prior experience studying the Bible in the original in high school, college, or a comparable setting. Language of instruction is in English. The course is designed primarily for undergraduates who have previously studied the Bible in Hebrew either in high school or college. It presupposes fluency in reading Biblical Hebrew, including a working knowledge of Biblical Hebrew grammar.

In-depth textual study of a book of the Hebrew Bible studied in the light of modern scholarship (including archaeology and ancient Near Eastern literature) as well as ancient and medieval commentaries. The book varies each semester and the course may be repeated for credit. Prerequisite(s): Thorough command of Biblical Hebrew and prior experience studying the Bible in the original in high school, college, or a comparable setting. Language of instruction is in English.

**356. (HEBR656, RELS327) Talmudic Midrashic Literature. (M)** Staff.Prerequisite(s): Two years of Hebrew or equivalent required.

An introduction to the reading of classical Rabbinic literature. The topic will vary ranging from Talmudic to Siddur. Readings will be in Hebrew with supplemental English works.

**358. (HEBR658, JWST355) Siddur and Piyyut. (M)** Staff.Prerequisite(s): HEBR 052 or equivalent.

A study of the institution of Jewish prayer, its literature, and synagogu poetry. Texts will be read in Hebrew with supplementary English readings.

**SM 359. (CINE359, COLL227, COML359, HEBR659, JWST359) Seminar Modern Hebrew Literature: LITERATURE & IDENTITY. (B)** Arts & Letters Sector. All Classes. Gold.Prerequisite(s): HEBR 059 or HEBR 259 or permission of the instructor. This class is conducted in Hebrew and the texts are read in the original. The syllabus serves solely as an outline. The amount of material we cover depends on the pace of the class. Additionally, the packet contains significantly more material than will be studied in class to compensate for the difficulty of obtaining Hebrew texts in America. The content of this course changes from year to year and therefore students may take it for credit more than once.

This course is for students who are interested in taking in

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### **451. (HEBR151, JWST171, JWST471) Elementary Biblical Hebrew I. (A) Carasik.**

This course is an introduction to Biblical Hebrew. It assumes no prior knowledge, but students who can begin to acquire a reading knowledge of the Hebrew alphabet before class starts will find it extremely helpful. The course is the 1st of a 4-semester sequence whose purpose is to prepare students to take courses in Bible that demand a familiarity with the original language of the text.

### **452. (HEBR152, JWST172, JWST472) Elementary Biblical Hebrew II. (B) Carasik. Prerequisite(s):** Successful completion of HEBR 451 or permission of the instructor.

A continued introduction to the grammar of Biblical Hebrew, focusing on the verbal system, with an emphasis on developing language skills in handling Biblical texts. A suitable entry point for students who have had some modern Hebrew.

### **453. (HEBR153, JWST173, JWST473) Intermediate Biblical Hebrew I. (A) Carasik. Prerequisite(s):** Successful completion of HEBR 452 or permission of the instructor. This course is the prerequisite for HEBR 454 (no one is "permitted" into that semester; you must take the previous semester course).

This course will focus on using the grammar and vocabulary learned at the introductory level to enable students to read Biblical texts independently and take advanced Bible exegesis courses. We will also work on getting comfortable with the standard dictionaries, concordances, and grammars used by scholars of the Bible. We will concentrate on prose this semester, closely reading Ruth, Jonah, and other prose selections. We will begin to translate from English into Biblical Hebrew, and there will also be a unit on the punctuation marks used in the Bible. This is a suitable entry point for students who already have strong Hebrew skills.

### **454. (HEBR154, JWST174, JWST474) Intermediate Biblical Hebrew II. (B) Carasik. Prerequisite(s):** Successful completion of HEBR 453.

This course is a continuation of the Fall semester's Intermediate Biblical Hebrew I. No one will be admitted into the course who has not taken the Fall semester. It will continue to focus on using the grammar and vocabulary learned at the introductory level to enable students to read biblical texts independently and take advanced Bible exegesis courses. We will concentrate this semester on various selections of Biblical poetry, including Exodus 15 and Job 28. We will also continue to translate English prose into Biblical Hebrew.

### **455. Post-Baccalaureate Hebrew Texts. (M) Staff.**

### **SM 557. (JWST257, NELC557) Studies in Rabbinic Literature: Law and Judaism. (D) Prerequisite(s):** Knowledge of Hebrew.

### **SM 486. (JWST426, RELS426) Rabbinic Writers on Rabbinic Culture. (M) Fishman. Prerequisite(s):** Reading knowledge of Hebrew.

This course traces reflections on rabbinic culture produced within Jewish legal literature of the classic rabbinic period - - Midrash, Mishna, and Talmud - - and in later juridical genres - - Talmudic commentary, codes and responsa. Attention will be paid to the mechanics of different genres, the role of the underlying proof-text, the inclusion or exclusion of variant opinions, the presence of non-legal information, attitudes toward predecessors, balance between precedent and innovation.

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### **SM 550. (HEBR350, JWST351, JWST550, RELS322, RELS521) A Book of the Bible. (A)**

Staff.Prerequisite(s): Thorough command of Biblical Hebrew and prior experience studying the Bible in the original in high school, college, or a comparable setting. Language of instruction is in English. The course is designed primarily for undergraduates who have previously studied the Bible in Hebrew either in high school or college. It presupposes fluency in reading Biblical Hebrew, including a working knowledge of Biblical Hebrew grammar.

In-depth textual study of a book of the Hebrew Bible studied in the light of modern scholarship (including archaeology and ancient Near Eastern literature) as well as ancient and medieval commentaries. The book varies each semester and the course may be repeated for credit. Prerequisite(s): Thorough command of Biblical Hebrew and prior experience studying the Bible in the original in high school, college, or a comparable setting. Language of instruction is in English.

### **552. (HEBR059, JWST059) Advanced Modern Hebrew: Reading and Composition. (C)**

Engel.Prerequisite(s): HEBR 054 or permission of instructor.

After four semesters of language study, it's time to enter the vibrant world of contemporary Israeli culture. In this course students read some of the best plays, poems, short stories, and journalism published in Israel today. They also watch and analyze some of Israel's most popular films, TV programs, and videos. Themes include Jewish-Arab relations, the founding of the State, family ties and intergenerational conflict, war and society, and the recent dynamic changes in Israel society. HEBR 054 or permission of instructor. Since the content of this course may change from year to year, students may take it more than once (but only once for credit).

### **SM 558. (FOLK258, HEBR258, JWST258, RELS228) Studies in Medieval Jewish Literature. (C)**

Fishman.Prerequisite(s): Undergraduates need permission from the instructor.

This course will introduce students to the modern academic study of the different genres of medieval Jewish literature-- poetry, narrative, interpretation of the Bible, liturgy, historiography, philosophy, sermon, mystical and pietistic writings. In addition to studying the primary texts, the course will also explore the historical, religious, and cultural contexts in which these texts were first produced and then studied, and the aspects of Jewish historical experience that these texts reflect. The specific topic of the course (eg. Medieval Biblical Interpretation, Kabbalah) will vary from semester to semester. In some cases, the specific topic may also be the work of a specific author, like Maimonides. Primary sources will be read in their original Hebrew. While no previous experience in studying these texts is required, students should be able to read unpointed Hebrew texts. If there is a question as to whether the course is appropriate for you, please contact the professor.

### **SM 559. (COLL227, COML266, HEBR259, JWST259) Introduction to Modern Hebrew Literature:**

**1ST ISRAELIS:AMICHAÏ,OZ. (A)** Gold.Prerequisite(s): HEBR 059 or equivalent. The class will be conducted in Hebrew and the texts read in the original. There will be 3-4 short papers and a final exam.

Fall 2016: We will discuss literary works that reflect Israelis' struggle with their national identity. For the patriotic 1948 generation, self and country were one and the same while contemporary writers ask what it means to be Israeli. Yehuda Amichai's 1955 poem "I want to die in my bed" was a manifesto for individualism, yet the seemingly interminable Arab-Israeli conflict forced writers to return to the national, social, and political arenas starting in the 1980s, although in entirely different ways. Readings include works by the contemporary Orly Kastel Bloom, Etgar Keret and Sayed Kashua as well as by the early writers Natan Alterman, Amir Gilboa, Dahlia Ravikovitch, A.B. Yehoshua, and David Grossman. The class is conducted in Hebrew and all texts are read in the original. The seminar fulfills Arts & Letters. (HEBR 259, HEBR 559, COML 266, COLL 227) original. The content of this course changes from year to year and therefore students may take it for credit more than once.

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**SM 583. (COML527, HIST523, JWST523, RELS523) Studies in Medieval Jewish Culture. (A)** Fishman. Prerequisite(s): Unless otherwise noted, reading knowledge of Hebrew is required.

According to reigning historiography, the Jewish subcultures of Ashkenaz and Sefarad developed differently because the former was the cultural heir of ancient Palestinian Jewry, while the latter was the heir of Babylonian Jewry. Yet scholarship of the last several decades has shown the inadequacy of this claim. This graduate level course will reconstruct some of the underlying problems with this claim and suggest that examination of developments in the broader Roman, Christian and Islamic societies offer alternate ways of accounting for the emergence of these Jewish subcultures in the Middle Ages. Topics to be explored include cultural-geographic patterns following the collapse of the Roman Empire; divergent approaches to Islamic law under the abbasid and Umayyad caliphates; genres of legal composition in different parts of the Islamic world, and the status of aggadah (i.e., non-legal rabbinic tradition) in medieval Ashkenaz and Sephardic traditions. Undergraduates may attend with the instructor's permission.

**651. (HEBR051, JWST051) Elementary Modern Hebrew I. (C)** Staff.

An introduction to the skills of reading, writing, and conversing in modern Hebrew. This course assumes no previous knowledge of Hebrew.

**652. (HEBR052, JWST052) Elementary Modern Hebrew II. Staff.** Prerequisite(s): HEBR 651 or permission of instructor.

A continuation of HEBR 051, First Year Modern Hebrew, which assumes basic skills of reading and speaking and the use of the present tense. Open to all students who have completed one semester of Hebrew at Penn with a grade of B- or above and new students with equivalent competency.

**653. (HEBR053, JWST053) Intermediate Modern Hebrew III. (C)** Staff. Prerequisite(s): HEBR 652 or permission of the instructor.

Development of the skills of reading, writing, and conversing in modern Hebrew on an intermediate level. Open to all students who have completed two semesters of Hebrew at Penn with a grade of B- or above and new students with equivalent competency.

**654. (HEBR054, JWST054) Intermediate Modern Hebrew IV. (C)** Staff. Prerequisite(s): HEBR 653 or permission of instructor.

This course constitutes the final semester of Intermediate Modern Hebrew. Hence, one of the main goals of the course is to prepare the students for the proficiency exam in Hebrew. Emphasis will be placed on grammar skills and ability to read literary texts. Open to all students who have completed three semesters of Hebrew at Penn with a grade of B- or above and new students with equivalent competency.

**656. (HEBR356, RELS327) Talmudic Midrashic Literature. (M)** Staff. Prerequisite(s): Two years of Hebrew or equivalent required.

An introduction to the reading of classical Rabbinic literature. The topic will vary ranging from Talmudic to Siddur. Readings will be in Hebrew with supplemental English works.

**657. (HEBR357, JWST352, JWST552) Classical Midrash & Aggadah. (D)** Staff. Prerequisite(s): Students must be able to read an unpointed Hebrew text.

Readings in Rabbinic lore from classical Midrashic texts.



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**658. (HEBR358, JWST355, JWST655) Siddur & Piyyut.** Staff.Prerequisite(s): HEBR 054 or equivalent.

A study of the institution of Jewish prayer, its literature, and synagogue poetry. Texts will be read in Hebrew with supplementary English readings.

**SM 659. (CINE359, COLL227, COML359, HEBR359, JWST359) Seminar Modern Hebrew Literature: LITERATURE & IDENTITY. (M)** Gold.Prerequisite(s): HEBR 059 or HEBR 259 or permission of the instructor. This class is conducted in Hebrew and the texts are read in the original. The syllabus serves solely as an outline. The amount of material we cover depends on the pace of the class. Additionally, the packet contains significantly more material than will be studied in class to compensate for the difficulty of obtaining Hebrew texts in America. The content of this course changes from year to year and therefore students may take it for credit more than once. The content of this course changes from year to year; and, therefore, students may take it for credit more than once.

This course is for students who are interested in taking a literature course in Hebrew and are proficient in it. Grading is based primarily on students' literary understanding. There will be four 2-page written assignments over the course of the semester. We will discuss literary works that reflect Israelis' struggle with their national identity, from the patriotic 1948 generation for whom self and country overlapped to contemporary writers who ask what it means to be Israeli. While Yehuda Amichai's 1955 poem "I want to die in my bed" was a manifesto for individualism, the seemingly interminable Arab-Israeli conflict returned writers to the national, social, and political arenas starting in the 1980's. Readings include poems by Natan Alterman, Amir Gilboa, Meir Wieseltier and Roni Somek as well as fiction by Amos Oz, David Grossman, Sayed Kashua, Alona Kimhi and Etgar Keret. Texts, discussions and papers in Hebrew. The content of This course changes from year to year so students may take it for credit more than once.