



Introduction to Classical Hebrew:

Elementary Hebrew I/Classics 117
Fall 2008
Goldman/hm; []n

Macalester College
Nanette

MWF 12:00-1:00 Old Main 009, Tu 3:00 - 4:00 Olin-Rice 241

Office: Old Main 316 **Phone:** 651 - 696 - 6659 (x6659)

Office Hours: MWF 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. Tu 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. and by appointment.

Email: GOLDMAN@macalester.edu

Course Web Page: moodle.macalester.edu (CLAS 117-01)

Preceptor: Alison Olmos (Alitza/ O')

Email: aolmos@macalester.edu

Office Hours: TBA

Course Description: This is the first half of a 30 week intensive study of classical Hebrew grammar, morphology and vocabulary which will give you the skills necessary to decipher ancient Hebrew texts. Your primary objective this year will be the mastery of Biblical prose. You will translate a number of Biblical passages, including extended selections from Genesis and the book of Ruth. In the spring semester you will be introduced to matters of text transmission, interpretation and organization. You will learn to use the research tools, critical apparatus, lexicon, commentaries. You will be expected to read three Hebrew print types, book, block and script (students and instructor will use script for handwritten work). The oral component of the Hebrew language will receive due attention. The standard for pronunciation is Sephardic (Israeli) Hebrew. Recitation drills, online audio resources, aural comprehension exercises, simple conversational practice, songs and games will reinforce visual acquisition of the language.

The second year Hebrew courses (Intermediate Hebrew) survey the Hebrew language from antiquity to modernity. In Intermediate Hebrew, building on the first year grammar fundamentals, you will trace the development of the language through close examination of extended passages of Hebrew. You will read selections from Biblical prose, poetry, Qumranic (Dead Sea Scrolls) Hebrew, the Rabbinic corpus and finish the year by working in the Hebrew spoken in Israel today. Satisfactory completion of the 2-year sequence fulfills the Macalester foreign language requirement.

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 advanced level, plus other specified supporting classes (including *Intro to Hebrew Scriptures, Islam, Greek World, Intro to New Testament, Early Arabic Literature and History and Pagans, Christians and Jews*) (10 total)

Required Text:

Simon, Ethelyn, Irene Resnikoff and Linda Motzkin, *The First Hebrew Primer, 3rd edition*, EKS Publishing: Albany, CA, 2000 -2005.

Suggested resource: Interactive Bible Flash Cards keyed to *The First Hebrew Primer* (downloadable to Windows-based computers) available at DeWitt Wallace Library

Audio resources on line - accessed through Moodle page:

EKS *The First Hebrew Primer*, Chapters 1-16 (exercises and vocabulary read in Hebrew)

Course Requirements/Fall Semester:

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|---|------------|
| 1. Regular attendance and class participation | 15% |
| 2. Weekly quizzes (lowest score dropped). | 15% |
| 3. Daily assignments (lowest three scores dropped). | 20% |
| 4. Two Mid-semester exams. | 25% |
| 5. Final Exam (comprehensive). | 25% |

Regularity in class attendance and timely completion of assignments are the most important components in acquiring a new language. Hebrew is not difficult if you give it **daily** attention! The average ratio of hours of outside preparation to hours in class is 2/1. Frequent quizzes/evaluations provide the incentive to keep up. Students who make regular use of flashcards and on-line audio materials will show marked increase in fluency. If there is need for absence from class, please notify me in advance via email or phone. **Missed quizzes due to unexcused or unannounced absences will automatically be scored as zeroes.** If absent from any class, you will be responsible for obtaining all handouts from the class period - either posted on Moodle available in an envelope outside my office OM 316. Assignments are due at the **beginning** of the class period. Due to the large number of handouts, it is highly recommended that you use a three-ring notebook to organize all course materials. A weekly schedule of assignments will be handed out every Monday and posted on the course Moodle page. Homework turned in late will be graded but will suffer point deductions as follows:

-5% submitted **on the due date anytime after the beginning of the class period.**

-20% submitted **one day** after the due date.

Later homework, **2 or more days** after the due date – **not accepted.**

If you feel yourself falling behind, come see me or Alitza immediately for help in getting back on track.

Please don't hesitate to ask questions in class or in office hours.

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.

Grading Scale:

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

*A final grade of C- or higher is required 1) if you are registered Pass/No Credit; 2) to advance to the next class in the sequence.

Schedule of Units/ Fall Semester:

Aug. 27-29 Week 1 Chapter 1: The Alephbet, Vowels.

- **Labor Day Holiday- Monday, 9/1**

Sept. 2-5 Week 2 Chapters 2 + 3: The Alephbet, Vowels.

Sept. 8-12 Week 3 Chapters 3 + 4: Nouns and Verbs: Masculine.

Sept. 15-19 Week 4 Chapters 5 + 6: Nouns and Verbs: Feminine.

Sept. 22-26 Week 5 Chapter 6: Nouns and Verbs: Plural.

Sept. 29- Oct. 3 Week 6 Chapter 7: Perfect Aspect. Joseph story #1.

- **Rosh HaShanah - Tuesday 9/30 - No class meeting**

- **Mid-Semester Exam - Monday, 10/6**

Oct. 6-10 Week 7 Chapter 8: The Direct Object. Definite and Indefinite Nouns. Joseph story #2.

Oct. 13-15 Week 8 Chapter 9: Singular Nouns: Construct state. Joseph story #3.

- **Mid-Semester Break 10/16 - 10/19**

Oct. 20- 24 Week 9 Chapter 10: Plural Nouns: Construct State. Inseparable Prepositions. Directional h. Joseph story #4.

Oct. 27-31 Week 10 Chapter 11: Verbs: Imperfect Aspect. Joseph story #5.

- **Mid-Semester Exam - Monday, 11/3**

Nov. 3- 7 Week 11 Chapter 12: Verbs: Imperfect Aspect. י'p Joseph story #6.

Nov. 10-14 Week 12 Chapter 13: Sentences without Verbs. Joseph story #7.

Nov. 17-21 Week 13 Chapter 14: Adjectives.Comparative.Joseph story 8.

Nov. 24-26 Week 14 Chapter 15: Nouns: Possessive Endings. Joseph story #9.

- **Thanksgiving Break: 11/27 - 11/30**

Dec. 1-5 Week 15 Chapter 16: Prepositions with Pronominal Endings. Joseph story #10. Review.

Schedule of Quizzes

M 9/8

M 9/15

M 9/22

M 9/29

M 10/13

M 10/27

M 11/10

M 11/17

M 11/24

Final Exam: Thursday, December 11, 8:00 - 10:00 a.m.