

## BIBLICAL HEBREW I

2019–2020 First Term Mon 2:30pm–4:15pm FYB UG02; Thur 11:30am–12:15pm CKB UG05  
[Program: BD & MTh]

Course Code: THEO3217

Title in English: Biblical Hebrew I

Title in Chinese: 聖經希伯來文 (一)

### Course Description:

This course, and the sequel THEO3218/THEO5302 Biblical Hebrew II in the next term, are designed to enable students to read Biblical Hebrew. In this course, Biblical Hebrew I, students learn starting from the alphabets to the basic forms of Hebrew sentences. Students not only learn how to read simple sentences from the Hebrew bible, but also pronounce the words. 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). Biblical Hebrew I will cover Lessons 1-13 and the rest of the book will be covered in Biblical Hebrew II.

### 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 1.13 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 300 Hebrew words perfectly by the end of the course;
- (5) recognize words, identify and parse them correctly as nouns, verbs, prepositions, constructs, suffixes, adjectives, infinitives or participles;
- (6) identify the forms of questions, commands and requests;
- (7) (a) explain the usage of adjectives, participles, infinitives, prefix and suffix conjugations, as well as concepts of perfective and non-perfective; (b) also deduce the functions of the above in a Hebrew sentence and able to 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 form of 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 Questions
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.

**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.

**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/ Web-based Learning		Reading and research		Written assignments	
In class	Out of Class	In class	Out of Class	In class	Out of Class	In class	Out of Class	In class	Out of Class
1.2 hrs	NA	1 hr	NA	NA	NA	NA	1.5 hrs	0.5 hr	2 hrs
M		M		M		M		M	
M: Mandatory activity in the course					O: Optional activity				

**Assessment Scheme:**

Task Nature and Weightage	Purpose and Rationale	Learning Outcomes
<p><b>1. Active Participation (6%)</b> Students must participate <i>proactively</i> in class as required: <i>Proactive</i> 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 or to keep pace with the whole class.</p> <p>Should foreseeable circumstances prevent a student from attending a class, the student must notify the instructor and teaching assistant (TA) by email. The student is expected to make up the missing class on his/her own through the materials posted on Blackboard and/or personal arrangement with the instructor and TA.</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>

<p><b>2. 12 Quizzes (36%)</b>  Q1: Alphabets; transliteration  Q2: Short and Long Vowels; Shewa; Vocabulary 1-A + D 1.13 2(a) &amp; 2.7  Q3: Paradigm for preposition ך + pronominal suffixes (D 3.10) and Vocabulary 1-B + D 3.1, 3.3, 3.5 &amp; 3.7  Q4: Paradigm for Pronouns (D 4.8; p. 46 column 1) and Paradigm for Suffix Conjugation (SC verbs) (D 4.8 table and column 2); Vocabulary 1-C + D 4.1, 4.3; Parsing  Q5: Vocabularies 1-D + D 5.1 (1), 5.5; Parsing.  Q6: Vocabulary 2-A + D 6.1 p.60 column 1, D 6.4; p. 63 column 1) and Parsing  Q7: Vocabulary 2-B  Q8: Vocabulary 2-C + D 7.2 p.77 column 1, 7.11; Demonstrative Pronouns (D 7.10); Imperative Paradigm (D 7.12 p.86 Row 1); Visual Display (D 7.12 p.88)  Q9: Vocabulary 2-D + D 8.1; Paradigm for Prefix Conjugation verbs (PC verbs) p. 354 and Parsing  Q10: Vocabulary 2-E + D 9.1, 9.7 and Parsing  Q11: Vocabulary 3-A + D 10.4, 10.6, 10.7; Imperative, Jussive, and Cohortative; Negation  Q12: Vocabulary 3-B + D 11.2, 11.4 p.123 column 1, 11.8, 11.9 p.139 column 1; Cardinal and Ordinal Numbers; Visual Display (D 11.10 p.140)</p>	<p>The quizzes are to reinforce the <i>accumulation</i> of the foundational vocabularies and paradigms.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Students' memorization of the vocabularies will aid the learning progress when examples are based on these foundational words.</li> <li>2. Students' memorization of the paradigms will aid the learning progress of grammar concepts foundational to the language.</li> <li>3. Students will be able to read and understand simple sentences from the Hebrew Bible.</li> <li>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.</li> </ol>
<p><b>3. Written Assignments (18%)</b>  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.</p>	<p>To grasp Biblical Hebrew fully, the written form is quintessential. It aids recognition and reinforces memory. Writing out the assignments retains the learning in concrete form.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Students reinforce the concepts by active application of the language through these written assignments.</li> <li>2. Students get the opportunity for immediate reinforcements in class through these assignments.</li> </ol>
<p><b>4. Oral Test (10%)</b>  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).</p>	<p>Biblical Hebrew is the language of the Torah, the scripture of Judeo-Christian religion, memorization of core scripture and songs for worship enhance the</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Students learn to appreciate the religious practice of scripture memorization.</li> <li>2. Students learn to sing from memory as part of</li> </ol>

	purpose for learning of the language – which is to read the Torah or Hebrew Bible.	religious worship and prayer. 3. Students appreciate the Jewish religious cultural practices based on scripture. 4. Students build confidence to verbalize the Hebrew words through scripture and songs.
<b>4. Final Test (30%)</b> This test comprises of the contents of the final 4 topics; and the general accumulation of learning basic grammar sentences, and parsing.	This final test wraps up the end of the basics of the course.	Same as Task #2.

#### Recommended Learning Resources:

##### Textbooks (required):

Dobson, John H. *Learn Biblical Hebrew*. 2nd edition with Audio CD-Rom. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2005. [D; UL PJ4567.3 .D63 2014]

##### Recommended Learning Resources:

Brown, Francis, S.R. Driver, and Charles A. Briggs, eds. *A Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament*. Oxford: Clarendon, 1907. (CC Ref PJ4833 .G4 1907;

<https://biblehub.com/bdb/1.htm>)

Cook, J.A. and Holmstedt, R.D. *Beginning Biblical Hebrew*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Academic, 2013. [UL PJ4567.3 .C66 2013]

Kahn, Lily. *The Routledge Introductory Course in Biblical Hebrew*. New York, NY: Routledge, 2014. [UL PJ4567.3 .K34 2014]

Kelley, Page H. *Biblical Hebrew: An Introduction Grammar*. Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans, 1992. (2nd Edition revised by Timothy G. Crawford, 2018)

Pratico, Gary D. and Miles V. van Pelt. *Basics of Biblical Hebrew Grammar*. 2nd edition. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2014. [UL Oversize PJ4567.3 .P73 2014]

Seow, Choon-Leong. *A Grammar for Biblical Hebrew*. Rev. ed.; Nashville: Abingdon, 1995. [UL PJ4567 .S424 1995]

Webster, Brian L. *The Cambridge Introduction to Biblical Hebrew*. Cambridge, NY: Cambridge University, 2009. [UL PJ4567.3 .W357 2009]

##### Internet Resources:

Introduction to Resources over Internet: <http://ehebrew.net/learn-ancient-hebrew/>

Animated Hebrew (Cartoon): <http://www.animatedhebrew.com/>

eteacher Biblical Hebrew (Free Lesson): <http://eteacherbiblical.com/free-lessons>

##### App Resources:

Quizlet – Join soniawk’s class “Biblical Hebrew I” for Vocabulary Lists 1-A to 3-B.

Write It! Hebrew; Hebrew Flashcards; Bible App by Olive Tree

**Course Schedule:**

Week	Date	Topic
1	Sept 2 (M) Sept 5 (Th)	Introduction: Basic Grammar and Biblical Hebrew Lesson 1A & 2A: Learning Vowels and Alphabets Songs: Aleph-Bet Song and We Welcome You Quiz 1; Lesson 1B & 2B: Shewa, rules on Dagesh and Sentence Order Reading Hebrew: Gen 1:1 and Drills
2	Sept 9 (M) Sept 12 (Th)	Quiz 2; Lesson 3: Pronominal Suffix, Pronouns and SC & waPC Verbs Introduction to Lessons 4–6
3	Sept 16 (M) Sept 19 (Th)	Quiz 3; Lesson 4: Narrative and Completed Action Revision and Learn Parsing, Drills
4	Sept 23 (M) Sept 26 (Th)	Quiz 4; Lesson 5: Adjectives Parsing Drills and Written Assignment Song: Blessed Are You (D 5.9, p.58) Parsing Drills
5	Sept 30 (M) Oct 3 (Th)	Quiz 5; Lesson 6: Continuing Action and PC Verbs Memorize Deuteronomy 6:4-5 (D 5.6; p. 55)
6	Oct 7 (M) Oct 10 (Th)	<b>Public Holiday</b> Quiz 6; Introduction to Lesson 7–8 Written Assignment
7	Oct 14 (M) Oct 17 (Th)	Quiz 7; Lesson 7: Absolute and Construct Nouns Drills and Written Assignment
8	Oct 21 (M) Oct 24 (Th)	Quiz 8; Lesson 8: Previous and Future Action and PC & waSC Verbs Drills and Written Assignment
9	Oct 28 (M) Oct 31 (Th)	Quiz 9; Introduction to Lessons 9–13 Lesson 9: Possession and Questions Drills and Written Assignment
10	Nov 4 (M) Nov 7 (Th)	Quiz 10; Lesson 10: Commands and Requests <b>Congregation. No Class.</b>
11	Nov 11 (M) Nov 14 (Th)	Quiz 11; Lesson 12: Infinitives Lesson 11: Numbers, Time, and Measurements Drills and Written Assignment
12	Nov 18 (M) Nov 21 (Th)	Quiz 12; Lesson 13: Participles Revision for Final Test Oral Test
13	Nov 25 (M) Nov 28 (Th)	Final Test Go through Answers for Final Test

**Contact Details for Teacher and Teaching Assistant:**

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