Course Syllabus
Wycliffe College
Toronto School of Theology

This description is intended to assist in the course approval process and to assist students in determining whether this course will help them achieve their educational objectives and the learning goals of their program. It is not a learning contract. The details of the description are subject to change before the course begins. The course syllabus will be available to the class at the beginning of the course.

Course Identification

Course Number : WYB5016HF/RLG3143
Course Name: Hebraica
Campus: St. George

Instructor Information

Instructor: Glen Taylor
E-mail: glen.taylor@utoronto.ca
Telephone O: (416) 946-3541
Office Hours: By appointment
Time and Place: Wednesdays 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Course Prerequisites or Requisites

For AD students focusing on Bible, at least two years of Biblical Hebrew, and at least one of the following: German, French, Modern Hebrew. (For most students with even two years of Hebrew, the learning curve in this course is high.)

Course Description

A critical examination of the relevance of comparative (especially northwest) semitic philology and historical Hebrew grammar to the exegesis of the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament and to the teaching of Biblical Hebrew.

Course Outcomes

The following outcomes are related to the programme outcomes listed in the Appendix to the TST AD Handbook.

By the end of the course students will be able to do the following:

1) explain the theory behind, and origin(s) of the Hebrew alphabet (as judged by a quiz based on readings);

2) understand key differences between various sub-groupings within Northwest Semitic (as determined through a quiz and summarily through the term project),

3) have a rudimentary knowledge of and experience with reading selected Ugaritic, Biblical Aramaic, Moabite and Phoenician texts (as determined through assessment of ability to read and translate these texts in class)

4) identify key historical developments within, and key distinguishing features of, Classical Hebrew. This will be determined through exercises and summarily through the term project.

5) recognize and identify (and roughly date) various Hebrew/proto-Canaanite scripts. This will be determined through work in class and summarily through the term project.

6) reconstruct the vocalization of many pre-Tiberian (Masoretic) grammatical forms (as judged by a quiz).

7) locate cognates to Hebrew and Aramaic words in Akkadian, Ugaritic and other lexicons (as judged by an in-class joint exercise and graded assignment).

8) demonstrate a full understanding of the critical apparatus, and Masoretic features of BHS/BHQ (as judged by a quiz following an assignment).

9) identify the proto-semitic phonemes and correlate them with the letters of the Hebrew, Ugartic and Aramaic alphabets (as determined by a quiz as well as through this being a requisite for the lexicographical work).

Course Methodology

The course has two main components that combine to provide a context for understanding the background to and development of biblical Hebrew: textual studies and topical studies. Evaluation (on which see later) will be based on quizzes, assignments, familiarity with readings as judged by class discussion/questions, and term project.

Required Course Text

Angel Saénz-Badillos, *A History of the Hebrew Language*. Translated by John Elwolde. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1993.

Strongly Recommended

Ellis R. Brotzman and Eric J. Tully, *Old Testament Textual Criticism: A Practical Introduction*. Second Edition. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2016.

Kelley, Page H., Daniel R. Mynatt, and Timothy G. Crawford, *The Masorah of Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia: Introduction and Annotated Glossary*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1998.

Noteworthy Additional Resources

A Key Reference Work:

*Kahn, Geoffrey et al., eds. *Encyclopedia of Hebrew Language and Linguistics*. 4 Volumes. Leiden: E.J. Brill, 2012. (Available in Graham Library reference section.)

Surveys of Hebrew and Other Semitic Languages:

Robert Hetzron, ed. *The Semitic Languages*. Oxford & New York: Routledge, 1997.

John Kaltner and Steve McKenzie, eds. *Beyond Babel: A Handbook of Biblical Hebrew and Related Languages*. Atlanta, GA: SBL, 2002.

Meyers, Eric, ed. *Oxford Encyclopedia of Archaeology in the Ancient Near East*. 5 Volumes. Oxford: OUP, 1997. (On line version 2011.)

Woodard, Roger, ed. *Cambridge Encyclopedia of the Worlds' Ancient Languages*. Cambridge: CUP, 2004.

Noteworthy Additional Resources

Ahituv, S. *Handbook of Ancient Hebrew Inscriptions*. Second Edition. Jerusalem: Carta, 2006.

Arnold, Bill T, and John H. Choi. *A Guide to Biblical Hebrew Syntax*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003.

Brotzman, Ellis R. and Eric J. Tully, *Old Testament Textual Criticism: A Practical Introduction*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2016. [Appendix reprints Rüger's list of Latin abbreviations for BHS.]

Kelley, Page H., Daniel R. Mynatt, and Timothy G. Crawford, *The Masorah of Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia: Introduction and Annotated Glossary*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1998.

Klein, Ernest. *A Comprehensive Etymological Dictionary of the Hebrew Language*. 1987.

Joüon, Paul and Takamitsu Muraoka, *A Grammar of Biblical Hebrew*. Second Revised Edition. Gregorian Biblical Bookshop, 2006.

Khan, Geoffrey. *A Short Introduction to the Tiberian Masoretic Bible and Its Reading Tradition*. Piscataway, NJ: Gorgias Press, 2014. (Expensive.)

Muraoka, Takamitsu. *A Biblical Aramaic Reader: With an Outline Grammar*. Peeters, 2015.

Rüger, Hans Peter. *An English Key to the Latin Words and Abbreviations and the Symbols of Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*. American Bible Society. (Latin abbreviations are reprinted in Appendix A of Brotzman and Tully [pp. 193–218]; selected symbols appear in Table 5.1, pp. 103–104.)

Sanders, Seth L. *The Invention of Hebrew*. Urbana, IL: University of Illinois Press, 2009.

Scott, William R. *A Simplified Guide to BHS: Critical Apparatus, Masora, Accents, Unusual Letters and Other Markings*. Berkeley, CA: BIBAL Press, 1987.

van der Merwe, Christo; Jackie A. Naudé, and Jan H. Kroese. *A Biblical Hebrew Reference Grammar*. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1999.

Waltke, Bruce K. and Michael O'Connor. *An Introduction to Biblical Hebrew Syntax*. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 1990.

Wonnenberger, Reinhard. *Understanding BHS. A Manual for Users of Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*. Trans. Dwight R. Daniels. Second Edition. Subsidia Biblica 8. Rome: Pontifical Bibllical Institute Press, 1990.

Yeivin, Israel. *Introduction to the Tiberian Masorah*. Translate and edited by John Revell. Masoretic Studies 5. Missoula, MT: Scholars Press, 1980.

Term Project

Students will complete a term project. It will consist of a binder that contains most of the materials covered in this course and is designed to be a quick-reference guide for future reference.

The "Term Project" shall consist of the following, laid out in a way that makes access easy for you later on:

-a breakdown of the distinguishing features of various NW Semitic languages (drawing from S-B, Huehnergard, and/or Ginsburg)

-your own chart of the family-tree-style breakdown of the Semitic languages based on the article by Huehnergard

-your own chart listing the relationship of the various phonemes, starting with Proto-Semitic and including Ugaritic, Akkadian, Aramaic, Classical Arabic, Hebrew.

-based on comparative lexical work, a listing of commonly known Semitic cognates for 12 Hebrew words (be sure, where possible, to reference cognates in Ugaritic, Aramaic, elsewhere in NW semitic, and Akkadian)

-the laying out of the hierarchical breakdown of the disjunctive accents for 10 verses of an assigned portion of the OT.

-interpretation of the Masorah parva for twelve verses

-your own chart on selected semitic scripts. The chart must be your own; it must—and most likely will, so long as it is chronological—in its layout highlight the development of the letter forms through time; it must include:

a) presumed pictographic character which inspired the letter (e.g. ox-head, "alpu"; house, "baytu" where known); b) Proto-Sinaitic, c) proto-Canaanite/Isbet-Sartah); d) Early Aramaic (Tell Fecheriye); e) Phoenician (Ahiram sarcophagus); d) 8th century Hebrew (Siloam Tunnel); e) letters from a Dead Sea Scroll; f) Aramaic square script as reflected in BHS; g) modern cursive script.

-listing, with samples of your own, of the various possible meanings of the various verbal stems in Hebrew (e.g. Niphal as passive, reflexive, etc.)

-example of transliteration ala SBL format

-written out form of Jeremiah 10:11; Gen 49:10-11, including parsing of each word.

-listing of features of archaic Hebrew poetry

-listing of features of pre-exilic and post-exilic Hebrew (S-B units 3.5 and 5.1 respectively

-vocalization of PNWS, pre-Tiberian, and Tiberian base forms (complete G strong verb, and for N, D, Dp, C, Cp, Dt: 3ms perfect, 3ms imperfect, 2ms impv, participle (ms only), Infinitive Absolute, Infinitive Construct.

-your own rendition of the patterns or rules by which vowels change from PNWS to Classical Hebrew (e.g. which original vowels are subject to change and which are not; CUSS-OUSL; Canaanite shift,; Barth Ginsberg rule, qatqat > qitqát, attenuation, etc.)

-three full pages from BHS (presumably 1st page of BHS, Genesis 1, taken up in class) in which every character other than the Hebrew words is identified (Masorah notes, accents, text critical apparatus interpreted, etc.)

-five verses of Biblical Aramaic, with explanation

-a list of ten or so basic noun patterns focussing on, where known, the typical meaning(s) associated with such patterns (e.g. nomen professionis)

Course Website

- Blackboard https://weblogin.utoronto.ca/

This course uses Blackboard for its course website. To access it, go to the U of T portal login page at http://portal.utoronto.ca and login using your UTORid and password. Once you have logged in to the portal using your UTORid and password, look for the **My Courses** module, where you'll find the link to the website for all your Blackboard-based courses. (Your course registration with ROSI gives you access to the course website at Blackboard.) Note also the information at http://www.portalinfo.utoronto.ca/content/information-students. Students who have trouble accessing Blackboard should ask Dr Thomas Power for further help.

Class Schedule

Provisional List of Topics Covered (running alongside consecutive reading of S-B chapters 1–6a)

-Introduction to the course and survey of students' previous knowledge (including any gaps) and present interests. How do they recognize weak verbs: with reference to paradigms? Inductively? Can you transliterate properly?

-introduction to Ugaritic: survey of grammar and practice reading a vocalized portion of the Baal Cycle, with comparisons made to OT/Hebrew

-the classification of Hebrew within Semitic (and NW Semitic) language groups

-the Masoretic accents

-the Masorah parva, magnum and finalis

-the critical apparatus of BHS (and BHQ) (Brotz

-on the value and utility of computer software (Accordance)

-the principles of vowel lengthening and reduction in Tiberian Hebrew

-characteristics of Biblical Hebrew at different stages in time (archaic, pre-exilic, post-exilic) and in different traditions (Samaritan, Babylonian, Palestinian, Tiberian)

-the Hebrew of the Dead Sea Scrolls

-discourse analysis, especially according to Alviero Niccacci

-survey of issues relation to the Hebrew verbal system

-the origin of the alphabet and the development of its scripts

-Hebrew inscriptions (Siloam tunnoel)

-Moabite inscriptions (Mesha stele)

-Imperial Aramaic (Biblical examples)

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Evaluation

Break down of grades:

Weekly assignments, readings, participation	30%	
Quizzes	30%	
Term project (summative binder)	30%	
Presentation or extra assignment	10%	

N.B. If the last item is not assigned, each of the other categories will count an additional 3.3%

Assignments on selected texts and topics will be given weekly. The term project is due by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday December 21st.

Grading System

Letter Grade	Numerical Equivalents	Grade Point	Grasp of Subject Matter
A+	90–100%	4.0	Profound & Creative
A	85–89%	4.0	Outstanding
A-	80–84%	3.7	Excellent
B+	77–79%	3.3	Very Good
B	73–76%	3.0	Good
B-	70–72%	2.7	Satisfactory
FZ	0–69%	0	Failure

Grades without numerical equivalent:

CR   Designates credit; has no numerical equivalent or grade point value

NCR   Designates failure; has no numerical equivalent, but has a grade point value of 0 and is included in the GPA calculation

SDF   Standing deferred (a temporary extension)

INC   Permanent incomplete; has no numerical equivalent or grade point value

WDR   Withdrawal without academic penalty

AEG   May be given to a final year student who, because of illness, has completed at least 60% of the course, but not the whole course, and who would not otherwise be able to convocate; has no numerical equivalent and no grade point value

Policy on Assignment Extensions

Basic Degree students are expected to complete all course work by the end of the term in which they are registered. Under **exceptional circumstances**, with the written permission of the instructor, students may request an extension (SDF = "standing deferred") beyond the term. An extension, when offered, will have a mutually agreed upon deadline that does not extend beyond the conclusion of the following term. An SDF must be requested no later than the last day of classes of the term in which the course is taken. The request form is available on the college website or from the Registrar's office.

One percentage point per day will be deducted on the course grade if an extension has not been requested by the stated deadline.

Course grades. Consistently with the policy of the University of Toronto, course grades submitted by an instructor are reviewed by a committee of the instructor's college before being posted. Course grades may be adjusted where they do not comply with University grading policy (http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/Assets/Governing+Council+Digital+Assets/Policies/PDF/grading.pdf) or college grading policy.

Policies

Accessibility. Students with a disability or health consideration are entitled to accommodation. Students must register at the University of Toronto's Accessibility Services offices; information is available at http://www.accessibility.utoronto.ca/. The sooner a student seeks accommodation, the quicker we can assist.

Plagiarism. Students submitting written material in courses are expected to provide full documentation for sources of both words and ideas in footnotes or endnotes. Direct quotations should be placed within quotation marks. (If small changes are made in the quotation, they should be indicated by appropriate punctuation such as brackets and ellipses, but the quotation still counts as a direct quotation.) Failure to document borrowed material constitutes plagiarism, which is a serious breach of academic, professional, and Christian ethics. An instructor who discovers evidence of student plagiarism is not permitted to deal with the situation individually but is required to report it to his or her head of college or delegate according to the TST *Basic Degree Handbook* (linked from http://www.tst.edu/academic/resources-forms/handbooks and the University of Toronto *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters* http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm), a student who plagiarizes in this course. Students will be assumed to have read the document "Avoidance of plagiarism in theological writing" published by the Graham Library of Trinity and Wycliffe Colleges (http://www.trinity.utoronto.ca/Library_Archives/Theological_Resources/Tools/Guides/plag.htm).

Other academic offences. TST students come under the jurisdiction of the University of Toronto Code of *Behaviour on Academic Matters* (http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm).

Writing Style. The writing standard for the Toronto School of Theology is Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses and Dissertations*, 7th edition (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007), which is available at Crux Books.

Bibliography

In addition to the following, see the handouts distributed in class on individual learning units. N.B. There are many more commentaries on Genesis that are useful than are listed (e.g. Brueggemann, Coats, Sarna, etc.)

Allen, Keith. *The Oxford Handbook of the History of Linguistics*. Oxford: OUP, 2013.

Anderson, T.D. "The Evolution of the Hebrew Verbal System," *ZAH* 13 (2000): 1-65.

Bennett, Patrick R. *Comparative Semitic Linguistics: A Manual*. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 1998.

Bergsträsser, Gotthelf. *Introduction to the Semitic Languages; Text Specimens and Grammatical Sketches, Translated with Notes and Bibliography and an Appendix on the Scripts by Peter D. Daniels*. Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns, 1983 [German orig., 1928].

Beyer, K. *The Aramaic Language*. Translated by J. F. Healey. Göttingen, 1986.

Campbell, Lyle. *Historical Linguistics: An Introduction*. 2013

Clines, David J. A., ed. *Concise Dictionary of Classical Hebrew*. Sheffield: Phoenix Press, 2009.

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Davies, G. I. *Ancient Hebrew Inscriptions: Corpus and Concordance*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1991.

Diehl, Johannes. *Die Fortfuhrung des Imperativs im Biblischen Hebraisch*. AOAT 286; Ugarit-Verlag, 2004.

Del Olmo Lete and Joaquín, *A Dictionary of the Ugaritic Language in the Alphabetic Tradition*. Trans. Wilfred G. Watson. Handbook of Oriental Studies. Section 1, The Near and Middle East; vol. 67. Part 1/Part 2. Leiden: Brill, 2003. (Roba PJ4150 Z5 2003 v.1 c.1, v.2.c.1.

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Driver, G. R. *Semitic Writing from Pictograph to Alphabet*. 3rd Edition. London, 1970.

Garr, W. Randall. *A Dialect Geography of Syria-Palestine, 1000-586 B.C.E.* University of Pennsylvania Press, 1985.

Gibson, John C. L. *Syrian Semitic Inscriptions*. 3 Volumes. Oxford: Clarendon, 1971, 1975, 1982.

Ginsberg, H. L. "The Northwest Semitic Languages," pp. 102-24 in *World History of the Jewish People: The Patriarchs*. Series I, Volume 2 (The Patriarchs). Edited by Benjamin Mazar et al. Rutgers University Press, 1970.

Gogel. S. L. *A Grammar of Epigraphic Hebrew*. SBL Resources for Biblical Study 23. Atlanta: Scholars, 1998.

Hoftijzer, J. K. Joneling, eds. *A Dictionary of Northwest Semitic Inscriptions*. 2 Vols. Leiden: Brill, 1997.

Huehnergard, J. "Remarks on the Classification of the Northwest Semitic Languages," in *The Balaam Text from Deir 'Alla Re-evaluated: Proceedings of the International Symposium Held at Leiden, 21-24 August 1989*. Leiden: Brill, 282-93.

Hurvitz, A. "The Historical Quest for 'Ancient Israel' and the Linguistic Evidence of the Hebrew Bible: Some Methodological Observations," *VT* 47 (1997) 301-15.

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Kutscher, Eduard Yechezkel. A *History of the Hebrew Language*. Edited by Raphael Kutscher. Jerusalem: Magnes Press, 1982.

_____. *Hebrew and Aramaic Studies*. Edited by Z. Ben-Hayyim, A. Dotan, and G. B. Sarfatti. Jerusalem: Magnes, 1977.

Lindberger, James M. *Ancient Aramaic and Hebrew Letters*. SBL Writings from the Ancient World Series. Volume 4. Atlanta: Scholars, 1994.

Lipiński, Edward. *Semitic Languages: Outline of a Comparative Grammar*. Orientalia Lovaniensia Analecta, 80. Leuven: Peeters, 1997

McFall, Leslie. *The Enigma of the Hebrew Verbal System*. Sheffield: The Almond Press, 1982.

Moran, William. L. "The Hebrew Language in its Northwest Semitic Background," pp. 54-72 in *The Bible and the Ancient Near East*. Essays in Honor of William Foxwell Albright. Edited by G. Ernest Wright. Garden City, NY: Doubleday, 1961.

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Notarius, Tania. *The Verb in Archaic Biblical Poetry. A Discursive, Typological and Historical Investigation of the Tense System.* The Hebrew University of Jerusalem Studies in Semitic Languages and Linguistics, 68. Leiden: Brill, 2013.

Parker, Simon B., ed. *Ugaritic Narrative Poetry.* SBL Writings from the Ancient World Series. Volume 9. Atlanta: Scholars, 1997.

Qimron, Elisha. *Hebrew of the Dead Sea Scrolls.* Harvard Semitic Studies. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1986.

Reymond, Eric D. *Qumran Hebrew: An Overview of Orthography, Phonology, and Morphology.* Atlanta, GA: SBL, 2014.

Rollston, Christopher A. *Writing and Literacy in the World of Ancient Israel. Epigraphic Evidence from the Iron Age.* SBL Archaeology and Biblical Studies 11. Atlanta, GA. SBL, 2010.

Rosenthal, Franz. *A Grammar of Biblical Aramaic.* Porta Linguarum Orientalium NS V. Weisbaden: Harassowitz, 1974.

Rubin, Aaron D. *A Brief Introduction to the Semitic Languages.* Piscataway, NJ: Gorgias Press, 2010.

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Tropper, Joseph. *Ugaritisch. Kurzgefastse Grammatik.* Weisbaden: Harrasowitz Verlag, 2002.

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van der Merwe, Christo; Jackie A. Naudé, and Jan H. Kroese. *A Biblical Hebrew Reference Grammar.* Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1999. [ISBN 1 85075 865 5].

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Waltke, Bruce K. and Michael O'Connor. *An Introduction to Biblical Hebrew Syntax.* Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 1990.

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Young, I. *Diversity in Pre-Exilic Hebrew.* Tübingen: J.C.B. Mohr (Paul Siebeck), 1993.

Web Related Bibliography

http://www.aleppocodex.org

The whole of Lane's Arabic-English lexicon is

downloadable at<http://www.studyquran.co.uk/LLhome.htm>.

Also, with other goodies (Jastrow, Crum, BDB, Smith, Payne, etc), at

<http://www.tyndale.cam.ac.uk/index.php?page=frame&add=http://www.tyndalearchive.com//TABS/index.htm>

http:cal.hcu.edu (The Comprehensive Aramaic Lexicon)