

## **THEO3217/THEO5301 Biblical Hebrew I**

Lecturer: Dr. LI Kwan Hung Leo

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2022-2023 1<sup>st</sup> Term

Mon 10:30 am - 12:15 pm (CCT T31)

Thur 12:30 pm -1:15 pm (WMY 502)

### **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 (hereafter: D), *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) pronounce and read Hebrew words
- (2) 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)
- (3) memorize at least 300 Hebrew words by the end of the course
- (4) recognize words, identify and parse them, **by the assistance of available resources**, correctly as nouns, verbs, prepositions, constructs, suffixes, adjectives, infinitives or participles.
- (5) identify the forms of questions, commands and requests.
- (6a) explain the usage of adjectives, participles, infinitives, prefix and suffix conjugations, as well as concepts of narrative, perfective, and non-perfective forms.  
Especially for THEO5301, (6b) also deduce the functions of the above in a Hebrew sentence and able to explain basic grammar and linguistics 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 texts in its original languages.

## 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 and Imperfective Aspect (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
15. Discourse Analysis (A.K.A. Text-linguistics)

## **Course Structure, Assessment Scheme and Requirements**

### 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 repor		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	0.5 hrs	NA	1 hrs	0.5	2 hrs
M		M		M		M		M	
M: Mandatory activity in the course					O: Optional activity				

### **Course Textbook**

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

Assessment Scheme (including Requirements)

Task Nature and Weightage	Purpose and Rationale	Learning Outcomes
<p>1. <u>Compulsory Attendance and Active Participation (10%)</u>            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.  <b>Penalization of this grade applies regardless of valid or invalid reasons.</b></p> <p>Students <b>must</b> participate <i>proactively</i> in class as required: <i>Pro-active</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. 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>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.            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.            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.</p>

<p><b><u>2. 8 Online Quizzes (32%)</u></b>  Q1: The Basics of Biblical Hebrew (Alphabets, vowels and/or transliteration).  Q2: Paradigm for preposition ך + pronominal suffixes (D 3.10; p. 31) and Vocabulary D 2.7  Q3: Vocabulary D 3.1 (columns 1 and 3) D 3.3 (columns 1 and 3); and D 4.1 (column 2)  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)  Q5: Vocabularies D 5.1 (column 1); D 5.5 and parsing questions.  Q6: Vocabularies (D 6.1; p. 60 column 1; D 6.4; p. 63 column 1) and parsing questions.  Q7: Paradigm for Prefix Conjugation verbs (PC verbs) p. 354; and Demonstrative Pronouns D7.10 (plus notes) and parsing questions.  Q8: Vocabularies (D 8.1; p. 89).</p>	<p>The quizzes are to reinforce the accumulation of the foundational vocabularies and paradigms. Quizzes will be conducted in online platform. Some Quizzes will be interactive or oral in form.</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><u>3. Written Assignments (18%)</u></b>  The instructor will assign written assignments where students are required to finished them as homework. 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 through these assignments</li> </ol>

<p>4. Oral Test (10%) 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 purpose for learning of the language – which is to read the Torah or Hebrew Bible. The test will be conducted via online platform.</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 religious worship and prayer.</li> <li>3. Students appreciate the Jewish religious cultural practices based on scripture.</li> <li>4. Students build confidence to verbalize the Hebrew words through scripture and songs.</li> </ol>
<p>4. Final Quiz (30%) This quiz comprises of the contents of the final 4 topics; and the general accumulation of learning basic grammar sentences, and parsing.</p>	<p>A final quiz wraps up the end of the basics of the course. This final quiz will be online or take-home, depending on the class circumstances.</p>	<p>Same as Task #2.</p>

In Summary:

10% Attendance

18% Written Assignments

32% 8 Quizzes

10% Oral Test

30% Final Quiz

Learning Activities

We will use **inductive method** to explore the grammatic features of the Biblical Hebrew. An inductive method of learning a language requires the student reads and observes how the language works and then induces the grammar rules. That means the students are the master of their learning and not just passively memorizing vocabulary and grammatic rules. They need to put in effort to read the original biblical text constantly without full knowledge of the language and ask questions on grammar and induce the grammar of the language by consulting the resources that the course (the teacher, the textbook or grammar books) provided. Eventually the student can interpret/translate the text by their own. Yet there will be reinforcements by drilling exercises through different forms: in songs, oral recitation, oral exercises, dialogue and writing exercises and through one to one and small group interactions throughout the course.

	Week 1
5 Sept (Mon)	Introduction: Basic Grammar and Biblical Hebrew (Parts of Speech): Exo 6:1-3 Lesson 1A & 2A: Learning Vowels and Alphabets; Songs: Alphabet song and We Welcome You.
8 Sept (Thur)	Lesson 1B & 2B: Rules on Dagesh (D 1.8), Shewa (D 1.10), Hebrew Clause and sentence order: Reading Gen 1:1
	Week 2
12 Sept (Mon)	Public Holiday – Day after Mid-Autumn Festival
15 Sept (Thur)	Lesson 3A: Pronominal Suffix;
	Week 3
19 Sept (Mon)	Lesson 3B: Pronouns and SC Verbs.
22 Sept (Thur)	<b>Quiz 1</b> ; Revision and Learn Parsing
	Week 4
26 Sept (Mon)	Introduction to Lesson 4-6; Lesson 4: Narrative and Completed Action
29 Sept (Thur)	<b>Quiz 2</b> ; <i>Written Assignments</i> ;
	Week 5
3 Oct (Mon)	Lesson 5A: Adjectives; Parsing Drills and <i>Written Assignments</i>
6 Oct (Thur)	<b>Quiz 3</b> ; Memorize Deuteronomy 6:4-5 (D 5.6; p. 55)
	Week 6
10 Oct (Mon)	Lesson 5B and 6 Continuing Action Learn Song: Blessed are you (D p. 58)
13 Oct (Thur)	<b>Quiz 4</b> ; <i>Written Assignment on Gen 24:1-10</i>
	Week 7
17 Oct (Mon)	Introduction to Lesson 7-8; Lesson 7: Absolute and Construct Noun
20 Oct (Thur)	<b>Quiz 5</b> ; Introduction to Lesson 9-13
	Week 8
24 Oct (Mon)	Lesson 8 and 9: Previous and Future Action
27 Oct (Thur)	<b>Quiz 6</b> ; <i>Written Assignment on Jon 1:1-3/3:1-4</i>
	Week 9
31 Oct (Mon)	Lesson 10: Command and Requests
3 Nov (Thur)	<b>Quiz 7</b> and Drills
	Week 10
7 Nov (Mon)	Lesson 12: Infinitives
10 Nov (Thur)	<b>Quiz 8</b> and Drills
	Week 11
14 Nov (Mon)	Lesson 13: Participles and <i>Written Assignment on 1 Kings 21:1-7</i>
17 Nov (Thur)	Revision and Drills; Lesson 11
	Week 12
21 Nov (Mon)	Revision for final Test
24 Nov (Thur)	Oral Test
	Week 13
28 Nov (Mon)	Final Test
1 Dec (Thur)	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:

- Kutz, Karl V., and Rebekah L. Josberger. 2018. *Learning Biblical Hebrew: Reading for Comprehension: An Introductory Grammar*. Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2018.
- Page, Kelley H. *Biblical Hebrew: An Introduction Grammar*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: W.B. Eerdmans, 1992. (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition revised by Timothy G. Crawford, 2018)
- Kahn, Lily. *The Routledge Introductory Course in Biblical Hebrew*. NY: Routledge, 2014.
- Pratico, Gary D. and Miles V. van Pelt. *Basics of Biblical Hebrew Grammar*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan, 2001. (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, 2014)
- Webster, Brian. *The Cambridge Introduction to Biblical Hebrew*. Cambridge/NY: Cambridge University, 2009.

The following books will be also reserved in CC Library:

- Bergman, Nava. *The Cambridge Biblical Hebrew Workbook: Introductory Level*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005.
- Cook, J.A. and Holmstedt, R.D. *Beginning Biblical Hebrew*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Academic, 2013.
- Green, Jennifer S., G. Brooke Lester, Joseph F. Scrivner. *Handbook to a Grammar for Biblical Hebrew*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2005.
- Ross, Allen P. *Introducing Biblical Hebrew*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Academic, 2001.
- Seow, Choon-Leong. *A Grammar for Biblical Hebrew*. Rev. ed.; Nashville: Abingdon, 1995.
- Van Der Merwe, Naudé, Kroeze, Naudé, J. A., and Kroeze, Jan. *A Biblical Hebrew Reference Grammar*. Second ed; New York: Bloomsbury T&T Clark, 2017.
- Yeung, Philip. *Functional Hebrew: Lecture Notes with Exercises*. Hong Kong: China Graduate School of Theology, 1986.

Internet resources:

Online Study tools for Biblical languages:

<https://thebible.org/gt/index>

<https://netbible.org/>

<https://biblehub.com/>

Online Chinese resources for learning Biblical Hebrew

<http://www.chioulaoshi.org/BH/index.html>

Introduction to resources over internet

<http://ehbrew.net/learn-ancient-hebrew/>

<https://ehbrew.net/free-online-hebrew-resources/>

<http://blogs.shu.edu/lawrencefrizzell/research/hebrewresources/>

<https://dailydoseofhebrew.com/hebrew-resources/#Online-Tools>

[https://sites.ualberta.ca/~ebenzvi/Assist/Hebrew\\_Bible/hebrewbibstudy.html](https://sites.ualberta.ca/~ebenzvi/Assist/Hebrew_Bible/hebrewbibstudy.html)

<https://sites.google.com/site/biblicalhebrewnz/free-biblical-hebrew-resources2>

<http://www.biblicalhebrew.com/>

animated hebrew (cartoon)

<http://www.animatedhebrew.com/>

eteacher biblical hebrew (free lesson)

<http://eteacherbiblical.com/free-lessons>