THEO3218 Biblical Hebrew II

(For CUHK Undergraduate Students)

聖經希伯來文(二)

Lecturer: Dr. LAU Yiu Sang Sam
(email:samyslau@cuhk.edu.hk)
2021-2022 2nd Term
Mon 10:30am-13:15pm CKB UG05

Course Description

This course, a sequel to THEO3217 Biblical Hebrew I, will continue to follow the textbook, *Learn Biblical Hebrew* by John H. Dobson (2005), covering Lessons 14-25. It will cover all the *binyanim* (or stem) of Hebrew as well as understanding concepts of Hebrew syntax, function of prepositions and the principles of translating narratives and poetry. In particular, we shall read the Masoretic Text of the book of Jonah (a narrative with a poem) and Psalm 23 with the help of the Lexicon and other Bible aids.

Course Objectives

Knowledge Outcomes

The students will be competent in the following abilities:

1. recognize every component in the parts of speech learned in THEO 3217
2. identify the *binyanim* (or stem) and functions of all verbs
3. recall the forms and functions of the prepositions and particles
4. identify, recognize at least 500 of the most common Biblical Hebrew words found in the Hebrew Bible
5. search words in the Biblical Hebrew dictionaries and lexicons and explain the entries, in particular the BDB Lexicon.
6. parse and translate given phrases/sentences and the book of Jonah and the Joseph story
7. use the parsing tools from the internet and/or computer software

Attitude Outcomes

The students will

1. be confident to read a Biblical Hebrew passage on their own with the necessary tools
2. develop the habit of reading Biblical Hebrew passages
3. appreciate the basic tasks to do exegesis and interpretation

List of Topics

Topics	Contents and Concepts
1. The General Uses of the *binyanim*	1. The significance of each *binyan* and how to distinguish them. 2. The list of uses for each *binyan*.
2. The Qal and Niphal	1. The paradigms for Qal and Niphal. 2. The functions of Qal and Niphal.
3. The Piel and Pual	1. The paradigms for Piel and Pual. 2. The functions of Piel and Pual.
4. The Hiphil and Hophal	1. The paradigms for Hiphil and Hophal. 2. The functions of Hiphil and Hophal.
5. The Hithpael and the other *binyanim*	1. The paradigms for Hithpael and the other *binyanim*. 2. The functions of Hithpael and the other *binyanim*.
6. Using BDB Lexicon	1. The format of a Biblical Hebrew Dictionary and Lexicon. 2. Understanding the division of root words. 3. The steps to retrieving the meanings for the word searched. 4. Interpreting the information from the dictionary and lexicon.
7. Wishes, Oaths and Conditions	1. The biblical Hebrew expressions for wishes and oaths. 2. The common words and pattern for such expressions. 3. The common words and format for conditional statements.
8. The Narrative forms with other verb forms	1. Revision of the waPC. 2. The different conjugation and expressions before the waPC verbs. 3. How to distinguish and translate different occurrences of the waPC in various contexts.
9. Sentence and Clause Beginnings	The different ways biblical Hebrew begins passages – narratives and non-narratives and how to translate them.
10. The Perfective and Imperfective Verbs	1. Revision of the SC and PC. 2. Consideration of more complex contexts and how to translate appropriately.
11. Sentence and Clause Sequences	Functions of these sequences: 1. SC + wSC forms. 2. SC +waPC. 3. PC + wPC. 4. Clauses that begin with some particles. 5. PC + wSC. 6. Imperatives + imperatives. 7. Imperative +wPC. 8. Participle + waPC. 9. Participle + wSC. 10. Infinitive + waPC. 11. Infinitive + wSC. 12. 5 conjunctions.
12. Translating Hebrew Poetry	1. Characteristics of biblical Hebrew poetry: balance and parallelism. 2. Expressions of balance and parallelisms: chiasmus and alphabetic. 3. Language of biblical Hebrew poetry. 4. Issues in translation.
13. Prepositions	1. Summarize the types and most common occurrences of some prepositions. 2. Determining the possible best meaning for a preposition.
14. Idioms and Areas of Meanings	Learn some common idiomatic expressions in biblical Hebrew and their meanings, or areas of meanings according to the context and interpreting their functions.
15. Learn Bible Aids from Internet and computer software	1. Introduce various aids from the internet and/or computer software. 2. How to access the parsing functions and interpret meaningfully from these aids.

Course Structure and Requirements

Structure/ Input and Output The class meets every Monday. A new topic will be introduced via lecture or through some class activities, and the learning will be reinforced through fulfilling class assignments and homework, followed by evaluation. For every hour of class period, students are expected to put in about 1.5 to 2 hours.

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.

Requirements and assessment scheme

Task Nature and Weightage	Purpose and Rationale	Learning Outcomes
1. Compulsory Attendance and Active Participation (10%) A penalization of 0.5% of this grade for each missed period of tutorial/lecture. If students **have valid reasons** to miss lectures and tutorial sessions for 10 class periods, students are expected to withdraw from the course asap. Otherwise, a full penalization of 15% of the final grade applies. **Penalization of this grade applies regardless of valid or invalid reasons.** Students **must** participate pro-actively in class as required: Pro-active 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. 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.	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. . 1. Students will follow the smooth progress of building upon each topic as the language is taught. 2. Students get **immediate** reinforcements for each new word or concept learned.	1. Students can follow the progress of each topic smoothly. 2. Students build upon each new concept of the language based on the previous one. 3. Students can reinforce the learning through active use of the language. 4. Student learns to reinforce their own understanding with co learners and the instructor.
2. 6 Quizzes (30%) Regular Quizzes will be held during class time. Please check the Course Schedule as to when these quizzes will be held. What will be quizzed depending	The quizzes are to reinforce the accumulation of the foundational *binyanim* paradigms. Regular parsing in the quizzes are to keep up and	1. Students' memorization of the *binyanim* paradigms will aid the learning progress of the forms and uses of the verbs foundational to the language.

on students' pacing but the following topic will be covered: • The General Uses of the *binyanim* (LBH p.159); • Paradigm for the *binyanim* including Qal, Niphal, Piel, Pual, Hiphil, Hophal and Hithpael; • Parsing of various Hebrew verbs; • Using BDB Lexicon; • Translating texts selected from the Hebrew Bible. The topic that will be covered for each quizzes will be announced over the Blackboard a week before the quiz.	reinforce the vocabularies and paradigms learned earlier and also new vocabularies.	2. Students will reinforce earlier grammar and vocabularies learned earlier through the parsing component in the quizzes. 3. Students will be able to read and understand more complex sentences in the Hebrew Bible. 4. Students will be able to parse phrases as they read and will be able to process the meanings of the words automatically. 5. Students learn how to use the Biblical Hebrew Lexicons and Dictionaries. Students learn the technical format and how to retrieve the relevant meanings for the word searched.
3. Written Assignments (30%) During class lectures, the instructor will assign written assignments where students are required to write on the board, or on their own notebooks, or papers to be submitted. Students are expected to follow these instructions and attempt to complete them.	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.	1. Students reinforce the concepts by active application of the language through these written assignments. 2. Students get the opportunity for immediate reinforcements in class through these assignments.
4. Final Quiz (30%) This quiz comprises of selected passages learned throughout the course. Besides parsing, there will be questions covering topics learned from THEO3217-18.	This final quiz wraps up the end of the basics of the course.	Same as Task #2.

Course Textbook

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

BDB = Francis Brown, S.R. Driver, and Charles A. Briggs (ed.), *A Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament* (Oxford: Clarendon, 1907). [check the latest reprint] (can also access through the website: bible.cc)

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 repot		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	2 hrs
M		M		M		M		M	

M: Mandatory activity in the course O: Optional activity

Course Schedule

Week 1 (Jan 10)	Introduction: Revision of Basic Grammar and Biblical Hebrew; Learning to Use the BDB; Dictionary Exercise (LBH p.160-162): Jonah 1:4-16 & 3:5-10 Introduction to *binyanim*: The General Uses of the *binyanim*.
Week 2 (Jan 17)	Lesson 14: The Qal and Niphal; Dictionary Exercise (LBH p.171): Jonah chapter 4 Read Jonah 1
Week 3 (Jan 24)	Quiz 1; Lesson 15: Piel and Pual; Introduction to Internet/computer aids for the analysis of Biblical Hebrew;
Week 4 (Jan 31)	* Lunar New Year Vacation
Week 5 (Feb 7)	Quiz 2; Lesson 16: Hiphil and Hophal; Lesson 17: Hithpael and the other *binyanim*; Assignment 1
Week 6 (Feb 14)	Lesson 18: Wishes, Oaths, and Conditions; Hand in Assignment 1; Read Jonah 3
Week 7 (Feb 21)	Lesson 19: Narrative Form; Read Jonah 4
Week 8 (Feb 28)	Quiz 3 (Knowledge up to Week 7); Lesson 20: Sentence and Clause Beginnings
Week 9 (Mar 7)	Quiz 4 (Knowledge up to Week 8); Lesson 21: Perfective and Imperfective verbs; Assignment 2
Week 10 (Mar 14)	Quiz 5 (Knowledge up to Week 9); Lesson 22: Sentence and Clause Sequences; Read Psalm 23; Hand in Assignment 2
Week 11 (Mar 21)	Quiz 6 (Knowledge up to Week 10); Lesson 23: Translate Hebrew Poetry; Read Jonah 2; Assignment 3
Week 12 (Mar 28)	Lesson 24: Prepositions; Lesson 25: Idioms and Areas of Meaning; Hand in Assignment 3
Week 13 (Apr 4)	* Reading Week
Week 14 (Apr 11)	Revision
Week 15 (Apr 18)	* Public holiday – Easter Monday
Week 16 (Apr 25)	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:

Fullilove, William. *Introduction to Hebrew: A Guide for Learning and Using Biblical Hebrew.* NJ: P&R Publishing, 2017.

Futato, Mark David. *Beginning Biblical Hebrew*. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 2003.

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

Kutz, Karl V. and Rebekah L. Josberger. *Learning Biblical Hebrew: Reading for Comprehension: An Introductory Grammar.* WA: Lexham Press, 2018.

Page, Kelley H. *Biblical Hebrew: An Introduction Grammar*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: W.B. Eerdmans, 1992.

Pratico, Gary D. and Miles V. van Pelt. *Basics of Biblical Hebrew Grammar.* Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan, 2001.

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

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