

Fall 2007— HEBR 151/451; JWST 171/471

Mon / Wed 3:30-5 PM

E-mail: mcarasik@sas.upenn.edu

Classroom: Will 843

Office: Williams 443 Phone: 746-2878

Hours: by appointment

Texts: C.-L. Seow, *A Grammar for Biblical Hebrew* (2nd ed.)William L. Holladay, *A Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament*
*Biblica Hebraica Stuttgartensia*Recommended:Brown, Driver & Briggs, *Hebrew and English Lexicon of the OT*Learning to Read:

Our Blackboard site has mp3 files of recordings from Bonnie Kittel's *Biblical Hebrew* (1st edition), and accompanying text files. It's essential that you practice reading every day until you can read out loud comfortably and quickly.

Learning to Write:

- <http://www.levsoftware.com/verses.htm> – Click on **Writing the Alef Bet** on the left margin to get to animated cartoons showing you how to write, and to print, Hebrew.

[**Note:** I'm *not* endorsing anything about this site except its usefulness for learning to write Hebrew.]

Help via Modern Hebrew

Biblical Hebrew is no longer a spoken language—but you will need both to speak and to understand Hebrew words as we discuss them in class. And some people learn better by ear than by eye. Modern Hebrew, which has perhaps a 90% overlap with the biblical language can help with this. You can:

- Sit in on **HEBR 51**, the beginning semester of Modern Hebrew, in Will 319 from 11-12 or 12-1 every day. (Thanks to Nechama Sataty for graciously offering this to us.)
- Contact Donna Brown at the **Penn Tutoring Center** and ask for a Hebrew tutor.

Requirements:

- (1) preparation for and participation in class;
- (2) exercises to be turned in as assigned;
- (3) recordings to be e-mailed to me by Voice Email (via Blackboard);
- (4) informal quizzes (these four items will constitute 10% of your semester grade);
- (5) a midterm (20% of your grade); and a final exam (50% of your grade).

Preparation:

You're expected to read the material for the next class carefully and to work through the exercises as well as you can. Suggestion: Study with a friend. It's much easier to learn a language through give-and-take than it is through reading an explanation of it. **If something is unclear, bring your questions into class!** A handbook to our text, with answers to the exercises and helpful notes, is also available for you to use as an aid; don't make it a crutch. (The handbook was not prepared by Prof. Seow and is not as carefully done as the textbook.)

The 15-Minute-a-Day Plan:

A beginning language class is like learning how to play a musical instrument or to acquire another *physical* skill – it demands constant practice and, most of all, *repetition*. You must spend at least 15 minutes *every* day on Hebrew to keep up your chops, even if you have completed all of the assignments. Find a biblical text to read, and have an English translation handy so you'll know what you're reading.

Elementary Biblical Hebrew 1, Fall 2007 Schedule

- Wed., Sept. 5: Getting to know you; background; the alphabet
- Mon., Sept. 10: Turn in: a hand-written copy of Prov 1:1-4 (p. 16)
Be prepared: to write the alphabet in alphabetical order
Read: Lessons 1 & 2
Record: the alphabet, in alphabetical order
- Wed., Sept. 12: [optional](#) class for reading practice (erev Rosh Hashanah)
- Mon., Sept. 17: Turn in: Exercise 2a
Be prepared: to translate all the words in Exercise 2b
to recognize *qamatz qatan* in Prov 1:1-4 (p. 16)
Read: Lesson 3
Record: Prov 1:1 (1st line from p. 16)
- Wed., Sept. 19: Turn in: Exercise 3b
Be prepared: to do Exercises 3a and 3c
Read: Lesson 4
- Mon., Sept. 24: Turn in: Exercises 4b and 4c
Be prepared: to do Exercise 4a
to explain the rules for gutturals (p. 35)
Read: Lesson 5, paying special attention to the segholates
Record: Ps 115: 5-6 (last two lines from p. 37)
- Wed., Sept. 26: Turn in: Exercises 5a and 5b
Be prepared: to give the irregular plurals from p. 43
to do Exercises 4d and 5c
Read: Excursus A
- Mon., Oct. 1: Turn in: Exercise from Excursus A, giving [page & column from BDB](#)
Be prepared: to give the root of every word in Exercises 2c and 3c
Read: Lesson 6
Record: Gen 1:1-3
- Wed., Oct. 3: Turn in: Exercises 6a and 6c
Be prepared: to do Exercise 6b
to explain what vowels go with the conjunction u
Read: Excursus B
- Mon., Oct. 8: Be prepared: to do Exercise 6d
Read: Lesson 7
Record: Gen 1:14
- Wed., Oct. 10: Turn in: Exercises 7a and 7b
Be prepared: to do Exercise 7c
Read: Lesson 8 and Excursus C

- Mon., Oct. 15: **No class—fall break**
- Wed., Oct. 17: Turn in: Exercises 8a and 8c
Be prepared: to do Exercises 7c, 8b, and 8d
to explain the system of *binyanim* (“verbal patterns”)
Read: Lesson 9 and be prepared to identify all suffixes **instantly!**
- Mon., Oct. 22: Turn in: Exercises 9b and 9c
Be prepared: to do Exercises 9a and 9d
Read: Lesson 10
Record: Gen 41:17
- Wed., Oct. 24: **midterm exam** (open dictionary)
- Mon., Oct. 29: Turn in: Exercise 10b
Be prepared: to do Exercises 10a and 10c
Read: Lesson 11, paying special attention to the construct chain
Record: Deut 29:12
- Wed., Oct. 31: Turn in: Exercises 11a and 11c
Be prepared: to do Exercises 11b and 11d
Read: Lesson 12
- Mon., Nov. 5: Turn in: Exercises 12a and 12b
Be prepared: to do Exercises 12c and 12d
Read: Lesson 13
Record: Ps 121:1-2
- Wed., Nov. 7: Turn in: Exercises 13a and 13b
Be prepared: to do Exercise 13c
Read: Lesson 14
- Mon., Nov. 12: Turn in: Exercises 14b and 14c
Be prepared: to do Exercise 14a
Read: Excursus F and Lesson 15
Record: Ps 136:1-3
- Wed., Nov. 14: Turn in: Exercises 15b and 15c
Be prepared: to do Exercises 15a and 15d
Read: Lesson 16
- Mon., Nov. 19: Turn in: Exercises 16b and 16d
Be prepared: to do Exercises 16a and 16c
Read: Lesson 17
Record: 1 Kgs 8:20
- Wed., Nov. 21: **No class (“erev” Thanksgiving)**

- Mon., Nov. 26: Turn in: Exercises 17b and 17d
Be prepared: to do Exercises 17a and 17c
Read: Lesson 18
Record: Song 3:5
- Wed., Nov. 28: Turn in: Exercises 18a and 18b
Be prepared: to do Exercises 18c, 18d, 18e, and **17e**
Read: Lesson 19
- Mon., Dec. 3: Turn in: full imperfect paradigm of **cuā**; Exercises 19a and 19b
Be prepared: to do Exercises 19c and 19d
to ask any questions *you* have left over
- Wed., Dec. 5: in-class **final exam** (open dictionary)

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- Wed., **Jan. 16**: Read: Lessons 1-19