

## THEO3217/THEO5301 Biblical Hebrew I

### 希伯來文（一）

Lecturer: Prof. Nancy Tan

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16<sup>th</sup> May – 6<sup>th</sup> June 2017

Office: LKK 324; Letterbox LKK Level 3 #28

### Course Description

This course, and the sequel THEO3218/THEO5302 Hebrew II in the next semester, are designed to enable students to read Biblical Hebrew. In this course, Hebrew I, students learn the alphabets to the basic forms of Hebrew sentences. Students not only learn how to read simple sentences from the Hebrew bible, but also learn to identify different parts of speech, and basic grammar. Students will also learn some Hebrew songs which accompany the lessons. This course follows closely to its textbook, *Learn Biblical Hebrew* by John H. Dobson (2005). Hebrew I will cover Lessons 1-13.

### Learning Outcomes

#### Knowledge Outcomes

- (1) recite and write down from memory the Hebrew alphabets, vowels and their transliterations
- (2) pronounce and read Hebrew words
- (3) recite from memory Genesis 1:1 (D 2.4; p. 18); Deuteronomy 6:4-5 (D 5.6; p. 55); the songs: We welcome you (D 1.13 Q5; p. 16) and Blessed are You (D 5.9 Q6; p. 58)
- (4) memorize at least 100 Hebrew words perfectly by the end of the course
- (5) recognize words and identify them correctly as nouns, verbs, prepositions, constructs, suffixes, adjectives, infinitives or participles
- (6) identify the forms of questions, commands and requests
- (7a) explain the usage of adjectives, participles, infinitives, prefix and suffix conjugations, as well as concepts of perfective and non-perfective  
Especially for THEO5301, (7b) also deduce the functions of the above in a Hebrew sentence
- (8) identify basic grammar implications in simple Hebrew sentences or phrases

#### Attitude Outcomes

- (1) develop an interest and respect for the Hebrew language
- (2) appreciate the distinctiveness of the language
- (3) cultivate an interest to read Biblical Hebrew texts

### List of Topics

1. The Hebrew Alphabets and Vowels
2. Word Order in Sentences
3. The Prenominal Suffixes and Pronouns

4. The Narrative (waw Prefix Conjugation/waPC) and Completed (Suffix Conjugation/SC) Action
5. Parsing
6. The Adjectives
7. The Continuing Action (Prefix Conjugation/PC)
8. Absolute and Construct Nouns
9. The Previous and Future Action
10. Commands and Requests
11. Possession and Question Tags
12. Participles
13. Infinitives
14. Numbers, Time and Measurements

### Learning Activities

We will do a lot of drilling exercises through different forms: in songs, oral recitation, oral exercises, dialogue and writing exercises. There will be reinforcements through one to one and small group interactions throughout the course.

### Assessment Scheme (including Requirements)

Task nature	Description	Weight
<p>1. Compulsory Attendance and Active Participation</p> <p>Due to the fact that this is an intensive foreign language course, absence from any period will result in difficulties to catch up for each class period.</p>	<p>A penalization of 1% of this grade for each missed period. If students <b>have valid reasons</b> to miss lectures for 3 lectures (i.e., 9 class periods), students are expected to <b>withdraw</b> from the course asap. Otherwise, a <b>full penalization of 40% of the final grade</b> applies. <b>Penalization of this grade applies regardless of valid or invalid reasons.</b></p> <p>Students <b>must</b> participate <u>pro-actively</u> in class as required: <u>Pro-active</u> refers to learning activities where students are expected to verbalize pronunciation of words learned, sing, recite verbally – all in audible volume to their partners, or instructor and to keep pace with the whole class. There will be penalization of the full 15% should students refused to participate pro-actively.</p>	13%
<p>2. <b>8 Quizzes</b></p> <p>The quizzes are to reinforce the accumulation of the</p>	<p>Q1: Alphabets, transliteration, short and long vowels.</p> <p>Q2: Paradigm for preposition ʔ + pronominal suffixes (D 3.10; p. 31)</p> <p>Q3: Paradigm for Pronouns</p>	40%

foundational vocabularies and paradigms.	(D 4.8; p. 46 column 1) Q4: Paradigm for Suffix Conjugation (SC verbs) (D 4.8; p. 46 table and column 2) Q5: Vocabularies (D 4.1; p. 40; D 5.1 column 1; p. 50) Q6: Vocabularies (D 6.1; p. 60 column 1; D 6.4; p. 63 column 1) Q7: Paradigm for Prefix Conjugation verbs (PC verbs) p. 354. Q8: Vocabularies (D 8.1; p. 89)	
3. Written Assignments  To grasp Biblical Hebrew fully, the written form is quintessential. It aids recognition and reinforces memory.	During class lectures, the instructor will assign a few written assignments where students are required to write on the board, or on their own notebooks. Students are expected to follow these instructions and attempt to complete them.	5%
4. Oral Test	Students memorize 2 songs: We welcome you (D 1.13 Q5; p. 16) and Blessed are You (D 5.9 Q6; p. 58); and 2 scripture texts: Genesis 1:1 (D 2.4; p. 18); Deuteronomy 6:4-5 (D 5.6; p. 55).	12%
5. Final Test	This covers: (a.) the vocabulary lists and (b.) matching the contents of Lessons 9, 10. (c.) Grammar concepts of all the conjugations. (d.) Parsing 9.8 and 10.7 Format includes: Filling in the blanks, matching, short questions and answers, and multiple choice.	30%

### **Course Structure**

Structure/ Input and Output The class meets every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday for 3 class periods of lectures. For every hour of class period, students are expected to put in at least 2 hours of work.

Course Venue:  
SB Rm 239

### **Learning Activities**

Besides lectures, there will be songs, listening, actions, group rote memorization, peer learning and correction, and discussion.

**Course Textbook**

John H. Dobson, *Learn Biblical Hebrew* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.; with Audio CD-Rom; Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2005).

**Course Schedule**

Tues 16 May	Introduction to Biblical Hebrew Lessons 1 & 2: Learning Vowels and Alphabets; and rules on dots! Songs: Alphabet song and We Welcome You.
M 22 May	Quiz 1 Lesson 2: Genesis 1:1 and sentence order. Reading Hebrew. Lesson 3: Pronominal Suffixes; Pronouns and SC Verbs (1) Memorize Gen. 1:1 Memorize Paradigm for preposition לְ + pronominal suffixes (D 3.10; p. 31)
T 23 May	Quiz 2 Lesson 3: Pronominal Suffixes; Pronouns and SC Verbs (2) Introduction to Lessons 4-6 Memorize Pronouns and SC verb paradigm
Th 25 May	Quizzes 3 and 4 Lesson 4: Narrative and Completed Action Learn Parsing Learn Song: Blessed are You (D p. 58)
F 26 May	Lesson 5 Adjectives and Parsing (2) Lesson 6 Continuing Action; Introduction to Lessons 7-8 Memorize Deuteronomy 6:4–5 (D 5.6; p. 55)
M 29 May	Quizzes 5 and 6 Lesson 7 Absolute and Construct Nouns Lesson 8 Previous and Future Action Memorize PC verb paradigm Revise songs and Gen 1:1 and Deuteronomy 6:4–5
Th 01 Jun	Quizzes 7 and 8 Introduction to Lessons 9-13 On verbs Lesson 9 Possession and Questions Lesson 10 Commands and Requests
F 02 Jun	Lesson 12 Infinitives; Lesson 13 Participles and Lesson 11

M 05 Jun	Numbers and Time Revision Oral Test Final Test
T 06 Jun	Go through answers of Final Test (first period) Begin Hebrew II

**Feedback for Evaluation**

Two course evaluations will be conducted. The first will be done midway through the course which is tailored to facilitate better progress through the course. The second will be conducted by the university wide exercise.

**Recommended Learning Resources:**

Cook, J.A. and Holmstedt, R.D. (2013). *Beginning Biblical Hebrew*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Academic.

Kahn, Lily. (2014). *The Routledge Introductory Course in Biblical Hebrew*. NY: Routledge.

Pratico, G.D.M. and van Pelt, M. (2001). *Basics of Biblical Hebrew Grammar*. With CD-Rom. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan.

Seow, Choon-Leong. (1995). *A Grammar for Biblical Hebrew* (rev. ed.; Nashville: Abingdon).

Webster, Brian. (2009). *The Cambridge Introduction to Biblical Hebrew*. Cambridge/NY: Cambridge University.