



McMaster Divinity  
College



**HEB 2A03 Hebrew I**

## **INTRODUCTION TO BIBLICAL HEBREW**

### **Professor:**

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**Fall Semester 2013** Monday & Wednesdays @ 3:30pm-5:00pm

### **Course Description:**

This course introduces students to biblical Hebrew in order to impart an active knowledge of the language. This course sets students on a journey of learning Hebrew, which will greatly enhance their capacity for study in the biblical texts and prove a tremendous aid to interpretation. Students will learn the Hebrew alphabet, pronunciation and the basics of the grammar, syntax and vocabulary of the language of the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament. Emphasis will be on morphology (words and their forms) and syntax (how words fit together to make coherent sentences). The course also places a strong emphasis on acquiring a broad vocabulary for reading the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament in Hebrew. During this course students will begin to read the Old Testament/Hebrew Bible in its original language.

\* N.B. The study of Hebrew is very challenging for most students but is very rewarding for those who persevere. You should plan on spending 1-3 hours *every day* preparing for and reviewing material covered in class.

### **Course Objectives:**

#### **Knowing:**

- To memorize a solid beginner's vocabulary
- To know the basic forms of Hebrew words
- To know how to use grammars and dictionaries for studying biblical Hebrew

#### **Being:**

- The value of knowing the original language of the Old Testament gives access to in-depth research and exegesis of biblical texts
- The student's life will be enriched by the access to culture that knowledge of another language brings

#### **Doing:**

- In this course students will have begun to translate many texts directly from the Hebrew Scriptures
- Students will have built a foundation for a lifetime of fruitful engagement with the Hebrew Scriptures

**Required Textbooks:**

- Gary D. Pratico and Miles V. Van Pelt. *Basics of Biblical Hebrew Grammar*. Grand Rapids, Mich: Zondervan, 2001, 2007.
- Gary D. Pratico and Miles V. Van Pelt. *Basics of Biblical Hebrew Workbook*. Grand Rapids, Mich: Zondervan, 2001, 2007.

**Textbook Purchase:**

All required textbooks for this class are available from the College's book service, READ On Bookstore, Room 145, McMaster Divinity College. Texts may be purchased on the first day of class. For advance purchase, you may contact READ On Bookstores, 304 The East Mall, Suite 100, Etobicoke, ON M9C 5K1: phone 416-620-2934; fax 416-622-2308; e-mail [books@readon.ca](mailto:books@readon.ca). Other book services may also carry the texts.

**Recommended:**

Use of the "Flashworks" program which can be found on the CD-ROM which is included with the textbook. It will install on Windows and Mac platforms.

**Course Requirements:****18% - Workbook Exercises**

**22% - Vocab Tests** (2% per quiz) *Top 11 of 12 quizzes count toward final grade*

**35% - Grammar Tests** (3.5% per test) *Top 10 of 11 tests count toward final grade*

**25% - Final Examination****Monday Grammar Quizzes:**

At the beginning of class each Monday there will be a grammar test covering material up to and including that covered in the previous class. These tests will include both grammar *and* vocabulary. They may include sentence translations, grammar explanations or diagramming, paradigms, and parsing etc.

**Wednesday Vocab Tests:**

At the beginning of each Wednesday class there will be a vocab quiz covering material up to and including the chapter covered in last class. These quizzes will simply ask for the English translation of up to 20 Hebrew words.

**Workbook Exercises:**

Each chapter in the textbook has a corresponding chapter in the workbook. Once a chapter has been covered in class, students must then complete the corresponding workbook pages before the next class. The professor will periodically ask that workbook pages be turned in for marking. *Both the textbook and workbook must be brought to every class!*

Workbook exercises will be handed in for grading. The actual pages from the exercise book can be torn out (or photocopied) and stapled together to be submitted (in legible handwriting). At the top of the first page please be sure to write your name and the due date of the workbook sheets.

## **Classroom Behaviour**

### **Attendance‡**

- Students are expected to be on time to class or ready to give an explanation for their tardiness to the professor.
- Students are also expected to stay for the entire class session, unless arranged in advance with the professor.

### **Participation‡**

- Students are not to carry on off-topic conversations in class.
- When students are called on by the professor only the student addressed should voice an answer unless the professor offers the question to the whole class.
- All student participation in way of comments or questions must be done without disrespect or ridicule
- Students may eat or drink in class if they do not distract others and they clean up their desks.

### **Policy for Missed Quizzes or Tests**

There will be **no make up** for missed quizzes/tests except in the case of illness or serious family crises.

### **College Style for Submission of Written Work**

All written work is to be submitted in accordance with the McMaster Divinity College Style Guide for Essays and Theses, available on the McMaster Divinity College website. <http://www.mcmasterdivinity.ca/sites/default/files/documents/MDCStyleGuideMarch0413.pdf>

### **Inclusive language:**

McMaster Divinity College uses inclusive language for human beings in worship services, student written materials, and all of its publications. In reference to biblical texts, the integrity of the original expressions and the names of God should be respected. The NRSV and TNIV are examples of the use of inclusive language for human beings. It is expected that inclusive language will be used in chapel services and all MDC assignments.

### **Academic Honesty:**

Academic dishonesty is a serious offence that may take any number of forms, including plagiarism, the submission of work that is not one's own or for which previous credit has been obtained, and/or unauthorized collaboration with other students. Academic dishonesty can result in severe consequences, e.g., failure of the assignment, failure of the course, a notation on one's academic transcript, and/or suspension or expulsion from the College. Students are responsible for understanding what constitutes academic dishonesty. Please refer to the Divinity College Statement on Academic Honesty ~ <http://www.mcmasterdivinity.ca/programs/rules-regulations>

If you are a University student please refer to the McMaster University Academic Integrity Policy, specifically App 3 located at ([www.mcmaster.ca/senate/academic/ac\\_integrity.htm](http://www.mcmaster.ca/senate/academic/ac_integrity.htm))

## Course Outline

<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Textbook</b>	<b>Test/ Quiz</b>
Week 1	Sept 9	Chapter 1	-----
	Sept 11	Chapter 2	Alphabet quiz
Week 2	Sept 16	Chapter 3	Grammar 1
	Sept 18	Chapter 4	Vocab test
Week 3	Sept 23	Chapter 5	Grammar 2
	Sept 25	Chapter 6	Vocab test
Week 4	Sept 30	Chapter 7	Grammar 3
	Oct 2	Chapter 8	Vocab test
Week 5	Oct 7	Chapter 9	Grammar 4
	Oct 9	Chapter 9	Vocab test
Week 6	Oct 14	THANKSGIVING MONDAY NO CLASSES	
	Oct 16	Chapter 10	Vocab test
Week 7	Oct 21	Chapter 12	Grammar 5
	Oct 23	Chapter 13	Vocab test
Week 8	Oct 28	Chapter 13	Grammar 6
	Oct 30	Chapter 14	Vocab test
Week 9	Nov 4	Chapter 14	Grammar 7
	Nov 6	Chapter 15	Vocab test
Week 10	Nov 11	Chapter 15	Grammar 8
	Nov 13	Chapter 16	Vocab test
Week 11	Nov 18	Chapter 16	Grammar 9
	Nov 20	Chapter 17	Vocab test
Week 12	Nov 25	Chapter 17	Grammar 10
	Nov 27	Chapter 18	Vocab test
Week 13	Dec 2	Chapter 18	Grammar 11
Final Exam	DURING FINAL EXAM WEEK (Dec 9-11)		FINAL EXAM

### **Disclaimer:**

This syllabus is the property of the instructor and is prepared with currently available information. The instructor reserves the right to make changes and revisions up to and including the first day of class.

***Students are advised to retain this syllabus for their records.***

כי אם בתורת יהוה חפצו ובתורתו יהגה יומם ולילה