

Intermediate Hebrew 1

Classics 237
OM 002
Nanette Goldman

Macalester College
MWF 12:00 – 1:00
Fall 2011

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Course Web Page: Moodle (moodle.macalester.edu) Intermediate Hebrew I

Course description:

Welcome to Intermediate Hebrew, a year-long survey of the Hebrew language from antiquity to modernity. Fall semester is comprised of readings from three periods of Classical Hebrew 1) Biblical prose narrative ('mythology' and 'historiography') 2) Qumranic documents 3) Mishnah. Spring semester consists of two units: 1) Biblical poetry, 2) Modern Hebrew. Successful completion of the spring semester of Intermediate Hebrew fulfills the Macalester foreign language requirement.

In the first 12 weeks of the Fall semester you will review and augment your translation skills by closely reading passages of your choice from the narrative books of the Hebrew Bible, e.g. Genesis, Exodus, Joshua and Samuel and Kings. You will be introduced to the secondary scholarship through articles in a range of analytical traditions, such as literary, text, and feminist criticism, Jewish, Christian and/or Islamic exegesis (*hadith*). You will be expected to demonstrate familiarity with the *apparatus criticus* of the *Biblia Hebraica*. The last three weeks of fall semester will be devoted to the reading of select Dead Sea Scrolls and Mishnah. In addition, throughout the semester we will augment our practice of elements of modern conversational Hebrew by beginning work in *Modern Hebrew for Beginners*. The last 15 minutes of most class periods will be devoted to reading, speaking and writing Modern Hebrew.

Evaluations of your work will be based on class preparedness, two 1-hour exams, quizzes, leading the class discussion of an assigned scholarly article and regular weekly assignments. The first exam will cover the Biblical prose read in the first half of the semester. Your 'final' exam will cover the remaining Biblical narrative selections and the Qumranic and Mishnaic material and, although given in the assigned period during finals' week, it will be one hour in duration and count as a mid-semester exam.

Major programs in Classics:

The sequence of Hebrew language classes is a component of the major concentrations that our department offers. For complete details about the Classics major and information about a Classics minor consult the Macalester course catalog, the Classics department webpage, <http://www.macalester.edu/classics/>, Classics faculty and your academic advisor.

Hebrew in the Major Tracks: Classical Civilization: Latin, Greek, Arabic or **Hebrew** at intermediate level plus other specified civilization classes (9 total)

Archaeology: Latin, Greek, Arabic or **Hebrew** at intermediate level plus other specified archaeology classes (11 total)

Near Eastern Languages: 7 courses combined of Greek, **Hebrew** and/or Arabic including one at the 2nd semester intermediate level, plus other specified supporting classes (including *Intro to Hebrew Scriptures*, *Islam*, *Greek World*, *Intro to New Testament*, and *Pagans, Christians and Jews*) (10 total)

Course objectives:

1. Increase fluency with classical Hebrew narrative texts
 - a. preparing passages in advance of class
 - b. reading at sight unfamiliar texts
 - c. parsing – identifications of binyanim, aspects, etc.
 - d. vocabulary building exercises through shoreshim recognition
2. Increase facility with dictionaries
3. Gain perspective on the history of the development of the Hebrew language, text transmission, development of biblical characters, Israelite pre-history etc.
4. Understand Hebrew narrative techniques
5. Become familiar with research tools: critical apparatus, scholarly commentaries
6. Examine a variety of critical methods applied to biblical texts, e.g. feminist criticism, psycho-analytical criticism, queer theory applications, form criticism, text criticism etc.
7. Gain more fluency with basic conventions of modern Hebrew spelling, vocabulary and conversations

Required Texts:

1. Hebrew Bible: *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*, ed. R. Kittel (BHS/KBH/BH)
OR
Horev Bible. Horev Publishers, Jerusalem
2. Hebrew-English Lexicon: *A Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament*, Holladay, W.L. Eerdmans
OR
Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament, Brown, Driver, Briggs. Oxford (BDB)
3. *Modern Hebrew for Beginners: A Multimedia Program for Students at the Beginning and Intermediate Levels*

Recommended Texts:

3. English Bible: *HarperCollins Study Bible*. HarperCollins
OR
Tanakh. Jewish Publication Society
4. Supplemental Grammar: *The First Hebrew Primer for Adults*, 3rd ed., Simon et al. EKS Publishing (EKS)
OR
Biblical Hebrew: An Introductory Grammar, Kelley, Page. Eerdmans
OR
A Practical Grammar for Classical Hebrew, Weingreen J. Oxford
OR
Gesenius' Hebrew Grammar, Kautsch/Cowley. Oxford

Online Resource (linked through Moodle):

keyed to the text *Modern Hebrew for Beginners* <http://www.laits.utexas.edu/hebrew/>

Library Reserve

Commentaries:

Anchor Bible Commentary: *Genesis*
Deuteronomy
Exodus
Joshua
Judges

I Samuel
II Samuel
I Kings
II Kings

Hebrew Bibles:

Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia, ed. R. Kittel (BHS/KBH/BH)
Koren Bible. Koren Publishers, Jerusalem

English Bibles:

HarperCollins Study Bible. HarperCollins
Tanakh. Jewish Publication Society

Grammars:

Biblical Hebrew: A Text and Workbook, Kittel, Hoffer and Wright. Yale
Biblical Hebrew: An Introductory Grammar, Kelley, Page. Eerdmans
Gesenius' Hebrew Grammar, Kautsch/Cowley. Oxford
Introduction to Biblical Hebrew, Lambdin, T. Scribner
Practical Grammar for Classical Hebrew, Weingreen J. Oxford

General Studies:

Back to the Sources: Reading Classic Jewish Texts. Holtz, ed., Simon and Schuster
Old Testament Interpretation. Mays, Petersen and Richards, Abingdon

Course Requirements/Fall Semester:

1. Regular attendance and class participation.	20%
2. Quizzes.	20%
3. Written assignments	15%
4. Two Mid-semester exams.	40%
5. Presentation of assigned article.	5%

Final Exam (= 2nd mid-semester exam/ 1 hr.) - Thursday, December 15th, 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.

Schedule of Readings – to be announced when ballots are tallied**Class Preparation:**

Passages assigned for translation in class should be thoroughly prepared in advance. Chapter and verse assignments will be given in class and subsequently posted on Moodle. It is helpful to xerox the specified Hebrew text for writing your own notes. Make lists of the unfamiliar Hebrew words so that you don't keep looking them up in the dictionary. Check your English Bibles for help with context. You may wish to write out your own English translation but you may not rely on it in class. **The objective is to read and translate directly from the Hebrew text.** Reading from your translation will not help you prepare for quizzes and exams. Before the class meeting go through the passage carefully at least twice, making notes and word lists to help you for translating in class and on tests. Feel free to see me about additional methods for preparing texts.

Written assignments are due at the beginning of the class period. Written homework turned in late will be receive a grade but will suffer point deductions as follows:

- 5% submitted **on the due date anytime after homework is collected.**
- 20% submitted **one class period** after the due date.

Homework handed in later not accepted.

Grading Scale:

94-100	A	78-79	C+	59-61	D-
90-93	A-	73-77	C	0-58	F
88-89	B+	70-72	C-		
83-87	B	68-69	D+		
80-82	B-	62-67	D		

Classroom Comportment:

Personal electronics: The use of computers, cellular phones, iPods, PDAs, Kindles, iPads, Blackberries or any other personal electronic devices is not allowed while class is in session. Please make sure to turn off and stow them before class begins. Failure to comply will result in a point deduction from your final grade.

Attendance/Absences: Regularity in class attendance and timely completion of homework are the most important components in acquiring a language. It is best to allot time **daily** for Hebrew study. The average ratio of hours of outside preparation to hours in class is 2/1. If there is need for absence from class, especially on quiz days, please notify me in advance via email or phone. **Missed quizzes due to unexcused absences will be scored as zeroes.** If absent, you will be responsible for obtaining all handouts from the class period - outside my office OM 314 or on the Moodle page. More than 3 unexcused absences from class during the semester will result in the lowering of your final grade. In the case of an absence due to athletic event, homework is due as regularly scheduled for entire class, but the absence is excused, in accordance with Macalester's policy.

Academic Malfeasance:

Studying together and collaborative work outside of classroom is enthusiastically encouraged. However scholastic dishonesty, including both cheating on assignments or exams and plagiarism (the representation of another's work as your own), is another matter. Academic dishonesty will be punished with a grade of F for the course and you will be reported to the Dean of Students and the Office of Academic Programs. For more information as to what constitutes scholastic dishonesty please consult the College's Academic Honesty Policy.

General Communication:

You are responsible for checking your email routinely for information from me. Any modifications made to assignments, schedule, etc. will be communicated via email. I will try to give you 12 hour notice of any changes.

Disabilities:

Reasonable accommodations are available for students with documented disabilities. Please meet with the Associate Dean of Students, Lisa Landreman, who will serve as the coordinator for services for students with disabilities. It is important to meet with her at the beginning of the semester to ensure that your accommodations are approved and in place to begin the semester successfully. The Associate Dean can be reached in the Office of Student Affairs, 119 Weyerhaeuser, by phone at 651-696-6220, or email llandrem@macalester.edu.

