

Intermediate Biblical Hebrew 1 (Prose)

U. of Pennsylvania

Michael Carasik

Fall 2007 — HEBR 153/453; JWST 173/473

Mon / Wed 5-6:30 PM

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Classroom: Fisher-Bennett 24

Office: Williams 443 Phone: 746-2878

Hours: by appointment

Texts: *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*Weingreen, *Classical Hebrew Composition* (Rosengarten Reserve, PJ4740 .W4 1962)

readings to be found on our Blackboard site:

Berlin, "Point of View in Biblical Narrative"

Carasik, "Three Biblical Beginnings"

Geller, "History, Literature and Language in the Study of Text"

"Readings in the Historical Books" (Ben-Zvi et al. on 1 Samuel 1)

**Texts to be read
will be selected
from among the
following:**

1 Samuel 1, 1 Kings 15:1-5, 16:23-33

Exodus 21:28-36, Leviticus 5:20-26, Deuteronomy 24:14-22

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Ruth, Jonah

**Recommended
Hebrew tools:**• *Gesenius' Hebrew Grammar*or Joüon/Muraoka, *A Grammar of Biblical Hebrew*• Brown, Driver & Briggs, *Hebrew and English Lexicon of the OT*or Koehler/Baumgartner, *Hebrew & Aramaic Lexicon of the OT*• Even-Shoshan, *A New Concordance of the OT*

or a computer concordance

Helpful Web Site: <http://people.brandeis.edu/~brettler/biblehelp/brettler.html>**Grades:** will be based on class preparation, translation assignments, a language exam, and a final written assignment to be discussed in class. **Students who are taking the course for graduate credit** will also be expected to prepare 10 additional chapters of biblical prose (chosen by you, approved by me) outside of class, well enough to be able to discuss them with me, overall and in detail, in an oral exam format.**Prerequisite:** successful completion of HEBR 152 or permission of the instructor**Note:** Students who enter the class with a background in Modern Hebrew or whose familiarity with Biblical Hebrew was acquired in high school or other non-university setting are expected to acquire, as early as possible in the semester, a strong enough knowledge of the grammar, morphology, and syntax of Biblical Hebrew to enable them to read the course selections with attention to detail.

This course is intended simultaneously as a continuation of the Biblical Hebrew language sequence and as an introduction to the prose literature of the Hebrew Bible. By the end of the class, the successful student can expect to be able to read biblical prose texts independently and take advanced Bible exegesis courses. The intent of the course is for students to **1** gain an overall familiarity with the literature of the Hebrew Bible in the original language, and specifically with the genres of history, narrative, and law; **2** develop the skills necessary for close reading of biblical prose texts; **3** begin to approach biblical prose texts as literary creations; and **4** understand biblical prose in its aspect as a window to an ancient and non-European culture. In addition, students will become familiar with standard biblical idiom through a series of translation exercises based on the patriarchal narratives of Genesis 12-36.

Intermediate Biblical Hebrew 1, Fall 2007 Schedule

- Wed., Sept. 5: getting to know you; plan of the course; sight reading
- Mon., Sept. 10: **1 Samuel 1** (prepare this text with “Readings in the Historical Books”)
Read: Geller, “History, Literature and Language in the Study of Text”
- Tues., Sept. 11:** (shifted from Wednesday because of erev Rosh Hashanah)
(continue)
- Mon., Sept. 17: (continue)
- Wed., Sept. 19: (continue)
- Mon., Sept. 24: **Weingreen #1 is due**
- Tues., Sept. 25:** (shifted from Wednesday because of erev Sukkot)
(continue)
- Mon., Oct. 1: (continue)
- Tues., Oct. 2:** (shifted from Wednesday because of erev Shemini Atzeret)
(continue); read Carasik, “Three Biblical Beginnings”
- Mon., Oct. 8: **Legal texts; Weingreen #2 is due**
- Wed., Oct. 10: (continue)
- Mon., Oct. 15: **No class—fall break**
- Wed., Oct. 17: (continue)
- Mon., Oct. 22: (continue); **Weingreen #3 is due**
- Wed., Oct. 24: **Midterm exam**
- Mon., Oct. 29: **Ezekiel 37:1-14**
- Wed., Oct. 31: (continue)
- Mon., Nov. 5: **Jonah; Weingreen #4 is due**
- Wed., Nov. 7: (continue)
- Mon., Nov. 12: (continue)
- Wed., Nov. 14: (continue)
- Mon., Nov. 19: **Ruth; Weingreen #5 is due**
- Wed., Nov. 21: **No class (“erev” Thanksgiving)**
- Mon., Nov. 26: (continue); read Berlin, “Point of View in Biblical Narrative”
- Wed., Nov. 28: (continue)
- Mon., Dec. 3: (continue); **optional first draft of your paper is due**
- Wed., Dec. 5: (continue)
- Tues., Dec. 18 **final draft of your paper is due**