

Intermediate Hebrew 2



Classics 338
Macalester College
Spring 2008

M-W-F 12:00-1:00 p.m.
Old Main 003
Nanette Goldman

Office: Old Main 316 Phone: 696 - 6659 (x6659)
Office Hours: MWF 1:00 – 2:00, T 2:30 - 3:30 and by appointment.
Email: GOLDMAN@macalester.edu
Course Web Page moodle.macalester.edu (Intermediate Hebrew II)

SECTION I: Biblical Poetry

In this penultimate section of our survey of the Hebrew language, we will focus on the poetry found in Tanach. We will attempt to identify the hallmarks of Biblical prosody, become familiar with technical terms, styles, vocabulary, Akkadian, Ugaritic and Egyptian antecedents. We will do close stylistic and grammatical readings of several passages, utilizing research tools such as the critical apparatus, commentaries, literary-critical studies. At mid-semester each of you will lead the class through an analysis of a Psalm of your choosing, completed by a formal written version of your analysis. There will be two quizzes, several written and reading assignments and a **comprehensive one-hour exam on March 14th**. The final half of this semester will be devoted solely to reading, writing and speaking Modern Hebrew. The syllabus for this second section will be distributed just after mid-semester break.

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. *Interpreting Hebrew Poetry*. Petersen, D.L. and K.H. Richards. Fortress Press. 1992

4. English Bible: *HarperCollins Study Bible*. HarperCollins

OR

Tanakh. Jewish Publication Society

5. 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

OR

Introduction to Biblical Hebrew, Lambdin. Prentice Hall



Course Requirements/Spring Semester: Biblical and Modern Sections combined

1. Regular attendance and class participation and preparedness	15%
2. Quizzes	20%
3. Written assignments	15%
4. Two Mid-semester exams.	40%
5. Project on Biblical poetry, oral and written. (Psalms)	10%

Consistent absence from class and/or lack of advance preparation in daily translation and written assignments will result in significant point deductions, the result of which is usually a lower final grade than your test and quiz scores might indicate. Conversely, excellent attendance and preparation for class will likely raise your final grade to one higher than quizzes and tests scores predict.

ROUTINELY CHECK YOUR EMAIL AND THE COURSE MOODLE PAGE for additional information about assignments. It is the best way for me to contact you, especially if you have missed class. You are responsible for obtaining on your own all information disseminated in classes you have not attended.

Grading Scale:

94-100	A	79-81	B-	67-68	D+
90-93	A-	77-78	C+	62-66	D
87-89	B+	72-76	C	58-61	D-
82-86	B	69-71	C-	0-57	F

Library 2 hour Reserve:

Studies and Commentaries

Alter, Robert. *The Art of Biblical Poetry*. Basic Books. 1985

Holtz, Barry, ed. *Back to the Sources: Reading the Classic Jewish Texts*. Touchstone. 1992

Knight, D.A. and G.M. Tucker, eds. *The Hebrew Bible and Its Modern Interpreters*. Fortress. 1993

Kugel, James. *The Idea of Biblical Poetry: Parallelism and Its History*. Yale. 1981

Miller, Patrick D. *Interpreting the Psalms*. Fortress. 1986

Orton, David, ed. *Poetry in the Hebrew Bible : selected studies from Vetus Testamentum*. Brill. 2000.

Watson, Wilfred G. E. *Classical Hebrew Poetry: A Guide to Its Techniques*. JSOT 26. 1984

Anchor Bible Commentaries: Isaiah, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs, Lamentations, Psalms

Bibles

Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia, ed. R. Kittel (BHS/KBH/BH) (Hebrew)

Koren Bible. Koren Publishers, Jerusalem (Hebrew)

HarperCollins Study Bible. HarperCollins (English)

Tanakh. Jewish Publication Society (English)

Grammars and Primers

Biblical Hebrew: An Introductory Grammar, Kelley, Page. Eerdmans

A Practical Grammar for Classical Hebrew, Weingreen J. Oxford

Gesenius' Hebrew Grammar, Kautsch/Cowley. Oxford

Introduction to Biblical Hebrew, Lambdin. Prentice Hall

Biblical Hebrew: A Text and Workbook, Kittel, Hoffer, and Wright. Yale

Reference Collection:

Dictionaries (available for library use only)

A Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament, Holladay, W.L. Eerdmans

Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament, Brown, Driver, Briggs. Oxford (BDB)



Schedule of readings: Hebrew passages and articles listed are to be prepared **in advance** of the specified class date. Readings **not** in *Interpreting Hebrew Poetry* can be found on reserve at DeWitt Wallace library AND on the Moodle page. Written assignments are due at the beginning of class on the specified date. Late assignments will be accepted up to one elapsed class period only and will suffer a 15% point deduction.

Jan.28 -Feb. 1	Week 1	Mon.	Introduction. The Idea of Biblical Poetry: Read “Understanding Hebrew Poetry”, Chapter 1 in <i>Interpreting Hebrew Poetry</i> . Petersen and Richards
		Wed.	The Parallelistic Line. Proverbs 3.13-18. Read “Parallelism”, Chapter 2 in <i>Interpreting Hebrew Poetry</i> . Petersen and Richards
		Fri.	Proverbs 3.19-26. Read “The Wisdom Literature”, Chapter 11 in <i>The Hebrew Bible and Its Modern Interpreters</i> . Knight and Tucker, eds..

Feb. 4-8	Week 2	<p>Mon. Ecclesiastes 1.1-11. Hand in written assignment on parallelism.</p> <p>Wed. Ecclesiastes 3.1-17. Read “Meter and Rhythm”, Chapter 3 in <i>Interpreting Hebrew Poetry</i>. Petersen and Richards</p> <p>Fri. QUIZ. Start working on commentary exercise</p>
Feb. 11 - 15	Week 3	<p>Mon. Song of Songs 1.1-11. Hand in commentary exercise</p> <p>Wed. Song of Songs 1.12-17. “The Lyrical Literature”, Chapter 12 in <i>The Hebrew Bible and Its Modern Interpreters</i></p> <p>Fri. Song of Songs 3.1-5 Read "Poetic Style" Chapter 4 in <i>Interpreting Hebrew Poetry</i>. Petersen and Richards</p>
Feb. 18 - 22	Week 4	<p>Mon. Lamentations 5. Hand in comparative exercise</p> <p>Wed. Lamentations 5 and Iraqi poetry. Discussion of poetry of occupation (tentative)</p> <p>Fri. Isaiah 5 1-7. Read pp.81-89 in <i>Interpreting Hebrew Poetry</i>. Petersen and Richards</p>
Feb. 25 – 29	Week 5	<p>Mon. QUIZ</p> <p>Wed. Hand in cantillation mark exercise. Psalms 1 and 15. Read pp.89-97 in <i>Interpreting Hebrew Poetry</i>. Petersen and Richards</p> <p>Fri. Psalm 23, 29 Read “Current Issues in the Interpretation of the Psalms”, Chapter 1 in <i>Interpreting the Psalms</i>. Miller, P.D.</p>
Mar.3 -7	Week 6	<p>Mon. Psalm 82, 150. Hand in critical apparatus exercise</p> <p>Wed. Student Presentations</p> <p>Fri. Student Presentations</p>
Mar.10 - 14	Week 7	<p>Mon. Student presentations.</p> <p>Wed. Student presentations and review for mid-semester exam</p> <p>Fri. MID-SEMESTER EXAM</p>
Mar. 15 – 23	Week 8	MID-SEMESTER BREAK
Mar. 24 – 28	Week 9	<p>Mon. Begin Modern Hebrew section SYLLABUS for Modern Hebrew distributed</p> <p>Wed. Written Psalms project due.</p>