



**Rabbinical School**  
**CG-HEBRW-207-C1: Biblical Hebrew**  
**Harvey N. Bock**  
3 Graduate Credits  
Spring 2019

**Contact Information:**

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**Course Description:**

The focus of this course will be an in-depth study of Biblical Hebrew. The course will build upon, and assumes, the students' prior knowledge of general Hebrew grammar, including a basic understanding of the vowel system (*niqqud*) and mastery of the Hebrew verb system. Hebrew 5 (or its equivalent) is a prerequisite.

Although the focus of the course will be on Biblical Hebrew, connections will be made to the grammar and vocabulary of later Hebrew.

**Learning Objectives:**

The goal of the course is to advance the students' ability to read *Tanakh* with precision of pronunciation, grammatical analysis and comprehension. Building on the student's knowledge of Biblical Hebrew morphology, the course will focus on a deeper understanding of the heterogeneity of Biblical Hebrew; the function of the cantillation system; Hebrew phonology (and its relevance for lexical and morphological analysis); the verb system of Biblical Hebrew and related issues of Biblical Hebrew syntax.

**Required Texts:**

A Hebrew Bible (*Tanakh*), such as one published by Koren Publishers, that repeats pre- and post-positive cantillation marks on the stressed syllable (as will be explained in the first class session)

F. Brown, S.R. Driver & C.A. Briggs (ed.), *A Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament with an Appendix Containing the Biblical Aramaic* ("BDB"; any edition)

**Suggested Reference Materials:**

**Dictionaries**

L. Koehler and W. Baumgartner, *The Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament* (2-volume "student edition"; Brill, 2001)

## Treatises

- J. Blau, *Phonology and Morphology of Biblical Hebrew* (Eisenbrauns, 2010)  
W. Gesenius, E. Kautsch, and A. E. Cowley, *Gesenius' Hebrew Grammar* (2nd ed.; Clarendon Press, 1910).  
P. Joüon, *A Grammar of Biblical Hebrew* (trans. and rev. T. Muraoka; Pontifical Biblical Institute, 1996)  
C.H.J. van der Merwe, J.A. Naudé, and J.H. Kroeze, *A Biblical Hebrew Reference Grammar* (Sheffield Academic Press, 1999)  
M. O'Connor and B.K. Waltke, *An Introduction to Biblical Hebrew Syntax* (Eisenbrauns, 1990)  
F.C. Putnam (ed.), *A Cumulative Index to the Grammar and Syntax of Biblical Hebrew* (Eisenbrauns, 1996)  
R. J. Williams, *Hebrew Syntax: An Outline* (3rd ed.; University of Toronto Press, 2007)  
I. Yeivin, *Introduction to the Tiberian Masorah* (Scholar's Press, 1980)

## Assessment:

Assessment will be based on class preparation and participation, and on a mid-term and final examination.

## Course Structure:

The class will meet twice weekly. One class session each week will generally be devoted to presentation of a topic of Biblical Hebrew grammar, while the other will generally be spent analyzing text (in coordination with the Shanah Aleph *Bereshit* course).

Week of	Grammatical topic (subject to adjustment)
2/4	Introduction; printed-edition differences; "BDB"
2/11	Historical consonants and resulting polysemy; <i>degeshim</i> and <i>mappiq</i> ; "furtive <i>patach</i> "
2/18	<i>Niphal</i> and <i>hiphil</i> of guttural roots and of l-n roots
2/25	<i>Polel</i> , <i>polal</i> and <i>hitpolel</i> ; <i>niphal</i> and <i>hiphil</i> of middle-weak roots
3/4	Use of the infinitive construct and the participle
3/11	Use of the participle
3/18	Mid-term exam
3/25	<i>Vayyiqtol</i> and <i>qatal</i>
4/1	<i>Yiqtol</i> and <i>veqatal</i> (indicative use)
4/8	Volitives
4/15	Modal use of <i>(ve)yiqtol</i> and <i>veqatal</i>
4/29	Stative and other middle verbs; performative verbs
5/6	Adverbial use of nouns; <i>asher</i> clauses; infinitive absolute
Reading Week	Final exam

## Course Accommodations for Disabilities:

Hebrew College is committed to ensuring the full participation of all students in programs. Accordingly, if a student has a documented disability, and as a result, needs a reasonable accommodation to attend, participate or complete course requirements, then he or she should inform the instructor at the beginning of the course. For further information, see the Student Handbook at [http://hebrewcollege.edu/sites/default/files/student\\_handbook.pdf](http://hebrewcollege.edu/sites/default/files/student_handbook.pdf).

If you require course accommodations because of a documented disability or an emergency medical condition, please email your instructor as soon as possible. We are happy to work with you on any issues you have to ensure that you can participate fully in the class and complete the course requirements. Please do not wait until the assignments are due for a retroactive accommodation, but discuss the situation with your instructor before you experience difficulty.