

Intermediate Biblical Hebrew IIU. of Pennsylvania **Michael Carasik**

Spring 2007— HEBR 154

MW 5 PM

Office: Williams 443

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Hours: by appointment

Texts: Hebrew Bible; Weingreen, *Classical Hebrew Composition* (on reserve)**Readings about biblical poetry (on Blackboard)** James Kugel, *The Idea of Biblical Poetry*, 1-58
Adele Berlin, "Reading Biblical Poetry," 2097-2104 in
The Jewish Study Bible
other readings on specific texts**Also recommended** Adele Berlin, *The Dynamics of Biblical Parallelism*

This course is the fourth and last semester of the Biblical Hebrew sequence, a continuation of the Fall semester's Intermediate Biblical Hebrew I. It will continue to focus on using the grammar and vocabulary learned at the introductory level to be able to read biblical texts independently and take advanced Bible exegesis courses. But we will concentrate this semester on poetry. We will also continue to translate English prose into Biblical Hebrew and will have a short unit on Late Biblical Hebrew.

Requirements:

- Class participation, including preparation of all texts using the standard tools and commentaries, and a **presentation** of a biblical poem chosen by you (20% of the grade).
- Translations into Biblical Hebrew from Weingreen (20% of the grade).
- A midterm exam (20%).
- An oral exam that will consist of reading and translating an unseen passage of standard narrative prose from Gen-2 Kgs (10%).
- A written comparison of the linguistic differences between Ps 18 and 2 Sam 22 (two versions of the same poem). You will find an example of this on our Blackboard site, and we'll discuss in class how to divide it up (10%).
- A commentary (i.e., a translation with linguistic notes and some literary analysis) on a short poem, to be chosen by you in consultation with me. There's an example of this on our Blackboard site, too (20%).

Class Schedule

- Mon., Jan. 8: Introduction to poetry; introduction to the accent marks
Wed., Jan. 10: Psalm 114
- Mon., Jan. 15: **No class – MLK Day**
Wed., Jan. 17: Jonah, ch. 2 (read Simon & Christensen articles, on Blackboard);
[Weingreen #5 is due](#)
- Mon., Jan. 22: (continue)
- Wed., Jan. 24: Hannah’s prayer, 1 Samuel 2:1-10 (read Simon article, on Blackboard),
Mon., Jan. 29: and Ps 113
Wed., Jan. 31: (continue); [Weingreen #6 is due](#)
- Mon., Feb. 5: Isa 49:1-6 (use Ben Zvi workbook, on Blackboard)
- Wed., Feb. 7: The “Song at the Sea,” Exod 15:1-18
Mon., Feb. 12: (continue)
Wed., Feb. 14: (continue); [Weingreen #7 is due](#)
Mon., Feb. 19: (continue)
Wed., Feb. 21: (continue)
- Mon., Feb. 26: **Midterm exam.**
- Wed., Feb. 28: Late Biblical Hebrew; [Weingreen #8 is due](#)
- [Mar. 5, 7](#) **[No class – Spring break](#)**
- Mon., Mar. 12: Job 28 (read Geller article and see Scheindlin translation, on Blackboard)
Wed., Mar. 14: (continue); [Weingreen #9 is due](#)
Mon., Mar. 19: (continue)
Wed., Mar. 21: (continue)
Mon., Mar. 26: (continue)
Wed., Mar. 28: (continue); [Weingreen #10 is due](#)
- Mon., Apr. 2: **No class – evening of the Passover seder**
Wed., Apr. 4: **No class – 2nd day of Passover**
Mon., Apr. 9: **No class – 7th day of Passover**
- Wed., Apr. 11: Poem of the day (student presentation)
1st draft of your poem commentary is due
- Mon., Apr. 16: Poem of the day (student presentation)
Ps 18/2 Sam 22 comparison is due
- Wed., Apr. 18: Song 2:8-13
- Mon., Apr. 30: **poem commentary is due**