

**ADVANCED HEBREW READING
FALL SEMESTER 2015
Tuesdays: 11:45-12: 35 - GARDEN COURT 205**

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. Hebrew texts will be taken from a broad spectrum of biblical material, narrative, poetry, historical, prophetic and legal texts for example, with a varying degree of difficulty.

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

Everyone will prepare assigned portions of the biblical text to read aloud and translate in class sessions. 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. At midterm students will arrange to meet with the instructor as a group to be tested orally on material read 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 *KB*. For those curious about grammar, *Gesenius Hebrew Grammar* edited by Ernst Kautzsch, known as *Gesenius Kautzsch* is a valuable tool, as

Hebrew Reading 2009 and 2011

is G.M. Landes *Building Your Biblical Hebrew Vocabulary*, Scott's *A Simplified Guide to BHS*, 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 only for those who already work on an advanced level.

We will decide on texts to be translated in consultation during the first class, and begin with reading sections from the book Qohelet.

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.

DO NOT BE AFRAID TO ASK QUESTIONS!!

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

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

AT ALL TIMES LOVE YOUR HEBREW!!

