



TYNDALE  
University College

## HEBR 1013: INTRODUCTION TO BIBLICAL HEBREW I

Fall 2009; Mon, Wed & Fri, 8:30–9:30 AM; Room #2082

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Class cancellations due to inclement weather or illness will be announced/posted here.

**class.tyndale.ca** — This course has resources pages (Moodle) which are meant to enhance your learning experience and which you may need to use to complete some assignments. It is also where I will post news items and notices. Make sure that you are properly enrolled and can log in.

**MyTyndale.ca** — Notices will be sent to your official school email. Please check it regularly.

**Mailboxes** — Every student is responsible for information communicated through the student mailboxes (a mailbox directory is posted beside the mailboxes). I will return assignments here.

### I. COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is an introduction to the basic principles of biblical Hebrew with emphasis on morphology, phonology and syntax. Offered in alternate years.

### II. COURSE OBJECTIVES:

The basic goal of this course is to become proficient in the rudiments of Biblical Hebrew. The course and its textbook are designed for two semesters of study, and it is presumed that students will take the course for the entire year. In the first semester students will learn the alphabet and the basics of Hebrew nouns and verbs. In the second semester the focus will be on less regular paradigms, and on more complicated syntax. The steady acquisition of vocabulary will be emphasized across both semesters.

Language learning is work, but a major purpose in this course is also to enjoy our task. We will sing songs together, memorize and recite scripture for each other, and encourage, correct and motivate one another in a variety of ways as we undertake the necessary drills and repetitions.

### III. REQUIRED TEXTS:

Three required texts are sold as a set, which should afford a slight discount: Bonnie Kittel, Victoria Hoffer and Rebecca Wright, *Biblical Hebrew, Second Ed. [SET]* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2004) [ISBN 978-0300101034]. It contains the following individual pieces:

1. Kittel, Hoffer and Wright, *Biblical Hebrew, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed.: Text and Workbook* (New Haven: Yale UP, 2004) [ISBN 978-0300098624]. Abbrev.: **BH**
2. Kittel, Hoffer and Wright, *Biblical Hebrew, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed.: Supplement for Enhanced Comprehension* (New Haven: Yale UP, 2004) [ISBN 978-0300098631]. Abbrev.: **Supp**
3. Kittel, Hoffer and Wright, *Biblical Hebrew, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed.: 3-CD Audio Program* (New Haven: Yale UP, 2004) [ISBN 978-0300098648]. Abbrev.: **CD**

Items 1–3 will be used over the course of the entire year. In the second part of the year I will ask you to obtain two more texts.

4. *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia* = BHS (Paperback; 5<sup>th</sup> ed.; Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 1997). [Two copies: **Ref BS 715 1984**]
5. F. Brown, S. Driver, C. Briggs, *Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon* (Peabody, Mass: Hendrickson, 2004; repr. of 1906 ed.). [**Ref PJ 4833 .B76 1996**]

#### IV. SUPPLEMENTARY TEXTS:

A guide and an index to standard texts:

1. Scott, W. R., and H. P. Rüger, *A Simplified Guide to BHS: Critical Apparatus, Masora, Accents, Unusual Letters & Other Markings* (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.; N. Richland Hills, TX: BIBAL, 1995). [1987 ed. in library: **Ref. BS 715 1984**]
2. Einspahr, Bruce, *Index to Brown, Driver & Briggs Hebrew Lexicon* (Chicago: Moody, 1976). [**Ref PJ 4833 .B6 E35 1976**]

Other major dictionaries of Classical Hebrew:

3. Köhler, Ludwig, and Walter Baumgartner, *The Hebrew and Aramaic lexicon of the Old Testament* (Leiden: Brill, 1994–2000). [**Ref PJ 4833 .K61813**]
4. Clines, David J. A., ed., *The Dictionary of Classical Hebrew* (Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1993–). [Vols 1–6; only up to Pe so far: **Ref PJ 4833 .D53**]

Other Hebrew grammars (only a selection, as a glance at the right shelf in our library will tell you):

5. Seow, C. L., *A Grammar for Biblical Hebrew* (Nashville: Abingdon, 1995). I may reference this grammar or provide charts and paradigms from it. [**PJ 4567 .S424 1995**]
6. Weingreen, J., *A Practical Grammar for Classical Hebrew* (Oxford: Clarendon, 1959). [Two copies: **PJ 4567 .W4 1939**]
7. Martin, J. D., *Davidson's Introductory Hebrew Grammar* (27<sup>th</sup> edition; Edinburgh: T&T Clark, 1993). This is the grammar I was assigned in St Andrews, Scotland. Our library has copies of some older editions, including the 26<sup>th</sup>. [**PJ 4567 .D3 1966**]
8. Kautsch, E., *Gesenius' Hebrew Grammar* (revised in accordance with the 28<sup>th</sup> German edition by A. E. Crowley; Oxford: Clarendon, 1910). This is still the standard reference grammar in English. Abbrev.: Gesenius-Kautzsch = **GK** [**Ref PJ 4567 .G46 1910**]

There are many other resources out there, including some Biblical Hebrew vocabulary cards. (I downloaded a similar app for my iPod, too, though I'm not sure it was worth \$4.99.) In my experience, making your own cards and resources is the best way to cement your learning. But if you find anything else particularly useful, do share.

## V. COURSE EVALUATION:

1. We will follow the design of the main *Biblical Hebrew Text and Workbook*, which lists parallel written and audio exercises in the supplement and CDs. Students are expected to complete all BH exercises, to do most of Supp in addition, and to listen to the relevant parts of the CDs twice (or more). You just have to put in the time to master the material. Decide to make a new habit of Hebrew in the first month, and keep it up. Periodically I might check your workbooks for completeness, but your success is in your hands.
2. About once a week, usually on Fridays, I will distribute short quizzes. These will almost always come straight from BH or Supp. There is an incentive to doing *every* lesson!
3. The midterm exam will be at the start of Week 8, on 2 November 2009.
4. At some point in the first semester you will need to schedule office hours to recite six verses of Hebrew (the length of Psalm 1). You can do any six verses you want. For example, we will sing or recite parts of some Psalms together. You are welcome to sing your verses to me. Whatever you choose, present me with a 1 page copy from the BHS.
5. The final exam will be held during exam week, 11–21 December 2009 (including Saturdays), as scheduled by the Registrar.
6. The semester's work will be weighted as follows, though the instructor reserves the right to adjust the balance as necessary:

Daily Drills (Participation)	20%
End of Week Quizzes	20%
Midterm Exam	20%
Scripture Memorization	20%
Final Exam	20%

*Students are responsible to keep a backup print copy of all assignments.*

## VI. COURSE OUTLINE & SCHEDULE OF READINGS:

Week 1 (14 Sep)	Introductions; Alphabet; A chapter from the Hebrew Bible
Week 2 (21 Sep)	Lessons 1 and 2
Week 3 (28 Sep)	Lessons 3 and 4; Review & Drill 1
Week 4 (5 Oct)	Lessons 5 and 6
Week 5 (12 Oct)	Lesson 7; Review & Drill 2; Lesson 8
Week 6 (19 Oct)	Lessons 9 and 10; Review & Drill 3
Week 7 (26 Oct)	READING DAYS (27–28 October); Lessons 11 and 12; Review & Drill 4
Week 8 (2 Nov)	<b>Midterm exam</b> ; The Verb; Lessons 13 and 14
Week 9 (9 Nov)	Lessons 15 and 16
Week 10 (16 Nov)	Lessons 17, 18 and 19
Week 11 (23 Nov)	Lessons 20, 21 and 22
Week 12 (30 Nov)	Lessons 23 and 24; The Noun; <i>Fri (4 Dec) is last day for Hebrew recitations</i>
Week 13 (7 Dec)	Lessons 25 and 26; Review & Drill 5; <i>Evaluations</i>
Week 14 (TBA)	READING DAY (10 December): The <b>final exam</b> will be held during exam week, 11–21 December 2009 (including Sat.), as scheduled by the Registrar.

*Please note that this is a tentative schedule. I reserve the right to adjust it to the needs of the class.*

## VII. FURTHER BIBLIOGRAPHY:

There are quite a number of other Biblical Hebrew resources out there, and several are available in Tyndale's library. I may draw attention to different ones along the way by posting links or call numbers on the course's Moodle website. Here are three online resources you will definitely want to check out. The first two have quite a few links to still more online helps.

1. *Codex* (esp. the Kittel Resources page): <http://biblical-studies.ca/hebrew/Kittel.html>. Tyler Williams at Taylor University College, Edmonton, Alberta, uses the same Biblical Hebrew text we do, and he has developed a companion webpage. Note the vocabulary flashcard database, terminology help, and annotated guide to other language tools.
2. *The Hebrew 2 Hub*: <http://blakleycreative.com/jtb/Hebrew2Hub.htm>. The focus of this site by J. Ted Blakely (a friend of my from St Andrews) is more for the second semester, but there are some verb charts and audio files that will be useful early on as well. Also be sure to take a look at the carpets (the name for the pages beautifully decorated in Hebrew script) from the Leningrad Codex.
3. *Answer Key*: <http://yalepress.yale.edu/yupbooks/pdf/BiblicalHebrewKey.pdf>. I hardly need to tell you that the answer key won't help you if you don't try the questions on your own first, but you should download or print this file and use of it appropriately.