



Course Syllabus

WYB1012YY – Introduction to Biblical Hebrew

Wycliffe College, Toronto School of Theology

Fall 2020 – Winter 2021

****PLEASE NOTE:** *This is a draft. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 situation, adjustments to the course may be made in order to comply with changing regulations and recommendations.*

Instructor Information

Instructor: Ryan Ball
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Office Hours: After class or by appointment

Course Identification

Course Number: WYB1012YY
Course Format: In-class/Online
Course Name: Introduction to Biblical Hebrew
Course Location: Online/St. George Campus, Wycliffe College (5 Hoskin Ave.), Room TBA
Class Times: Mon, Wed, Thu 9:00am – 10:00am

Course Description

The goal of the course is to equip both students training for designated ministry and those students who wish to continue in advanced degree studies with a working knowledge of biblical Hebrew, as well as for subsequent study in syntax and exegesis. The course itself takes the full academic year (Fall and Winter), and it will introduce students to the fundamentals of Biblical Hebrew, including phonology (sounds), morphology (grammatical forms), basic syntax (the components of a meaningful text unit), and the most frequent vocabulary. At the end of the whole year course, students will have acquired rudimentary skills useful for the purposes of homiletical exegesis, scholarship pursuit, and the general pleasure of textual theological interpretations.

Prerequisites

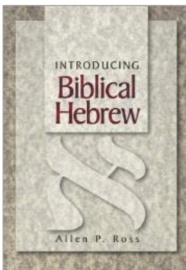
There are no prerequisites for this course. It is designed for those who have no prior knowledge of Biblical Hebrew.

Course Methodology

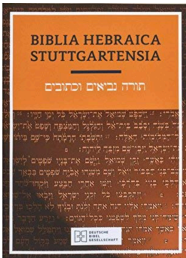
Lectures, readings, discussions, exercises, quizzes, and examinations.

Course Resources

Course Texts

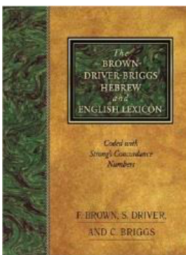


Required: Ross, Allen P. *Introducing Biblical Hebrew*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2001.



Required: Elliger, Karl, and Wilhelm Rudolph, eds. *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*. German Bible Society, 2006.

****Note:** Do not buy this book yet.



Optional: Brown, F., S. Driver, and C. Briggs. *The Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1994.

Course Website

- Quercus: <https://q.utoronto.ca/>

This course uses Quercus for its course website. To access it, go to the UofT Quercus login page at <https://q.utoronto.ca/> and login using your UTORid and password. Once you have logged in to Quercus using your UTORid and password, look for the **My Courses** module, where you'll find the link to the website for all your Quercus-based courses. (Your course registration with ACORN gives you access to the course website in Quercus.) Information for students about using Quercus can be found at: <https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10701> . Students who have trouble accessing Quercus should ask the registrar for further help.

Other Resources

- Online video lectures for each of Ross's chapters are provided by Dr. Charles Grebe and are available at the following: <http://www.animatedhebrew.com/lectures/index.html>. This is a great source for review and in the case that a student misses a class.
- APPS: Many apps are available to assist in vocab memorization. And many are keyed to Ross's textbook. Examples include Memrise and Biblical Hebrew Vocabulary.
- Audio Vocab: Some apps provide audio of the Hebrew words and other do not. Here is a website that provides audio for all vocab keyed to Ross' text: <https://biblicallanguages.net/language-courses-i-teach/hebrew-grammar-i-first-year-course/ross-ibh-audio-files/>.

Course Learning Objectives/Outcomes

Course Goals	Student Outcomes	Course Elements	Program Outcomes
<i>The aim of this course is for students to . . .</i>	<i>By the end of the course, students will be able to . . .</i>	<i>These outcomes are achieved through these course elements:</i>	<i>This course outcome corresponds to these aspects of Wycliffe's statement of outcomes (MTS, MDiv):</i>
Increase basic knowledge of Biblical Hebrew	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Identify over 450 of the most common Biblical Hebrew wordsReproduce the most important paradigmsParse verbs	Lectures, weekly quizzes, exercises, exams	MTS: 1.1 MDiv: 1.2
Grasp the most important grammatical constructions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Accurately identify and translate grammatical constructions and simple Hebrew sentences into English	Lectures, weekly quizzes, exercises, exams	MTS: 1.1 MDiv: 1.2
Develop skills for academic, pastoral, and personal study	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Learn how to conduct Hebrew word studies	Lectures, discussion	MTS: 1.1 MDiv: 1.2

Evaluation

Requirements

- 1) *Attendance, Participation, and Textbook Exercises.* In accordance with school policy, attendance is mandatory. Moreover, attendance and participation constitute a core element of the course and learning experience. Given the nature of language courses, a student who misses class greatly increases the student's risk of falling behind. Students are encouraged to make every effort to attend each class and to inform the instructor if the student will be away.

Each chapter of the textbook includes exercises. The goal of these exercises is to assist the student's learning and not necessarily to get the right answer. Accordingly, the completion of these exercises is not for marks. However, students who diligently work through the exercises after each class generally do much better on quizzes and exams.

- 2) *Quizzes.* At the start of class on most **Mondays**, students will receive a short quiz. While the quiz will focus on the material covered in the previous week, the study of language is unavoidably cumulative. A quiz that is missed for an *excused* absence must be made up by or at the next class. If you are going to miss class, please inform the instructor ahead of time.
- 3) *Examinations.* This course has four exams spread throughout the year. While the exams are cumulative, they focus on material covered since the previous exam.

Grading Breakdown

Attendance, Participation, Workbook Exercises	10%
Quizzes	20%
Exam 1	15%
Exam 2	20%
Exam 3	15%
Exam 4	20%

Grading System

The grading system for this course is in accordance with the Toronto School of Theology Basic Degree Handbook.

Letter Grade	Numerical Equivalents	Grand Point	Grasp of Subject Matter
A+	90-100%	4.0	Profound and Creative
A	85-89%	4.0	Outstanding
A-	80-84%	3.7	Excellent
B+	77-79%	3.3	Very Good
B	73-76%	3.0	Good
B-	70-72%	2.7	Satisfactory
FZ	0-69%	0	Failure

For a more detailed discussion of the grading system and for information about non-numerical grades (e.g. CR, SDF, INC, etc.), please visit the following:

<https://www.tst.edu/resources/BDHandbook%2017-18%20Aug%2030-17.pdf>

Late work. Basic Degree students are expected to hand in assignments by the date given in the course outline. The absolute deadline for the course is the examination day scheduled for the course or the last day of exam week for the semester in which the course is taught, whichever is sooner.

This penalty is not applied to students with documented medical or compassionate difficulties or exceptional reasons (e.g., a death in the family or a serious illness); students facing such difficulties are kindly requested to consult with their faculty adviser or basic degree director, who should make a recommendation on the matter to the instructor and request an SDF. The absolute deadline for obtaining an SDF for the course is the examination day scheduled for the course or the last day of examination week, whichever is sooner. An SDF must be requested from the registrar's office in the student's college of registration no later than the last day of exam week in which the course is taken. The SDF, when approved, will have a mutually agreed upon deadline that does not extend beyond the conclusion of the following term. If a student has not completed work but has not been granted an SDF, a final mark will be submitted calculating a zero for work not submitted.

Course grades. Consistently with the policy of the University of Toronto, course grades submitted by an instructor are reviewed by a committee of the instructor's college before being posted to ACORN. Grades

are not official until they are posted to ACORN. Course grades may be adjusted where they do not comply with University Assessment and Grading Practices Policy found at <https://governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/secretariat/policies/grading-practices-policy-university-assessment-and-january-26-2012>, policies found in the TST conjoint program handbooks, or college grading policy.

Policies

Accessibility. Students with a disability or health consideration, whether temporary or permanent, are entitled to accommodation. Students in conjoint degree programs must register at the University of Toronto's Accessibility Services offices; information is available at <http://www.studentlife.utoronto.ca/as>. The sooner a student seeks accommodation, the quicker we can assist.

Plagiarism. Students submitting written material in courses are expected to provide full documentation for sources of both words and ideas in footnotes or endnotes. Direct quotations should be placed within quotation marks. (If small changes are made in the quotation, they should be indicated by appropriate punctuation such as brackets and ellipses, but the quotation still counts as a direct quotation.) Failure to document borrowed material constitutes plagiarism, which is a serious breach of academic, professional, and Christian ethics. An instructor who discovers evidence of student plagiarism is not permitted to deal with the situation individually but is required to report it to his or her head of college or delegate according to the TST *Basic Degree Handbook* and the Graduate program Handbooks linked from <http://www.tst.edu/academic/resources-forms/handbooks> and the University of Toronto *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters* <https://governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/secretariat/policies/code-behaviour-academic-matters-july-1-2019>. A student who plagiarizes in this course will be assumed to have read the document "Avoidance of plagiarism in theological writing" published by the Graham Library of Trinity and Wycliffe Colleges https://www.trinity.utoronto.ca/library_archives/theological_resources/theological_guides/avoiding_plagiarism.html.

Other academic offences. TST students come under the jurisdiction of the University of Toronto *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters* <https://governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/secretariat/policies/code-behaviour-academic-matters-july-1-2019>.

Back-up copies. Please make back-up copies of essays before handing them in.

Obligation to check email. At times, the course instructor may decide to send out important course information by email. To that end, all students in conjoint programs are required to have a valid utoronto email address. Students must have set up their utoronto email address which is entered in the ACORN system. Information is available at www.utorid.utoronto.ca. The course instructor will not be able to help you with this. 416-978-HELP and the Help Desk at the Information Commons can answer questions you may have about your UTORid and password. Students should check utoronto email regularly for messages about the course. **Forwarding** your utoronto.ca email to a Hotmail, Gmail, Yahoo or other type of email account is not advisable. In some cases, messages from utoronto.ca addresses sent to Hotmail, Gmail or Yahoo accounts are filtered as junk mail, which means that emails from your course instructor may end up in your spam or junk mail folder. Students in non-conjoint programs should contact the Registrar of their college of registration.

Email communication with the course instructor. The instructor aims to respond to email communications from students in a timely manner. *All email communications from students in conjoint*

programs must be sent from a utoronto email address. Email communications from other email addresses are not secure, and also the instructor cannot readily identify them as being legitimate emails from students. The instructor is not obliged to respond to email from non-utoronto addresses for students in conjoint programs. Students in non-conjoint programs should only use the email address they have provided to their college of registration.

Course Schedule

Note: Topics may be adjusted depending on how well we progress.

Week	Dates	Lessons	Quiz	Topics
1	Sept 14, 16, 17	Ch. 1-2	N/A	Alphabet, Vowels, Syllabification
2	Sept 21, 23, 24	Ch. 3-5	Quiz #1	Shewa, Prepositions, Dagesh, Article
3	Sept 28, 30, 1	Ch. 6-8	Quiz #2	Quiescent and Gutturals, Nouns
4	Oct 5, 7, 8	Ch. 9-10	Quiz #3	Adjectives, Qal Perfect
5	Oct 14, 15 (no class Oct 12)	Ch. 11-12	Quiz #4 (Wed)	Pronouns; Construct Relationship
6	Oct 19, 21, 22	Review	Quiz #5	Review Exam 1: In-class, Thu Oct 22
READING WEEK -NO CLASS				
7	Nov 2, 4, 5	Ch. 13-15	No Quiz	Pronominal Suffixes
8	Nov 9, 11, 12	Ch. 16-17	Quiz #6	Qal Active Participle; Qal Imperfect
9	Nov 16, 18, 19	Ch. 18-19	Quiz #7	Narrative Sequence; Stative Verbs
10	Nov 23, 25, 26	Ch. 20-21	Quiz #8	Volitional Mood; Qal Passive Participle
11	Nov 30, 2, 3	Ch. 22-23	Quiz #9	Infinitive Construct; Infinitive Absolute
12	Dec 7, 9, 10	Ch. 24, Review	Quiz #10	Pronominal Suffixes on Verbs
13				Exam 2

Week	Dates	Lessons	Quiz	Topics
1	Jan 4, 6, 7	Ch. 25-26	<i>No Quiz</i>	Numbers; Introduction to Verbal Stems; Niphal
2	Jan 11, 13, 14	Ch. 27-28	Quiz #11	Piel; Pual
3	Jan 18, 20, 21	Ch. 29-30	Quiz #12	Hithpael; Hiphil
4	Jan 25, 27, 28	Ch. 31	Quiz #13	Hophal; Review
5	Feb 1, 3, 4	Review	Quiz #14	Review; Introduction to BHS Exam 3: In-Class, Thus Feb 4
6	Feb 8, 10, 11	Ch. 32-33	<i>No Quiz</i>	Introduction to Irregular Verbs I-Gutturals, I-Aleph, III-Aleph
READING WEEK -NO CLASS				
7	Feb 22, 24, 25	Ch. 34-35	Quiz #15	I-Nun, I-Waw, Original I-Yod; Jonah
8	Mar 1, 3, 4	Ch. 36-37	Quiz #16	III-He, Doubly Weak Verbs; Jonah
9	Mar 8, 10, 11	Ch. 38-39	Quiz #17	Hollow verbs, Geminate Verbs; Jonah
10	Mar 15, 17, 18	Ch. 40	Quiz #18	Minor Stems; Jonah
11	Mar 22, 24, 25		Quiz #19	Jonah; Review
12	Mar 29, 31, 1		<i>No Quiz</i>	Jonah; Review
13				Exam 4

Bibliography

Introductory Hebrew Grammars.

- Cook, John A., and Robert D. Holmstedt. *Beginning Biblical Hebrew*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2013.
- Kelley, Page H., and Timothy G. Crawford. *Biblical Hebrew: An Introductory Grammar*. Second ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2018.
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- Seow, C. L. *A Grammar for Biblical Hebrew*. Rev. ed. Nashville, TN: Abingdon, 1995.
- Weingreen, Jacob. *A Practical Grammar for Classical Hebrew*. Oxford: Clarendon, 1959.

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- Arnold, Bill T., and John H. Choi. *A Guide to Biblical Hebrew Syntax*. Cambridge: Cambridge University, 2003.
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Dictionaries and Lexicons.

- Botterweck, G. Johannes, Helmer Ringgren, and Heinz-Josef Fabry. *Theological Dictionary of the Old Testament*. Translated by John T. Willis. 15 vols. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1974-2006.
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