

**ADVANCED HEBREW READING
SPRING SEMESTER 2015
SYLLABUS AND SCHEDULE**

Course Description

Hebrew reading is intended to maintain and increase skills in reading and translating the Hebrew text. It is thus intended both for the student who does not want to lose the information learned in Introductory Hebrew and Hebrew exegesis and for those who want to advance their ability to read and translate as well as to build up Hebrew vocabulary. Basic points of Hebrew grammar will be reiterated and more intricate facets of grammar and syntax will be introduced. This semester's text will be portions of the Joseph stories in Genesis.

Objectives

At the end of the course students should be more comfortable with the Hebrew language and the biblical text, and have a more permanent basic vocabulary than before they began the course. The level of ease with which the student approaches the Hebrew text will facilitate biblical study on all levels.

Method

Students will prepare an assigned portion of Hebrew text from the narratives in Genesis 37-46 to read aloud and translate during the class meeting. Questions of grammar should be noted and brought to class; all verb forms should be parsed and basic meaning provided. If asked, a student should be able to assign each word its function in the sentence. Vocabulary lists of each text should be meticulously kept.

Requirements

Students should come prepared to class. It is preferred that one reads and translates without consulting notes, but grace will be extended to those whose nerves will not stand the tension. Around midterm the class will devote one period to an oral test of material already studied until that point in the course. At the end of the semester, we meet in the same way to go over material read during the second half of the semester. Constant rehearsing of vocabulary knowledge is a vital component of preparation throughout the course.

Evaluation

Grades will be assigned on the basis of preparedness for class sessions and the two oral test periods. Each part will receive a third of the total value of the grade.

Resources

For this course all that is required is the *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia* and the *Koehler Baumgartner Lexicon* or HAL. If the acquisition of HAL is a financial burden, the library copy may be used for study. For those curious about grammar, *Gesenius Hebrew Grammar* edited by Ernst Kautzsch, known as *Gesenius Kautzsch* is a valuable tool, as

is G.M. Landes *Building Your Biblical Hebrew Vocabulary*, Reinhard Wonneberger's *Understanding BHS, a Manual for the Users of Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia* and Ernst Würthwein's *The Text of the Old Testament*. *Bible Works* is recommended for those who already work on an advanced level.

There may be some reading posted on CAMS.

Johanna's helpful hints:

Read the Hebrew text aloud to yourself, a few times. Note down places where you have difficulty and bring questions to class.

Write everything down! Roots, verb meanings, composition of words etc.

Keep going over your vocabulary lists. MEMORIZE, MEMORIZE, MEMORIZE – It is the secret of learning any language.

SCHEDULE

In preparation for our first meeting, read the Intro to the Joseph stories in a commentary or study Bible and read Genesis 37- 50 in a translation in its entirety. We will read only sections of chapters 37-46 in Hebrew; some chapters and parts of chapters are assigned to be read in English. The schedule will be adjusted according to the needs of the class if necessary.

As with the practice of music, practicing your Hebrew skills each day for a short period of time will be more efficient than using large blocks of time at the last minute.

Prep for 2/10/15: Genesis 37 in English. Hebrew: 37: 1-11 Try to get as far as you can.

Tuesday Feb 10: Introduction to the Joseph material. Begin reading and translating

Prep for 2/17/15: English Gen.37:12-28; Hebrew 37: 29-36

Tuesday Feb 17: Read and translate: Joseph sold to Potiphar.

Prep for 2/24/15: English: Genesis 38: 1-11; Hebrew: 12-19

Tuesday Feb.24: Judah and Tamar

Prep for 3/3/15: Genesis 38: 24-30

Tuesday March 3: Twins in the belly

Prep for 3/10/15: English: Genesis 39: 1-6 and 19-23; Hebrew: 7-18

Tuesday March 10: Joseph and Potiphera

March 16-20: Research and Study break. Review portions of Gen.37-39 read in Hebrew for oral review on March 24.

Tuesday March 24: Oral review of Genesis 37-39.

Prep for 3/31/15: English: Genesis 40-41; Hebrew: Gen 42: 1-17

Tuesday March 31: Joseph meets his brothers

Prep 4/7/15: English Gen 42: 18-44:17; Hebrew: 44:18-26

Tuesday April 7: Judah's speech to Joseph.

Prep for 4/14/15: Hebrew Gen 44: 27-34.

Tuesday April 14: Judah's speech conclusion

Prep for 4/21/15: Hebrew Gen.45: 1-15; English Gen.45:16-24.

Tuesday April 21: Joseph reveals himself to his brothers

Prep for Tuesday April 28: Hebrew Gen 45:25-27 – 46:1-7. English: Gen.46: 8-27.

Tuesday April 28: Jacob migrates to Egypt.

Prep for Tuesday May 5: Review of Hebrew read during the course

Tuesday May 5: Oral review of Hebrew texts read during the course.

