

Intensive Biblical Hebrew  
Professor Alex Jassen  
New York University – Summer 2022  
HBRJD-UA 7 // HBRJD GA 1059  
6 Credits

<b>Course Information</b> Monday-Friday 9am-12pm Summer Session I: May 23–July 6, 2022 Remote: <a href="https://nyu.zoom.us/j/5269206387">https://nyu.zoom.us/j/5269206387</a> Meeting ID: 526 920 6387	<b>Faculty Information</b> Professor Alex Jassen <a href="mailto:apj205@nyu.edu">apj205@nyu.edu</a> Office Hours: M/W 12-1
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### Course Description

Students in the summer intensive Introductory Biblical Hebrew sequence learn the fundamentals of Hebrew as this language is employed in the Hebrew Bible. We will begin by studying the rudiments of biblical Hebrew phonology and pronunciation and proceed, over the course of the session, to delve into biblical Hebrew nominal and verbal morphology and syntax through exercises in reading and composition. To facilitate this reading and writing, students will master a broad vocabulary that touches on all areas of life, from agriculture and animal husbandry to theology and politics. By means of these approaches, we will equip ourselves with the essential tools for exploring the fascinating and complex literature of ancient Israel and Judah. There are no prerequisites for this course.

### Learning Objectives

By the end of the summer session, students will be able to

- read biblical Hebrew texts aloud.
- analyze and produce biblical Hebrew nominal morphology.
- analyze and produce biblical Hebrew verbal morphology.
- write basic biblical Hebrew sentences involving essential syntactic structures.
- recognize and use a biblical Hebrew vocabulary of around 500 lexemes.
- read prose biblical Hebrew texts with the aid of a dictionary.

### Class Organization

This class will meet daily Monday–Friday for six weeks. Each class meeting will be 3 hours long. We will take short breaks between each hour of class. The breakdown of daily meetings is:

- 9-10 AM: Review of homework and questions
- 10-11: Introduction of new material
- 11-12: “Lab Time” and Co-Educational Activity  
Lab time will be used in a variety of ways. In most cases, there will be interactive activities designed to supplement the introduction of new material and give students an opportunity to practice and absorb the information.

### Required Textbooks

- Hackett, Jo Ann: *A Basic Introduction to Biblical Hebrew*. Peabody, Mass.: Hendrickson, 2010. [ISBN 978-1598560282] About \$30 on Amazon.com or other online booksellers.

- Throughout the course, we will also become acquainted with two other essential tools for the study of Biblical Hebrew and the Hebrew Bible. I will provide printouts from the books for our use in the course. If you expect to continue with your study of Biblical Hebrew, I would encourage you to purchase your own copies of the following two books:
  - *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*  
 Hebrew (and Aramaic) text of the complete Hebrew Bible, abbreviation “BHS.” • Search “Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia” on Amazon.com or another online bookseller. You should pull up a brown volume with ISBN 978-1598561630 for roughly \$45. **\*DO NOT** purchase the “Reader’s Edition.” This has running Hebrew-English vocabulary at the bottom and other “cribbing” features that will make it difficult for you to actually learn Hebrew.
  - Brown, F., Driver, S. R., and Briggs, C. A. *A Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1906.  
 Basic lexicon (dictionary), abbreviation “BDB.” • There exist numerous reprints of this volume. The Hendrickson (Publishers) reprint is the most commonly used. Find this by searching “Brown Driver Briggs” on Amazon.com or other online bookseller. You should pull up a green and gold volume with ISBN 978-1565632066 for roughly \$25.

## Assessment

Attendance and Participation	15%
Homework	15%
Quizzes	25%
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	25%

## Classroom Policies and Useful Resources

### *NYU Brightspace and other Multimedia Resources*

All course content will be accessible through the Brightspace platform. This includes daily new content, homework, worksheets, links to online resources. Please familiarize yourself with the Brightspace course page.

We will also be using Google’s Jamboard to work interactively during our class time. I have created a dedicated Jamboard for this class: [Intensive Biblical Hebrew Summer 2022](#) (the link is also found on the Brightspace page).

### *Attendance Policy*

Students are expected to come to class meetings having completed all the assigned readings for that day and any assignments. Attendance is required at all sessions. Please be sure to arrive in class on time. Unless there is an emergency, there is no reason to leave class early. Due to the condensed nature of the summer term, each absence is the equivalent of missing a full week in a regular semester - with less of an opportunity to make up for missed material. If students must miss a class, they should contact the instructor beforehand whenever possible to try to make alternative arrangements for catching up on material they have missed.

### ***Assessment: Homework/Quizzes/Exams***

Daily homework will draw from the Hackett textbook as well as supplementary handouts. We will have a short quiz every Friday. Material will draw from the material treated that week. The midterm and the final exams in this class will be structured similarly. Students will be expected to complete paradigms, translate short biblical phrases or passages, and answer specific questions about grammatical features. Each section of the exam will be labeled with the number of points it is worth out of 100 total points. Partial credit will be given wherever appropriate.

### ***Missed Work and Makeup Exams***

Student success in this course requires completing all course assignments on the day in which they are due. It will be challenging to catch up if you begin to miss daily work. I understand that all types of circumstances intervene. All homework can be submitted without penalty up to three days after it is assigned. There are two exams in this class, one in week 3 and one in week 6. Students are permitted one make-up exam during the course. Make-up exams must be taken within 3 days of the original exam date.

### ***Grading***

Final course grades will be assigned according to the following scale: 100-95=A, 94-90=A-, 89-87=B+, 86-83=B, 82-80=B-, 79-77=C+, 76-73=C, 72-70=C-, 69-60=D, 59-0=F. (S/N: S=70%).

### ***Academic Integrity and Plagiarism***

All student work is expected to represent the independent thinking and research of each student. All students are expected to abide by NYU's honor code (<http://cas.nyu.edu/page/honorcode>) and expectation of Academic Integrity (<http://cas.nyu.edu/page/academicintegrity>). We will spend some class time discussing proper ways to draw upon secondary scholarship and how to forge your own independent thinking in dialogue with earlier scholarship. For a useful guide on what constitutes plagiarism, see [http://ewp.cas.nyu.edu/object/academic\\_integrity.html](http://ewp.cas.nyu.edu/object/academic_integrity.html)

- Any student who is found to have committed plagiarism will receive an automatic zero on the assignment. Further cases of plagiarism will be reported to the department Director of Undergraduate Studies and subject to further disciplinary action.

### ***Student with Disabilities***

The Moses Center for Student Accessibility facilitates equal access to the programs and activities of the College and NYU. Matters relating to students who visit the Center are strictly confidential. Services cover a wide range of disabling conditions. In addition to working with students who have mobility, visual, and hearing impairments, the Center assists a significant number of students with learning disabilities and many others with chronic impairments, such as diabetes, cancer, HIV infection, psychiatric illness, head trauma, and seizure disorders. The Moses Center is staffed by a group of specialists who have a wealth of experience in helping students obtain necessary academic adjustments and accommodations based upon individual needs. In order to receive services, students must provide appropriate documentation.

<https://www.nyu.edu/students/communities-and-groups/student-accessibility.html>

## Course Schedule

### Week 1

- Mon 5/23 Introduction, The Hebrew Alphabet and Vowels  
*Hackett, chs. 2–3*
- Tue 5/24 The Hebrew Alphabet and Vowels cont.  
*Hackett, chs. 4–5*
- Wed 5/25 Syllables and Reduced Vowels; Independent Personal Pronouns  
*Hackett, ch. 6–7.1*
- Thur 5/26 Adjective Basics; Noun Basics; The Definite Article (“the”); The Conjunction  
-ו (“and”)  
*Hackett, ch. 7.2–5; 8*
- Fri 5/27 **Quiz 1**  
Prepositions; The Relative Complementizer אשר (“which”)  
*Hackett, ch. 9*

### Week 2

- Mon 5/30 **No Class: Memorial Day**
- Tue 5/31 The Construct State; Demonstrative Pronouns/Adjectives  
*Hackett, ch. 10*
- Wed 6/1 The Pronominal State and Genitive Pronominal Suffixes I  
*Hackett, ch. 11*
- Thur 6/2 Introduction to the Verbal System; Strong Verbs – Qal Prefix  
Conjugation; Qal Imperative; Direct Object Marker (את/אתָ)  
*Hackett, ch. 12*
- Fri 6/3 **Quiz 2**  
15 I-, II-, III-Guttural (including א) Verbs – Qal Prefix Conjugation and  
Imperative  
*Hackett, ch. 13*

### Week 3

- Mon 6/6 Strong Verbs – Qal Jussive, Qal Cohortative; Accusative Pronominal Suffixes;  
Interrogative הֲ  
*Hackett, ch. 14*

- Tue 6/7 Strong Verbs – Qal Preterite (*wayyiqtol*)  
*Hackett, ch. 15*
- Wed 6/8 Strong Verbs – Qal Suffix Conjugation, Qal *weqatal*  
*Hackett, ch. 16*
- Thur 6/9 Strong Verbs – Qal Infinitive Construct and Qal Infinitive Absolute  
*Hackett, ch. 17*
- Fri 6/10 **Midterm Exam**  
Synthesis and Reading Exercise

#### Week 4

- Mon 6/13 Strong Verbs – Qal Participle; The Particles  $\text{שׁוּׁ}$  (“there is”) and  $\text{לֹא־שׁוּׁ}$  (“there is not”)  
*Hackett, ch. 18*
- Tue 6/14 Introduction to Derived Verbal Stems; Niphal: Basic Function and Form  
*Hackett, ch. 19*
- Wed 6/15 Niphal: More Functions and Roots with Gutturals; The Numbers 1 and 2; The Partitive  $\text{חֵצֵי}$   
*Hackett, ch. 20*
- Thur 6/16 Hiphil: Basic Function and Form  
*Hackett, ch. 21*
- Fri 6/17 **Quiz 3**  
Hiphil: More Functions and Roots with Gutturals; Hophal; Numbers 3–10  
*Hackett, ch. 22*

#### Week 5

- Mon 6/20 **No Class: Juneteenth Observed**
- Tue 6/21 Piel and Pual: Basic Functions and Forms; The Ordinal Numbers  
*Hackett, ch. 23*
- Wed 6/22 Hitpaal: Basic Functions and Forms; The Parsing of Verbs  
*Hackett, ch. 24*
- Thur 6/23 III-Weak Roots: Basics; III-Weak Roots: Jussive, *wayyiqtol*, etc.  
*Hackett, ch. 25*

Fri 6/24      **Quiz 4**  
I-נ roots; The Verb לק"ח  
*Hackett, ch. 26*

### **Week 6**

Mon 6/27      I-י roots; The Verbs יכ"ל and יהל"ך  
*Hackett, ch. 27*

Tue 6/28      II-Weak Roots  
*Hackett, ch. 28*

Wed 6/29      Geminate Roots; The Particle הַגִּיחַ  
*Hackett, ch. 30*

Thur 6/30      Hebrew Bible Reading 1: Ruth 1

Fri 7/1      Hebrew Bible Reading 2: Exodus 3:1–14

### **Week 7**

Mon 7/4      **No Class: Independence Day**

Tue 7/5      Final Exam Review

Wed 7/6      **Final Exam**