

# Intermediate Hebrew 1

Classics 237  
Macalester College  
OM 001  
3:30 - 4:30

MWF

Nanette Goldman/נַעֲמָה גוֹלְדֵּמָן  
Fall 2015

**Office:** Old Main 314    **Phone:** 651- 696 - 6659 (x6659)  
**Office Hours:** Tu 10:45 – 11:45 Wed. and Fri. 1:00 - 2:00 p.m., and by appointment.  
**E-mail:** [goldman@macalester.edu](mailto:goldman@macalester.edu)  
**Course Web Page:** Moodle (moodle.macalester.edu) Intermediate Hebrew I

## Course description:

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

This 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*. In addition, throughout the semester we will augment our practice of elements of modern conversational Hebrew by beginning work in *Modern Hebrew for Beginners* by Esther Raizen (I will provide photocopies of this text while we wait for the new edition to be released). 15 minutes of most class periods will be devoted to reading, speaking and writing Modern Hebrew. Due to the large number of handouts, it is highly recommended that you use a three-ring notebook to organize all course materials.

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 and Modern Hebrew read in the first half of the semester. Your 'final' exam will cover the remaining Biblical narrative selections and Modern Hebrew from the last half of the semester. 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 (10 total)

Near Eastern Languages: 7 courses combined of Greek, **Hebrew** and/or Arabic including one at the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester intermediate level, plus other specified supporting classes (including *Intro to Hebrew Scriptures*, *Islam*, *Greek World*,

### 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
8. Develop understanding of Biblical language as a foundation for modern Hebrew

### 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)

### 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):

Resources 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.) – Fri 12/18 10:30 - 11:30a.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 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	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

## Classroom Comportment:

**Personal electronics:** The use of computers, cellular phones, or any other personal electronic devices is not allowed while class is in session. Please make sure to mute 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 and posted on Moodle. I will try to give you 12 hour notice of any changes.

## Disabilities:

I am committed to providing assistance to help you be successful in this course. Accommodations are available for students with documented disabilities. This is accomplished by meeting with one of the Assistant Deans of Students, Robin Hart Ruthenbeck or Lisa Landreman. Make an appointment through Emily Stuber, Executive Assistant, at 651-696-6220. Students are encouraged to address any learning needs or accommodations with me as soon as possible. Additional information regarding the accommodations process for students with disabilities can be found at: [www.macalester.edu/studentaffairs/disabilityservices/](http://www.macalester.edu/studentaffairs/disabilityservices/)