

## THEO5301 Biblical Hebrew I

### 希伯來文（一）

Lecturer: Prof. Nancy Tan

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04<sup>th</sup> Sep – 30<sup>th</sup> Nov 2017

### 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 350 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
- (7) parse a given word
- (8) explain the usage of adjectives, participles, infinitives, prefix and suffix conjugations, waw consecutive conjugation as well as concepts of perfective and non-perfective
- (9) deduce the functions of each component after parsing a given sentence
- (10) identify basic grammar implications in simple Hebrew sentences or phrases

#### Attitude Outcomes

- (1) develop an interest and respect for the historical and cultural development of the Hebrew language from its paleo-Hebrew script until its Aramaic script, and the modern Hebrew language
- (2) appreciate the distinctiveness of the Biblical Hebrew 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 and Weightage  | Purpose and Rationale   | Learning Outcomes   |
|--|---|---|
| <p><u>1. Compulsory Attendance and Active Participation (10%)</u></p> <p>A penalization of 0.5% of this grade for each missed period of tutorial/lecture. If students <b>have valid reasons</b> to miss lectures and tutorial sessions for 10 class periods, students are expected to withdraw from the course asap. Otherwise, a full penalization of 30% of the final grade applies.</p> <p><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</p> | <p>Language courses require constant drilling, and due to the fact that Biblical Hebrew is a dead language, absence from any period will result in difficulties to catch up for each class period.</p> <p>1. Students will follow the smooth progress of building upon each topic as the language is taught.</p> <p>2. Students get <b>immediate</b> reinforcements for each new word or concept learned.</p> | <p>1. Students can follow the progress of each topic smoothly.</p> <p>2. Students build upon each new concept of the language based on the previous one.</p> <p>3. Students can reinforce the learning through active use of the language.</p> <p>4. Student learns to reinforce their own understanding with co-learners and the instructor.</p> |

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| <p>pronunciation of words learned, sing, recite verbally – all in audible volume to their partners, or instructor or to keep pace with the whole class. There will be penalization of the full 10% from this course if students do not engage pro-actively. Students will be pre-warned of this possibility as the class progresses.</p>  |  |  |
| <p><b>2. 8 Quizzes (32%)</b><br/> Q1: Alphabets, transliteration, short and long vowels.<br/> Q2: Paradigm for preposition ך + pronominal suffixes (D 3.10; p. 31) and Vocabulary D 2.7<br/> Q3: Vocabulary D 3.1 (columns 1 and 3) D 3.3 (columns 1 and 3); and D 4.1 (column 2)<br/> Q4: Paradigm for Pronouns (D 4.8; p. 46 column 1) and Paradigm for Suffix Conjugation (SC verbs) (D 4.8; p. 46 table and column 2)<br/> Q5: Vocabularies D 5.1 (column 1); D 5.5 and parsing questions.<br/> Q6: Vocabularies (D 6.1; p. 60 column 1; D 6.4; p. 63 column 1) and parsing questions.<br/> Q7: Paradigm for Prefix Conjugation verbs (PC verbs) p. 354; and Demonstrative Pronouns D7.10 (plus notes) and parsing questions.<br/> Q8: Vocabularies (D 8.1; p. 89).</p> | <p>The quizzes are to reinforce the accumulation of the foundational vocabularies and paradigms.</p> | <p>1. Students' memorization of the vocabularies will aid the learning progress when examples are based on these foundational words.<br/> 2. Students' memorization of the paradigms will aid the learning progress of grammar concepts foundational to the language.<br/> 3. Students will be able to read and understand simple sentences from the Hebrew Bible.<br/> 4. Students will be able to parse phrases as they read and will be able to process the meanings of the words automatically with more practice.</p> |
| <p><b>3. Written Assignments (18%)</b><br/> During class lectures, the instructor will assign a few written assignments where</p>   | <p>To grasp Biblical Hebrew fully, the written form is quintessential. It aids</p>                   | <p>1. Students reinforce the concepts by active application of the language through</p>  |

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| 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.   | recognition and reinforces memory. Writing out the assignments retains the learning in concrete form.  | these written assignments.<br>2. Students get the opportunity for immediate reinforcements in class through these assignments.   |
| <u>4. Oral Exam (10%)</u><br>Students memorize 2 songs: We welcome you (D 1.13 Q5; p. 16) and Blessed are You (D 5.9 Q6; p. 58);<br>and 2 scripture texts: Genesis 1:1 (D 2.4; p. 18); Deuteronomy 6:4-5 (D 5.6; p. 55). | Biblical Hebrew is the language of the Torah, the scripture of Judeo-Christian religion, memorization of core scripture and songs for worship enhance the purpose for learning of the language – which is to read the Torah or Hebrew Bible. | 1. Students learn to appreciate the religious practice of scripture memorization.<br>2. Students learn to sing from memory as part of religious worship and prayer.<br>3. Students appreciate the Jewish religious cultural practices based on scripture.<br>4. Students build confidence to verbalize the Hebrew words through scripture and songs. |
| <u>4. Final Quiz (30%)</u><br>This quiz comprises of the contents of the final 4 topics; and the general accumulation of learning basic grammar sentences, and parsing.  | This final quiz wraps up the end of the basics of the course.  | Same as Task #2.   |

**Course Components:**

|  |                 |                   |                 |                                  |                      |                         |                 |                        |                 |
|--|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| The course consists of lectures, oral drills, written assignments and a lot of memorization, self and group revisions. The time allocation (on average per week) of the learning activities is as follows: |                 |                   |                 |                                  |                      |                         |                 |                        |                 |
| Lecture  |                 | Class interaction |                 | Excursion/<br>Web-based<br>repor |                      | Reading and<br>research |                 | Written<br>assignments |                 |
| In class   | Out of<br>Class | In class          | Out of<br>Class | In class                         | Out of<br>Class      | In class                | Out of<br>Class | In class               | Out of<br>Class |
| 1.2 hrs  | NA              | 1 hr              | NA              | NA                               | NA                   | NA                      | 1.5 hrs         | 0.5                    | 2 hrs           |
| M  |                 | M                 |                 | M                                |                      | M                       |                 | M                      |                 |
| M: Mandatory activity in the course  |                 |                   |                 |                                  | O: Optional activity |                         |                 |                        |                 |

**Learning Activities**

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

**Course Venue**

Mondays: YIA 502

Thursdays: ELB 308

**Course Textbook**

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

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|----------------|---|
| M 04 Sep       | Introduction to Biblical Hebrew<br>Lessons 1A & 2A: Learning Vowels and Alphabets<br>Songs: Alphabet song and We Welcome You. |
| Th 07 Sep      | Quiz 1; Lessons 1B & 2B: Rules on Dagesh and sentence order   |
| M 11 Sep       | Lesson 2C: Reading Hebrew: Genesis 1:1 and Drills. Lesson 3A: Pronominal Suffixes   |
| Th 14 Sep      | Quiz 2; Lesson 3B: Pronouns and SC Verbs (1)<br>Introduction to Lessons 4-6   |
| M 18 Sep       | Lesson 4: Narrative and Completed Action and Drills   |
| Th 21 Sep      | Quiz 3; Revise Lessons 1-4 and Learn Parsing.   |
| M 25 Sep       | Quiz 4; Parsing Drills and Written Assignments  |
| Th 28 Sep      | Lesson 5A: Adjectives<br>Learn Song: Blessed are You (D p. 58)  |
| M 02 and Th 05 | Public Holidays!!!  |

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| M 09 Oct  | Quiz 5; Review Holiday Assignments; Lessons 5B and 6:<br>Continuing Action |
| Th 12 Oct | Memorize Deuteronomy 6:4–5 (D 5.6; p. 55)                                  |
| M 16 Oct  | Quiz 6<br>Introduction to Lessons 7-8; Lesson 7 and Written<br>Assignments |
| Th 19 Oct | Written Assignments  |
| M 23 Oct  | Quiz 7<br>Lessons 8 and 9A and Written Assignments                         |
| Th 26 Oct | Lesson 9B  |
| M 30 Oct  | Quiz 8; Lesson 10  |
| Th 02 Nov | Written Assignments  |
| M 06 Nov  | Lessons 12 and 13 and Written Assignments                                  |
| Th 09 Nov | Lesson 11 and drills   |
| M 13 Nov  | Revision for Final Test  |
| Th 20 Nov | Oral Test  |
| M 27 Nov  | Final Test   |
| Th 30 Nov | Go through Answers for Final Test  |

### **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.