



CLST 1220/RLST 1020 Introductory Classical Hebrew II

Millsaps College, Spring 2009
MTWF 9-9:50 A.M., CC 4

Instructor: Blake Couey

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Office: CC 9 (ext. 1079)

Hours: MW 1:00-2:00 PM; T 10:30 AM-12:00 PM; and by appt.

Course Description and Goals

This yearlong study of Classical (aka ancient, biblical) Hebrew will focus on mastery of grammar, vocabulary, and syntax to lay the foundation for proficient reading of Hebrew texts. By the end of the two semester sequence, students should be able to read Classical Hebrew aloud from fully pointed texts and understand and translate passages of Classical Hebrew prose.

Textbooks

No new textbooks are required for purchase this semester.

Requirements and Assignments

Attendance and Participation: As with all language courses, the accumulation of material is by necessity cumulative; therefore, faithful attendance is mandatory. When students miss class, it is their responsibility to learn the material covered during that class so as not to fall behind. Please let the instructor know about any anticipated absences. Any absences after the fourth one will negatively affect this component of your grade. If you miss more than fourteen classes, you will not pass the course.

Homework: Students should keep a notebook of their glosses and notes on assigned homework texts (but not full translations). Students be ready to read the assigned texts from sight in class, referring to their notes as needed. The instructor may check notebooks periodically if students do not show evidence of preparedness in class.

Quizzes: Weekly quizzes (every Monday) will test students' recognition of vocabulary and understanding of basic grammatical concepts. The two lowest quiz scores will be dropped. Students will be allowed to make up missed quizzes in the event of a documented illness or emergency or a pre-approved, excused absence, at the instructor's discretion.

Exegetical Paper: To develop skill at the disciplined interpretation of biblical Hebrew texts, students will complete an 8-10 page exegetical paper on a text from the Hebrew Bible of their choice (in consultation with the instructor). Students must select their texts by **February 6**.

To facilitate writing the paper, students will write a series of informal preliminary papers (2-3 pages) devoted to different steps of the exegetical process.

- First Preliminary Paper (due **February 20**): initial questions about the text; comparison of English translations; boundaries and internal structure of the text.
- Second Preliminary Paper (due **March 13**): translation, with notes explaining text-critical and translational choices; word studies of at least two key Hebrew terms in the text; discussion of internal structure with reference to grammatical and syntactical issues.
- Third Preliminary Paper (due **April 8**): discussion of external structure, historical and literary dimensions; provisional conclusions

More details about these assignments will be given in class. The completed paper, which will incorporate and expand upon the work in the preliminary papers, will be due **April 24**.

Exams: There will be two exams during the course: a midterm on **March 2** and a final exam at the conclusion on **May 1**. These exams will test student's ability to translate passages, analyze grammatical forms, and form paradigms.

Any student who memorizes the Hebrew text of Psalm 23 will receive ten bonus points on the final exam. You may arrange a meeting at any point during the semester to recite the Psalm.

Grading

The grade for the course will be determined as follows:

Participation/Homework	20%
Quizzes	10%
Preliminary exegetical papers	15%
Complete exegetical paper	20%
Midterm	15%
Final	20%

The grade scale for the course is: A (93-100); A- (90-92); B+ (87-89); B (83-86); B- (80-82); C+ (77-79); C (73-76); C- (70-72); D+ (67-69); D (60-66); F (0-59).

Schedule

Week One

- M (1/12) Review
- T (1/13) Hiphil Perfect (Walker-Jones, ch. 19)
- W (1/15) Hiphil Perfect (Walker-Jones, ch. 19)
- F (1/17) Hebrew Reading

Week Two

- M (1/19) NO CLASS – Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
- T (1/20) Authors and Editors (Walker-Jones, ch. 20)

Quiz 1

- W (1/21) Piel Perfect (Walker-Jones, ch. 21)
- F (1/23) Piel Perfect (Walker-Jones, ch. 21)

Week Three

- M (1/26) Conjugations of Will I (Walker-Jones, ch. 22)
Quiz 2
- T (1/27) Conjugations of Will I (Walker-Jones, ch. 22)
- W (1/28) Hebrew Reading
- F (1/30) Conjugations of Will II (Walker-Jones, ch. 23)

Week Four

- M (2/2) Conjugations of Will II (Walker-Jones, ch. 23)
Quiz 3
- T (2/3) Genre and Tradition (Walker-Jones, ch. 24)
- W (2/4) Participles I (Walker-Jones, ch. 25)
- F (2/6) Participles I (Walker-Jones, ch. 25)

Week Five

- M (2/9) Hebrew Reading
Quiz 4
- T (2/10) NO CLASS
Summers Lecture: "How the Bible is True" by Luke Timothy Johnson
11:30 AM, AC Recital Hall
- W (2/11) Participles II (Walker-Jones, ch. 26)
- F (2/13) Participles II (Walker-Jones, ch. 26)

Week Six

- M (2/16) Infinitive Construct (Walker-Jones, ch. 27)
Quiz 5
- T (2/17) Infinitive Construct (Walker-Jones, ch. 27)
- W (2/18) Hebrew Narrative (Walker-Jones, ch. 28)
- F (2/20) Infinitive Absolute (Walker-Jones, ch. 29)
Preliminary Exegetical Paper 1 Due

Week Seven

- M (2/23) Infinitive Absolute (Walker-Jones, ch. 29)
Quiz 6
- T (2/24) Word Studies (Walker-Jones, ch. 4)
- W (2/25) Hebrew Reading
- F (2/27) Review for Midterm

Week Eight

- M (3/2) **Midterm**
- T (3/3) NO CLASS
- W (3/4) Niphal (Walker-Jones, ch. 30)

F (3/6) Niphal (Walker-Jones, ch. 30)

Week Nine

M (3/9) Hitpael (Walker-Jones, ch. 31)
Quiz 7

T (3/10) Hitpael (Walker-Jones, ch. 31)

W (3/11) Hitpael (Walker-Jones, ch. 31)

F (3/13) Hebrew Reading

Preliminary Exegetical Paper 2 Due

Week Ten

M (3/16) NO CLASS – Spring Break

W (3/18) NO CLASS – Spring Break

F (3/20) NO CLASS – Spring Break

Week Eleven

M (3/23) Hebrew Poetry (Walker-Jones, ch. 32)
Quiz 8

T (3/24) Other Passive Stems (Walker-Jones, ch. 33)

W (3/25) Other Passive Stems (Walker-Jones, ch. 33)

F (3/27) Hebrew Reading

Week Twelve

M (3/30) Overview of Interpretation (Walker-Jones, ch. 36)
Quiz 9

T (3/31) NO CLASS

W (4/1) Geminate Verbs (Walker-Jones, ch. 34)

F (4/3) Geminate Verbs (Walker-Jones, ch. 34)

Week Thirteen

M (4/6) Oaths (Walker-Jones, ch. 35)
Quiz 10

T (4/7) Hebrew Reading

W (4/8) Hebrew Reading

Preliminary Exegetical Paper 3 Due

F (4/10) NO CLASS – Good Friday

Week Fourteen

M (4/13) Hebrew Reading

T (4/14) Hebrew Reading

W (4/15) Hebrew Reading

F (4/17) Hebrew Reading

Week Fifteen

M (4/20) Hebrew Reading

T (4/17) NO CLASS

W (4/22) Hebrew Reading
F (4/24) Hebrew Reading
Exegetical Paper Due

Final Exam on Friday, May 1, at 2:00 PM