

## **Biblical Hebrew I**

RS 3350 (CRN – 13397); LING 2303 (CRN – 17093); JS 3300 (CRN – 17344)  
The Religious Studies Program at the University of Texas at El Paso  
Fall 2024

**Instructor:** Dr. Clayton Bench

**Time:** Tuesday/Thursday 9:00 – 10:20 AM

**Room:** 202 Quinn Hall

**Office Hours:** MWF 8:00 – 9:00 AM

**Office:** 210 Worrell Hall

**E-Mail:** [cbench@utep.edu](mailto:cbench@utep.edu)

### **Course Description and Objectives:**

Studying Biblical Hebrew is both an intellectually rigorous and gratifying undertaking that aims to help students gain a more nuanced understanding of the Hebrew Bible (Tanakh/Old Testament). This course will guide students from the beginner to the intermediate level of Biblical Hebrew. Initially, the course will focus on establishing a strong linguistic foundation by building the student's knowledge of Hebrew Grammar and Vocabulary. However, throughout the semester students will be introduced to authentic Biblical Hebrew texts so that students can experience the satisfaction of reading the text of the Hebrew Bible as quickly as possible.

### **Required Texts:**

Futado, Mark D. *Beginning Biblical Hebrew*. Pennsylvania University Press, 2003 (Provided in PDF format on Blackboard)  
Brown, Francis, S. R. Driver, and Charles A. Briggs. *The Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 1996. ISBN 978-1-56563-206-6

### **Assignments and Grade Distribution:**

20% In-class participation (weekly reading grade)

20% Quizzes

20% Midterm Examination

20% Assignments and Worksheets

20% Final Examination

**Note:** Do **NOT** use the point totals on Blackboard to calculate your own grade. Blackboard point totals do not reflect the percentage value of each of the five course components.

### **Assignment Notes:**

**In-class Participation:** Students must attend class and participate in the in-class exercises and be present for in-class graded readings.

**Quizzes:** Quizzes will be given as indicated on the course outline. The quizzes will include translation to and from Biblical Hebrew and questions on vocabulary. Students are responsible for memorizing the vocabulary for each chapter as well as other elements covered in each chapter.

**Midterm Examination:** The midterm examination will test the student's knowledge of Chs 1-10.

**Assignments and Worksheets:** Students will complete all assigned exercises from the textbook. Homework must have the student's name, the exercise #/name, and the page number to receive credit.

**Final Examination:** The final examination will test the student's knowledge of Chs 11-20.

**Note:** Late assignments will not be accepted.

**Course Outline:**

The following schedule/outline is tentative. Time constraints, unforeseen events, and class interest may result in slight alterations.

Week 1	Topic
8/27	Introduction, the Hebrew Alefbet (Alphabet), the Hebrew Vowels (Chs 1-2)
8/29	Syllables, the Sheva, the Dagesh (Ch 3)
Week 2	Topic
9/3	The Hebrew Noun- Basic Forms (Ch 4)
9/5	Pronouns and the Definite Article (Ch 5)
Week 3	Topic
9/10	The Hebrew Verbal System, the Qal Perfect, and Sentences with Verbs (Chs 6-7)
9/12	The Noun – Vowel Changes, Prepositions and the Vav Conjunctive (Chs 8-9)
Week 4	Topic
9/17	The Adjective (Ch 10)
9/19	The Verb – Qal Imperfect (Ch 11)
Week 5	Topic
9/24	The Construct State of Singular Nouns (Ch 12)
9/26	The Construct State of Plural Nouns (Ch 13)
Week 6	Topic
10/1	The Qal Verb – Imperfect and Perfect Weak Roots, (Ch 14)
10/3	ג/פ and ה/ל Qal Verbs (Ch 15)
Week 7	Topic
10/8	י/פ and נ/פ Qal Verbs (Ch 18)
10/10	Possessive Suffixes on Singular Nouns (Ch 16) and Possessive Suffixes on Plural Nouns (Ch 19)
Week 8	Topic
10/15	Demonstrative Pronouns (Ch 17)
10/17	Relative Pronouns (Ch 17)

Week 9	Topic
10/22	Review for Midterm Exam
10/24	<b>Midterm Exam (Chs 1-19)</b>
Week 10	Topic
10/29	Qal Infinitives (Ch 20)
10/31	Qal Active Participles (Ch 21)
Week 11	Topic
11/5	Pronoun Suffixes on Prepositions (Ch 22)
11/7	וְ and וְנָ (Ch 23)
Week 12	Topic
11/12	The Qal Verb – Volitives (Ch 24)
11/14	וְ/וְ and וְ/וְ Qal Verbs (Hollow Verbs, Ch 25)
Week 13	Topic
11/19	The Vav Relative (Ch 26)
11/21	Temporal and Interrogative Clauses (Ch 27)
Week 14	Topic
11/26	The Pi'el Verb – Strong Roots (Ch 28)
11/28	<b>Thanksgiving Holiday – No Classes</b>
Week 15	Topic
12/3	Review for Final Exam
12/5	<b>Final Exam (Chs 15-28)</b>

### Grading:

Marks for assignments, tests, and exams are given in percentages, to which letter grades are also assigned, according to the table below. The percentage mark resulting from the entire term work and examination then produces the final letter grade for the course.

### Grading Scale

Percentage Grade	Letter Grade	Grade Points
90-100%	A	4.0
80-89%	B	3.0
70-79%	C	2.0

60-69%	D	1.0
0-59%	F	0.0

### **Academic Standing and Integrity:**

The University of Texas at El Paso prides itself on its standards of academic excellence. In all matters of intellectual pursuit, UTEP faculty and students must strive to achieve excellence based on the quality of work produced by the individual. In the classroom and in all other academic activities, students are expected to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity. Any form of scholastic dishonesty is an affront to the pursuit of knowledge and jeopardizes the quality of the degree awarded to all graduates of UTEP. It is imperative, therefore, that the members of this academic community understand the regulations pertaining to academic integrity and that all faculty insist on adherence to these standards.

Any student who commits an act of scholastic dishonesty is subject to discipline. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, and any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts. Proven violations of the detailed regulations, as printed in the [Handbook of Operating Procedures](#) (HOP) (available through the [Dean of Students Office](#)) may result in sanctions ranging from disciplinary probation, to failing a grade on the work in question, to a failing grade in the course, to suspension or dismissal, among others.” (“Academic Standing,” for more information, please visit <http://academics.utep.edu/Default.aspx?tabid=61879&submenuheader=1>)

### **The Use of Artificial Intelligence in this Course:**

The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) is prohibited in this course. Use of AI technologies or automated tools, particularly generative AI such as ChatGPT or DALL-E, is not allowed for assignments in this class. Each student is expected to use critical and creative thinking skills to complete tasks and not rely on computer-generated ideas. Any direct use of AI-generated materials submitted as your own work will be treated as plagiarism and reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSCCR).

### **Policy for Late Assignments:**

Students who consult with me in advance regarding expected issues preventing the timely completion of an assignment may, at my discretion, be granted an extension. Otherwise, late homework will not be accepted.

### **Special Needs:**

If you have a disability and require special needs classroom accommodations, please contact *The Center for Accommodations and Support Services* Monday through Friday 8:00a.m. – 5:00p.m. at the Union East Room 106. You can also reach the center by phone at (915) 747-5148 or by email: [cass@utep.edu](mailto:cass@utep.edu).