

Introductory Biblical Hebrew I

BIBL 33900 - Fall 2015

MWF 8:00–8:50am

Swift 201

Discussion Sections: TR 8:00-8:50am

Lecturer: Liane Marquis

lmarquis@uchicago.edu

Office Hours: by appointment

Teaching Assistant: Matthew Richey

richeym@uchicago.edu

Course Description and Objectives

This course is the first of a two-quarter sequence designed to introduce students to the language of biblical Hebrew, with special emphasis on the fundamentals of its morphology, syntax, and vocabulary. Emphasis will also be placed on students' ability to read the Hebrew text aloud. At the conclusion of the two-quarter sequence students will be prepared to take a biblical Hebrew reading course in the spring quarter. Grading is based on a combination of homework, short quizzes, a midterm, and a final exam.

Course Expectations and Requirements

This course will move quickly and cover a large amount of material, on average one lesson per class. It is essential that you attend every class and complete all assignments, including learning the assigned vocabulary in each chapter, on time. It will be easy to fall behind, and difficult to catch up if you do. Each student is allowed two unexcused absences per quarter; each subsequent unexcused absence after your second will result in a one point decrease in your *final grade*.

Daily homework assignments will be collected throughout the quarter. They will not be given a grade, but will be corrected. Assignments must be complete in order to receive full credit. There will be a midterm and a final exam, as well as six quizzes throughout the quarter. Your lowest quiz grade will be dropped.

Discussion Sections

The course will have a teaching assistant, who will lead two one-hour discussion sections per week. It is mandatory that students attend at least one of these and strongly recommended that they attend both. The discussion sections offer students the opportunity to review difficult aspects of the grammar, ask questions about the homework, and practice reading Hebrew aloud.

Required texts

[Thomas O. Lambdin, *Introduction to Biblical Hebrew*](#)

[*Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia \(BHS\)*](#)

[*Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon \(BDB\)*](#)

Assignments and Handouts

Assignments and Handouts will be made available in a [shared Google Drive folder](#). Printed copies will also be distributed in class. I will send an invitation via email to join the dropbox folder during the first week of class.

Recommendations

- Read the lesson prior to the class in which it is discussed.
- Allow for at least three hours of preparation and review time for each hour of class time. More time may be needed to prepare for exams.
- Make flashcards (either paper or digital) for the vocabulary at the end of each chapter. Keep on top of your vocabulary! Good digital flashcard apps: Anki, MentalCase
- Write out paradigms multiple times, either on paper or on a white board in the library. There are also paradigm review websites and apps that will create custom quizzes for you: Paradigmatic, Paradigms Master Pro.
- Read exercises and assignments aloud to yourself. Avoid silent reading or recognition by sight. Hearing the language will make memorizing the paradigms easier.
- Work together on assignments and preparing for exams. Ask questions of other students, explain concepts to each other.
- Consult other grammars if Lambdin's explanation doesn't make sense. Every grammar explains things a bit differently. Some good grammars: [Hackett, *A Basic Introduction to Biblical Hebrew*](#); [Seow, *A Grammar for Biblical Hebrew*](#); [Brettler, *Biblical Hebrew for Students of Modern Israeli Hebrew*](#) (note: this book assumes your ability to read Hebrew words in some places).
- Feel free to contact the lecturer or teaching assistant with any questions!

Evaluation

Attendance and class participation	15%
Homework	15%
Quizzes	25% (5% each; lowest quiz dropped)
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	25%

Course Schedule

Week 1

- Mon 9/28 Class introduction, alef-bet, and vowels
Homework: learn the alef-bet and vowels, be able to write it in block script
- Wed 9/30 In class material: transliteration, rules of shewa and dagesh
Homework: read Introduction to Lambdin; learn to write the alef-bet in cursive script; complete syllabification exercise
- Fri 10/2 In class material: Lesson 1 and reading Hebrew aloud
Homework: Assignment #1; study for quiz #1

Week 2

- Mon 10/5 **Quiz #1 on aleph-bet, vowels, and syllabification**
In class material: Lesson 2
Homework: Assignment #2
- Wed 10/7 In class material: Lesson 3
Homework: Assignment #3
- Fri 10/9 In class material: Lesson 4
Homework: Assignment #4; study for Quiz #2

Week 3

- Mon 10/12 **Quiz #2 on Lessons 1–4**
In class material: Lesson 5
Homework: Assignment #5
- Wed 10/14 In class material: Lesson 6; introduction to the BDB
Homework: Assignment #6
- Fri 10/16 In class material: Lesson 7
Homework: Assignment #7; study for Quiz #3

Week 4

- Mon 10/19 **Quiz #3 on Lessons 5–7**
In class material: Lesson 8
Homework: Assignment #8
- Wed 10/21 In class material: Lesson 9
Homework: Assignment #9

Fri 10/23 In class material: Lesson 10
Homework: Assignment #10; study for Quiz #4

Week 5

Mon 10/26 **Quiz #4 on Lessons 8–10**
In class material: Lesson 11
Homework: Assignment #11

Wed 10/28 In class material: Lesson 12
Homework: Assignment #12

Fri 10/30 In class material: Lesson 13
Homework: Assignment #13; study for midterm exam

Week 6

Mon 11/2 **MIDTERM EXAM**

Wed 11/4 In class material: Lesson 14
Homework: Assignment #14

Fri 11/6 In class material: Lesson 15
Homework: Assignment #15

Week 7

Mon 11/9 In class material: Lesson 16
Homework: Assignment #16

Wed 11/11 In class material: Lesson 17
Homework: Assignment #17

Fri 11/13 In class material: Lesson 18
Homework: Assignment #18; study for Quiz #5

Week 8

Mon 11/16 **Quiz # 5 on Lessons 14–18**
In class material: Lesson 19
Homework: Assignment #19

Wed 11/18 In class material: Lesson 20
Homework: Assignment #20

Fri 11/20 In class material: Lesson 21
Homework: Assignment #21; study for Quiz #6

Week 9

Mon 11/23 **Quiz #6 on Lessons 19–21**
In class material: Lesson 22
Homework: Assignment #22

Wed 11/25 In class material: Lesson 23
Homework: Assignment #23

Fri 11/27 NO CLASS, THANKSGIVING

Week 10

Mon 11/31 In class material: Lesson 24
Homework: Assignment #24

Wed 12/2 In class material: Lesson 25
Homework: Assignment #25

Fri 12/4 In class material: Lesson 26
Homework: study for final exam

Week 11

Review session and final exam TBD